

## Miscarriages of Justice - why?

Miscarriages of justice continue to plague England and Wales: the cases of [Sam Hallam](#) and [Victor Nealon](#) –each imprisoned for offences later shown to be unfounded–remain uncompensated after both the Supreme Court in 2019 and the European Court of Human Rights in June 2024 upheld government resistance to redress.

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Meanwhile, the Criminal Cases Review Commission recorded an 18.9 % rise in applications between April 2022 and March 2023, yet referred only 25 cases back to the courts and saw its backlog grow to 718 pending reviews by March 2023, underscoring the protracted delays that potentially innocent people endure before their convictions can be quashed.

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Data from the Miscarriage of Justice Compensation Scheme reveal that, between April 2016 and March 2024, 591 applications for compensation were submitted but only 39 were granted–and just 35 payments totalling £2.38 million made–highlighting the formidable hurdles wrongfully convicted individuals face in obtaining both exoneration and recompense.

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Join John Sweeney (journalist), James Sandbach (LDLA), Rohini Jana (LAG) and chair Graham Colley as they open the Rights-Liberties-Justice/LibDem lawyers fringe meeting “Miscarriages of Justice – why do they keep happening and what can be done?” on Saturday 20 September, 20:15–21:30, to analyse these systemic failures and propose measures to accelerate reviews, strengthen safeguards and ensure fair compensation.

[Miscarriage of justice compensation - House of Commons Library](#)

[Almost 20% rise in miscarriage of justice claims in the last year - Criminal Cases Review Commission](#)