

Huddersfield grooming gang members who appealed conviction after juror carried out research fail in their bid

From the [handed a suspended prison sentence](#) in March this year after pleading guilty to being a member of a jury who carried out research during the trial period. The 47-year-old, married, dad-of-three, of Meadow Brook Chase, Normanton, works as a paramedic and the Recorder of Leeds, Judge Guy Kearl QC, decided he was needed to serve the public during the coronavirus pandemic.

The judge refused the defence application to discharge the whole jury and deliberations continued with 11 jurors. He also refused an application to discharge the jury from returning verdicts on Barsran's charges. Barsran, then aged 34, of Caldercliffe Road, Berry Brow, Huddersfield, was convicted of two counts of sexual assault and one count of rape and jailed for 17 years.

Appeals were lodged on behalf of Barsran and the seven other men on the grounds of jury irregularity and were granted leave to appeal. Some advanced other grounds of appeal as well but single judge refused leave on those grounds.

The Recorder of London, Judge Mark Lucraft QC, Lord Justice Haddon-Cave and Mr Justice Spencer presided over the appeal. They had to decide if Sayles' offence had 'undermined the fairness of the trial and the safety of the convictions'.

The trio of judges heard the case at the Court of Appeal in London on June 19 this year and reserved judgment until July

3. *The local newspaper carried this report a month later.*

The appeals were all dismissed.

In the judgment, Mr Justice Spencer said: "We have given all these submissions very careful consideration. We have reached the clear and firm conclusion that, despite the undoubted jury irregularity, the trial was fair and all these convictions are safe."