

## **Crown Prosecution Service**

### **Sue Hemming, Director of Legal Services, CPS – Statement 5 September 2018**

During the weekend of 4 March 2018 in Salisbury the former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were poisoned with the military- grade nerve agent of a type developed by Russia, part of a group of nerve agents known as ‘Novichok’.

A police officer, DS Nick Bailey, who was involved in searching the Skripals’ home address after this attack, was also poisoned with the same agent.

The Counter Terrorism Policing Network has conducted a thorough investigation into how this attack happened. They have recently submitted a file of evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service so that we could make a decision whether criminal charges could be brought against anyone who was involved in these events.

Prosecutors from CPS Counter Terrorism Division have considered the evidence and have concluded that there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction and that it is clearly in the public interest to charge Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, who are Russian nationals, with the following offences:

- Conspiracy to murder Sergei Skripal
- Attempted murder of Sergei Skripal, Yulia Skripal and Nick Bailey
- Use and possession of Novichok, contrary to the Chemical Weapons Act
- Causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Yulia Skripal and Nick Bailey.

A realistic prospect of conviction means that the CPS is satisfied on an objective assessment that the evidence can be used in court and that an objective, impartial and reasonable jury hearing the case, properly directed and acting in accordance with the law, is more likely than not to convict Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov of the charges. It is of course for a jury to decide whether the evidence is enough for them to be sure of the suspects’ guilt.

We will not be applying to Russia for the extradition of these males as the Russian constitution does not permit extradition of its own nationals. Russia has made this clear following requests for extradition in other cases. Should this position change then an extradition request would be made.

We have, however, obtained a European Arrest Warrant which means that if either man travels to a country where an EAW is valid, they will be arrested and face extradition on these charges for which there is no statute of limitation.