



DETERMINED: Yaqub Hussain decided in prison he wanted to become a lawyer. Now his story is to be made into a film.
Picture: Paul Torrie

In Brief

Morley: Why I should be allowed legal aid

Continued from page 1

The Legal Services Commission said the decision to grant legal aid in criminal cases is based on the "interests of justice" test, where the case is so serious that if an individual is found guilty they are likely to go to prison.

Mr Morley could face up to seven years in jail if found guilty of taking public money.

Means testing for legal aid is due to be rolled out nationwide from April – but does not yet apply to the London court which will hear Mr Morley's case.

A spokesman from the commission indicated that the former MPs may be forced to contribute to their costs after the trial ends.

The spokesman said: "For cases in Crown Courts that do not yet have means testing (this includes Southwark Crown Court), those who can afford to pay towards the costs of their case may be subject to a recovery of defence costs order (RDCO) after the trial concludes.

"If someone receiving public funding has an aura of wealth and they are thought to be earning more than the eligibility criteria for legal aid, the Legal Services Commission can ask the trial judge to make an RDCO."

Conservative leader David Cameron was quick to seize on the news yesterday, telling a meeting on the campaign trail the decision was a 'complete outrage'.

"It is a complete outrage. A Conservative Government would have a review of legal aid; and there won't be legal aid available for Members of Parliament who are accused of fiddling their expenses," he said.

Parliament was officially dissolved last night meaning Mr Morley, who had already been suspended from the Labour Party, no longer represents Scunthorpe at Westminster.

Like every other seat in the House of Commons, the position is now vacant until after polling day on May 6.

Criminal-to-lawyer tale hits big screen

Colour is no excuse, says 'inspiration'

A FORMER convict from Scunthorpe who became a top lawyer and successfully defended a suspected terrorist is to have his life turned into a movie.

by **Selina Maycock**

selina.maycock@gsmg.co.uk

Former retained firefighter Yaqub Hussain, 40, spent two months at HMP Wolds prison after he became involved in a fight in Scunthorpe town centre in 1998.

But after being freed, he earned a law degree and now works for one of London's top criminal law firms.

When Yaqub was released from the cells, he made an application in front of an adjudicating panel in London to join the law society. This was successful and he sold his Scunthorpe home and moved to London to study law.

He completed his legal training at the London Metropolitan University.

After graduating, Yaqub landed a job with EBR Attridge Solicitors in London, living in luxurious Kew Gardens.

And just eight months into his career, he landed the case which would become one of the biggest criminal cases in history.

"I was involved in the cases of the trans-Atlantic liquid bomb plot and had my client exonerated of all charges," said Yaqub. "It was one of the biggest cases in legal history."

He hopes his life story will help inspire youngsters to avoid making the mistakes he made.

Bernie Duke, partner of EBR Attridge Solicitors, worked alongside Yaqub in the case.

He said: "Yaqub was instrumental so it's no surprise to me where he is now.

"He found inspiration from within himself that he passes on to others – other people in his team take on his positivity."

come from people like me, it's never going to come – this is the idea behind the movie.

"You do not need to turn to violence – everybody deserves a chance.

"I got involved in an altercation in Scunthorpe and I was up for perverting the course of justice.

"The next thing, I was locked up. I've never been in trouble before. It was a shock to the system."

After spending time in the cells alongside notorious criminals, Yaqub said he decided to get back onto the right side of the law and longed to work for a law firm.

"My lucky break came when I was in prison," he said. "When you're in jail, you have to be a predator – you're mixing with violent people. I will never forget what a prisoner told me. He said 'Look son, you're a nice lad, but there is no way you will become a lawyer. You're on remand for perverting the course of justice'.

"That's when I came round in prison and decided I would make it to lawyer."

He successfully defended Donald Stewart-Whyte, one of the men accused in the 2006 "liquid bomb plot", to detonate liquid explosives on 10 airliners travelling from the United Kingdom to North America.

Now, the inspirational story of how Yaqub, who grew up in Scunthorpe, turned his life around is to be made into a movie.

Yaqub told the Scunthorpe Telegraph: "To all those who think people are prejudiced and say people do not give you the opportunity, it's not true. You cannot use colour as an excuse.

"And if this message doesn't

FILM HAS IT ALL

THROUGH his notoriety on the criminal law firm circuit and his involvement in large cases, Dignity Entertainment approached Yaqub about his life story.

Mikkel Juul Iversen, producer at Dignity Entertainment who has spent hours interviewing Yaqub, said: "He is a role model for all of us locally, nationally and internationally.

"But for young British Muslims, he can be a shining beacon of hope because he didn't hide away in the local community after a multitude of knock-backs. He kept fighting for his right to success.

"This story has all the elements a great film needs. It should inspire the audience to believe that no obstacle is great enough to stand in the way of realising your dreams."

Firm to create jobs

FOUR jobs could be created building product and tool supplier Toolstation announced it has started a search to site a major new trade counter in Scunthorpe.

Scunthorpe has been highlighted as a key growth area for Toolstation's new expansion programme, after years of steady growth for the company.

Philip MacLauchlan, of Toolstation, said: "Our requirements in Scunthorpe are quite specific. We require premises of between 4,000 and 8,000sqft, with car parking and loading facilities.

"New or modern warehouses or trade counters would be ideal and we are happy to consider existing or part complete buildings or developments."

'We can reduce bike accidents on our roads'

A MOTORIST involved in a crash that killed a motorcyclist is fronting a new police campaign to reduce fatalities.

Humberside, Lincolnshire and

South Yorkshire Police forces have joined up to step up enforcement and education efforts to make the roads safer for bikers.

They have enrolled the help of 45-year-old

Adrian Small, who had head-on collision with another motorcyclist, who died as a result in 2008.

Adrian lost his job and spent a total of 13 weeks in hospital.

He said: "I cannot turn the clock back, but with more education and training, we can reduce the amount of people being injured on our roads."

Superb Value 4 Day Break

BLACKPOOL & SETTLE TO CARLISLE RAILWAY

For generations of holidaymakers the heart and soul of Blackpool has been built on fun and laughter - in fact it's cram-packed with it! From opulent arcades, bingo halls and pantomimes to fortune tellers, fun fair rides, pleasure trips and three piers packed with restaurants, shops and bars.

The base for the tour will be one of three Britannia owned hotels, in Blackpool. All have excellent facilities, live entertainment, great food and fully equipped & comfortable bedrooms.

On our included excursion we take a journey on the world famous **Settle to Carlisle Railway** Steeped in history the 72 mile route takes you on a journey through the magnificent Yorkshire Dales, over the 24 arches of the Ribbleshead Viaduct and makes its way through the gentle, lush rolling hills of Eden Valley, with rural villages and market towns before arriving at the great border city of Carlisle.

Comprehensive insurance is available if required at £14.50 per person and our standard terms and conditions apply.



£109

PER PERSON

Fri 28th - Mon 31st May

What's included for £109

- Return coach travel from **SCUNTHORPE, BRIGG**
- 3 nights dinner, bed and breakfast (single room supplement £30)
- One FREE excursion
- Same seat, same coach, same driver throughout

The Coach Holiday.com
Pate Court, North Place,
Cheltenham GL50 4DY



To book this holiday call us on
01242 261666
or see our **Late Deals** online
theCOACHHOLIDAY.com

Tour ref: 93178

