

Statement made on behalf of: The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Witness: Cairo

Statement No: 1

Exhibits Referred to: Cairo/160212/7

Date Statement Made: 12th February 2016

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**Undercover Policing Public Inquiry**

This is the exhibit marked Cairo/160212/7 referred to in the statement of Cairo, dated this 12th of February 2016.

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# Clerk sold secrets to crime gang

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Clerk Mark Herbert sold secrets to criminal family

A junior Crown Prosecution Service clerk has been convicted at the Old Bailey of selling sensitive documents to members of London's criminal underworld.

Mark Herbert, 31, copied and smuggled out case files including a list of 33 police informers while working as part of a team investigating the Adams family - a notorious London criminal gang.

Herbert, 31, from Twickenham, west London, was convicted of corruption and disclosing information without lawful authority.

“  
**His arrogance and greed were to get the better of him**  
”

**Victor Temple QC**

The court heard that the Adams family were a formidable and feared organisation "steeped in the highest levels of criminal activity".

## 'Influential in criminal circles'

In 1998 Herbert was working with a legal team dealing with a police investigation into the family's activities.

Victor Temple QC, prosecuting, said Herbert knew full well the family was dangerous, violent and influential in criminal circles.

"His arrogance and greed were to get the better of him," Mr Temple told the court.

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"He willingly aligned himself to the family's cause."

Herbert, a policeman's son, was in debt and forced to moonlight as a night-club bouncer in addition to his £14,000-a-year post with the CPS.

It was while working at a night-club in Kingston, Surrey, he became involved with the criminal underworld.

### **Feared for his life**

He copied computerised files from his offices at the CPS, including a list of police informants.

He was paid £1,000 for the information but told the court he did it because he and his fiancée were being threatened.

Herbert told the court he feared for his life.

He said he was warned the Adams family "do not mess about."

"They want to be your friends. They may occasionally ask you for information. You don't want to upset them. You just have to play along," Herbert told the court.

Herbert was caught after accepting money for information from undercover police officers.



Co-defendant Kevin Sumer was cleared by the jury

After the case, the Crown Prosecution Service said an independent review of security in the wake of Herbert's arrest had recommended a series of improvements which were being implemented.

These included higher levels of security vetting for those handling sensitive information, improvements in document security and tightening IT security procedures.

The Metropolitan Police said they have no evidence that any of the leaked information was ever acted upon.

Herbert's co-defendant Kevin Sumer, 41, of Brentford, west London was cleared of aiding and abetting Herbert and of conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

Herbert will be sentenced later this month.

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