

22nd October 2008

Sir,

The DPP's speech

I had been considering whether to apply for appointment to one of the vacancies on the Investigatory Powers Tribunal when I read Sir Ken Macdonald's speech. I noted especially the remark "So we have been absolutely right to resist, whenever they have been suggested, special courts, vetted judges and all the other paraphernalia of paranoia."

The Tribunal is just such a court, compelled to sit in private and to deny complainants any chance of seeing or testing the evidence of those they complain about (even where that opponent is their local council and its snooping on their dustbins, and not MI5, where some restrictions are inevitable).

I have decided not to apply for appointment. I hope that others who may be considering an application will ponder Sir Ken's speech.

Yours faithfully,

Nicholas Bohm