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No charges in garden chair 'theft' case

This seems like old news now, but it missed the print deadline for the last newsletter.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) eventually took the decision not to prosecute me for theft over the garden chairs I took from the landfill skip at Lodge Household 'Recycling' Centre. A policeman turned up at my house to tell me that no further action would be taken, which was confirmed on the form he gave me. The reason for this decision was as follows:

There is insufficient evidence to provide a reasonable prospect of conviction.

We're always hearing about people who've been tried for really serious offences and sent to prison for years on a bit of circumstantial evidence and some dodgy forensics. In my case, the police had signed statements from me and two witnesses that I'd taken the chairs. They had diligently, and at the taxpayer's expense, collated radio and television interviews I had given by way of further evidence. Yet this was still 'insufficient'. It would be interesting to know exactly how much evidence the CPN does need in such cases.

Genny Bove

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Contributions for inclusion in the next issue should reach us by Friday 5 Dec.

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