

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Five Thousand New Prison Places Is Just A Start

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The Tories' Shadow Police Minister Nick Herbert was on Simon Mayo's BBC Five Live show today. Herbert is an articulate, intelligent and cogent politician who I suspect will go far; he's certainly a lot sharper than the muppets he's up against.

Herbert was on to talk about his party's new plan to sell off dilapidated old prisons and replace them with new ones paid for with the proceeds. He reckons this will provide 5,000 new cells. Well, we certainly need them. **Up against him was David Hanson, who managed to rubbish the new proposal as uncosted while admitting he hadn't actually read it and, simultaneously, claiming the Conservatives had 'copied Labour'. Such is modern politics.** Hanson claimed crime had fallen by over 30% in the last 10 years, and this went unchallenged by Mayo. It doesn't feel like a 30% fall round our way. And how is it that prison numbers are at a record high - such that police station gaolers are stacking them three deep - if no-one is actually doing anything naughty?

This picture shows Susan Collins, a 60-year-old from Warrington. On the left is how she looked after she was beaten to within an inch of her life by 22-year-old Nicholas Hague because she wouldn't give him a cigarette.

Hague was released early from prison after serving approximately five minutes of a manslaughter sentence - **manslaughter**, mark you, **remember when that was serious?** - handed down for being part of a gang which kicked a man to death. (He's now back inside serving an indeterminate sentence which will involve a minimum of three years and 162 days 'behind bars'; his victim will suffer for the rest of her days.)

On the Mayo programme, some woman from one of the fluffy anti-prison groups was given a platform to complain that more community service was needed and to claim that people who served short jail terms were the most likely to come out and rob you. Well, yes. That's because they're criminals.

Look at this picture and tell us this woolly rubbish isn't an argument for longer sentences.



We can argue all day about punishment vs rehab, and what the poor dears do inside, but while they're tucked away they're not outside kicking old ladies' faces in. Five thousand new places is a start, Nick. But that's all it is. **The PPP comments ...We agree with PC Copperfield. AND what a waste of space Hanson is ... surely he must go at the next election**