

I warmly welcome the recent announcement by the Lord Chancellor, that those few victims of miscarriage of justice who actually receive compensation for the grievous wrong done to them by the state are no longer to suffer the deduction, from their award, of “saved living expenses”. This miserable practice has served no purpose other than to add insult to the life-long injury imposed by the incompetence, and worse, of a justice system that is supposed to keep us safe. Yes, this development is welcome. But it is long overdue.

Like all who are exonerated after lengthy unjust incarceration, Andrew Malkinson faces a long road to recovery, with many challenges along the way. And although the trauma he has suffered cannot be erased by money, I hope that he will receive speedy, and appropriate, compensation for what he has endured. More than that, I hope he can find peace.

The Lord Chancellor has told us that fairness should be a core pillar of our justice system. He has told us that, as a matter of common sense, “it is not right that victims of devastating miscarriages of justice can have deductions made for saved living expenses.” I agree. It is not right now, and it never was.

The Lord Chancellor must deliver fairness for all who have been deprived of their full compensation in this shameful way. I call on him to undertake that the expenses deducted from previous miscarriage of justice victims will be restored to them, with interest, and without delay.

Patrick J Hill
Miscarriages of Justice Organisation