

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Centre for Criminal Appeals
Name of the project TFN funded:	Challenging cases and causes of miscarriages of justice
Date Funded by TFN:	30/01/2017
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>Challenging miscarriages of justice is a painfully slow and difficult process, but nevertheless this project has had a significant impact, with achievements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finding fresh evidence through investigation and commissioning new expert analysis, and presenting this fresh evidence on behalf of ten prisoners to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) 'the public body with the power to refer cases back to the courts for a fresh appeal; - Carefully reviewing over 170 requests for legal assistance to identify those cases where there are the strongest signs a miscarriage of justice has occurred; - Garnering national broadcast media attention for the case of the Freshwater Five 'in which the Centre has obtained new scientific evidence refuting the prosecution case' which has shone a light on systemic issues including non-disclosure and law enforcement misconduct; - Building links with five commercial law firms who provide the Centre with litigation support and assist with screening new cases; - Training over 100 students from 10 universities on the criminal appeals process and giving them first-hand clinical legal experience through a structured program aimed at progressing potential miscarriage of justice cases; - Developing the Open Justice Charter 'a set of transparency reforms aimed at increasing access to justice and accountability' and launching it in Westminster with a presentation by Making a Murderer lawyer Dean Strang; - Assisting with the launch of a new All Party Parliamentary Group on Miscarriages of Justice in November 2017.
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	Approximately 5% of total organisation budget
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	190 prisoners

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How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	50 prisoners' family members, 100 students
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	No
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	No
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We would have found it difficult to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	Yes - we recently expanded into a fantastic new office space generously provided to us as an in-kind donation. The additional space allows us to take on additional volunteers to help with our work. Please come by and visit!
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	<p>Thank you very much to TFN for all its support! Wrongful convictions can impact anyone, but often it's difficult convince donors to support criminal justice causes. We were heartened by the reception we got from TFN members during our pitch and so pleased with the support they have provided to our work.</p> <p>TFN or individual donors are very welcome to reach out to us for more information.</p>
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?	Freshwater Five fishing boat skipper Jamie Green gave the eulogy at his wife's funeral shackled to a prison officer while waiting for the Criminal Cases Review Commission to consider the evidence in his case. While the CCRC ultimately rejected his application, we have been able to identify the errors in the CCRC's understanding of the case and will shortly be taking it to the Court of Appeal on behalf of Jamie's co-defendants, giving Jamie fresh hope that he will eventually be vindicated and released so that he can be there to support his children as they continue to mourn their mother's death.