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**Coroner's Officer who inspired Hunt for the Silver Killer
appeals 'potential miscarriages of justice' judgment**

Stephanie Davies, an expert and experienced Coroner's Officer at Cheshire Constabulary, has failed to establish that sending two reports she wrote which question the police investigations into multiple murder suicides to external experts should be protected under the UK whistleblowing legislation.

The case has been the subject of a book by Sunday Times journalist David Collins called "The Hunt for the Silver Killer" published by Simon & Schuster UK.

Ms Davies had written the reports because she was concerned that the cases involved double murders that had been staged to look like murder suicides involving vulnerable elderly couples, where the crime scenes had been staged to look like the husband had murdered his wife and then killed himself. The obvious question being whether these two double murders were linked.

The reports were written in the public interest and in a bid to get the cases re-opened and investigated, by Cheshire Constabulary, but rather than listen to the concerns Ms Davies had raised, her employer suspended her and subjected her to criminal and disciplinary investigations following the leak of the reports by an unidentified third party to the Sunday Times.

The employment tribunal judgment confirms that Ms Davies held a genuine and reasonable belief that the reports showed a potential miscarriage of justice but found that it was unreasonable for the Claimant to seek external expertise on the views she had expressed in the reports.

On hearing the verdict, Stephanie Davies said, "All I ever wanted was for these cases to be re-investigated. I am disappointed that the tribunal has decided that the evidence I submitted about a serious miscarriage of justice is not fully protected under UK whistleblower protection legislation, but I am still pleased I had a chance to be heard in the Tribunal, that it was accepted that my concerns were exceptionally serious and that I was acting in the public interest. I hope that notwithstanding this judgment Cheshire Police might still be persuaded to look again at the evidence I have presented."

Adam Ohringer, Counsel for the Claimant said, "Stephanie has been extraordinarily courageous in her efforts to have potential miscarriages of justice re-examined. It is unfortunate that she does not have the full backing of UK whistleblowing laws."

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THE WHISTLEBLOWING EXPERTS

Cathy James OBE, Partner of James & West Law, the UK's leading whistleblowing solicitors, acting for the Claimant, said: "This is an extraordinary case. It is really not clear why Cheshire Police decided not to look in detail at the very compelling evidence Stephanie had compiled about the worrying similarities in these two cases, provided by one of their most experienced members of staff in the Coroner's Office. They have instead put her through a disciplinary and asked the CPS to bring criminal charges when the cases were leaked to the media. I must stress that Stephanie was not responsible for the media leak. We hope that even though the disclosure of the reports is not deemed to be fully protected under the whistleblowing legislation, Cheshire Police will reconsider their position and re-open the investigations into these cases. We have advised Stephanie that she should appeal the judgement on several grounds."

If you would like to support Stephanie's efforts to get justice around this issue, please support her Crowd Justice appeal see <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/voice4thedead/>

Ends

For further information contact:

Cathy James
079899000472