

# BUSINESS EYE

EMAIL [editorial@bucksherald.co.uk](mailto:editorial@bucksherald.co.uk) / FIND US ON FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/bucksherald/](https://www.facebook.com/bucksherald/) / FOLLOW @bucks\_herald

# Innocent until proved to be guilty

WRITTEN BY

ALEX PRATT



Founder of Serious Readers in Birtton and chairman of Institute of Directors South

[www.bucksherald.co.uk](http://www.bucksherald.co.uk)  
[@bucks\\_herald](https://twitter.com/bucks_herald)

**T**his week's wisdom comes to you from a driech grey wet Edinburgh where I have come to deliver a talk on light and sight at Specsavers.

It has been more difficult than usual to pick something to write about this week because there has been so much news.

The Donald launched into China from the chair of the United Nations.

Apparently what is good for Putin is not okay for the Chinese to copy.

Like some kind of Bond villain, Elon Musk has shrugged

off a multi-million dollar fine for fraud to carry on as before.

Oil is headed back to \$100 a barrel and Ryanair had to dramatically lower its profit predictions as its staff went on strike once again.

Headteachers took to the streets, and both Facebook and the Tory Party released loads of our personal data to the world.

The tsunami in Indonesia was a major catastrophe.

Not as sad but definitely catastrophes are Barmy Boris, Comrade Corbyn and Brexit in general.

But bigger news than all of this and cutting to the very core of modern democracy to my mind has been the Kavanaugh vs Ford debacle for the US Supreme Court which lays bare the mammoth risks to our freedoms from ourselves.

The fact is none of us knows what actually happened if anything, but everyone seems to be sure.

Irrespective of our prejudice, surely we can all agree

that we should all be assumed innocent until proven guilty?

It seems not.

Imagine if you went for a job interview and they let someone else into the room who joined your interview for the sole purpose of accusing you of rape.

This cannot be right in a just and civil society.

If you stand accused, the complainant cannot justly become a victim until there is proof and at least a charge levied by the police, and in my eyes a guilty verdict in a court of law. Otherwise I could accuse you of being a rapist now, assume victim status, ruin your life, and stand no consequences.

This seems to be happening around us a lot and not just in the US.

It wasn't long ago that Cliff Richard observed the police invading his home on the BBC.

There has been a historical reluctance on the part of sexual assault victims to come



Alex says people should be treated as innocent until proven guilty

forward but it has to be a mistake to undermine the basic right of any of us to be assumed innocent until proven guilty.

This is wrong. It is plain wrong. Even if, like me you don't like the politics and views of Mr

Trump and his cohort they deserve to be assumed innocent and not tried by a global public mob.