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**Petitions**

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Rejected petition

# Alison Saunders must not be a Dame.

Alison Saunders tenure as Director of Public Prosecutions has been a disaster.

Liam Allan and Samuel Armstrong, victims of the culture she created of “convictions at any cost” insist that she “must not be rewarded for failure”.

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Article from The Telegraph, quoting Liam Allan and Samuel Armstrong:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/20/victims-falsely-accused-rape-say-cps-chief-should-not-receive/>

**This petition was rejected**

It's about honours or appointments.

We can't accept petitions about giving someone or not giving someone an honour.

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Date submitted

**22 October 2018**

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## Victims falsely accused of rape say CPS chief should not receive 'automatic damehood' when she leaves



Alison Saunders, the current director of public prosecutions, should not receive an automatic damehood when she leaves her role at the end of the month, victims of the disclosure scandal have said. CREDIT: ANDREW MATTHEWS/PA

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By **Izzy Lyons** and **Robert Mendick**, CHIEF REPORTER  
20 OCTOBER 2018 • 9:30PM

**T**wo men wrongly prosecuted of rape have pleaded for the outgoing CPS chief to be denied an honour, after she oversaw “catastrophic failures” which destroyed their lives.

**Alison Saunders** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/alison-saunders/>), who will step down as Director of Public Prosecutions at the end of the month, has been heavily criticised during her tenure which saw several rape cases collapse as a result of the prosecution failing to disclose evidence.

Despite the controversy, Ms Saunders is expected to receive a damehood in the New Year's honours list for her work as Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), following an automatic honour principle that has applied to many of her predecessors.

However in a letter to the *Sunday Telegraph*, victims of the disclosure failure, **Liam Allan** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/01/30/met-police-apologises-collapsed-liam-allan-rape-trial-force/>), 23, and **Samuel Armstrong** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/12/21/tory-mps-aide-samuel-armstrong-cleared-charges-rape-sex-assault/>), 25, insist that Ms Saunders should not receive the honour after numerous people “suffered enormous harm” from what they believe was a “convictions at any cost culture”.

They said: “We were wronged by a justice system that was supposed to protect us.

“In the botched processes that followed, many of us lost jobs, homes and relationships. It appears to us that many of the issues raised have still not been properly resolved.

“Such devastating failures cannot be allowed to ever happen again. That’s why - as victims - we say that the exception must be made to the ‘automatic gong principle’ for Alison Saunders.”



Liam Allan, 23, said the evidence in his rape trial was “cherry picked” CREDIT: DAVID MIRZOEFF/PA

The pair said that Ms Saunders “must not be rewarded for failure” and that anyone who takes up the role of DPP in the future “must know that wreaking such misery will have consequences”.

Mr Allan was accused of rape in 2016 and charged with 12 counts of rape and sexual assault. But his trial collapsed in December 2017 after crucial evidence emerged from a computer disc, which police had looked through, showing messages from the alleged victim pestering him for “casual sex”.

Mr Armstrong, a former aide to Conservative MP Craig Mackinlay, was cleared by a jury of raping a woman in her 20s after it was later disclosed that she had not wanted to release medical records showing she suffered from depression and anxiety. Phone records also revealed that hours after the “attack” she tipped off a tabloid newspaper to try to get a sympathetic account published.

The men believe that giving the controversial outgoing head of the CPS a damehood would be a “double-slap” to victims of the disclosure scandal, and call into the question the integrity of the honours system.





Samuel Armstrong, 25, was cleared of raping a woman after it was disclosed that she had not wanted to release medical records showing she suffered from depression CREDIT: HEATHCLIFF O'MALLEY/HEATHCLIFF O'MALLEY

**Under Ms Saunders' leadership** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/01/exclusive-head-crown-prosecution-service-stand-disastrous-tenure/>), the number of prosecutions in England and Wales that collapsed because of a failure by police or prosecutors to disclose evidence increased by 70% in two years.

In 2016/17, 916 people had charges dropped over a failure to disclose evidence - up from 537 in 2014/15.

Ms Saunders, who replaced Labour MP **Sir Keir Starmer** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/keir-starmer/>) as DPP in 2013, earned £250,000 last year and leaves the CPS with a £1.8million pension pot.

She is departing for the legal firm Linklaters after she chose not to renew her five year contract earlier this year.

**Max Hill QC** (<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/07/24/terror-watchdog-called-returning-jihadis-reintegrated-society/>) will replace her as DPP on November 1.

Ms Saunders was approached for comment.

The CPS apologised to Liam Allan for the investigative and disclosure issues in his case.

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