

## Judges can't apply moral thinking, can they?

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The sentences being given to those who have looted are offensive. I'm delighted so many are saying so.

I do, of course, agree that crime must be punished, but what we're seeing is a rash of sentencing that reflects what might be called 'moral outrage' - and very candidly, politically directed moral outrage at that.

But it's curious - because it least it shows that judges (for many of the magistrates courts handing out these sentences are in fact being staffed by judges at present) can and do use moral judgment.

There is however complete reticence to do so in the case of tax avoidance. Then it is argued that such moral judgement would be wrong.

Why the dual standard?

I think you know the answer to that. After all, we all know that only 'nice' people avoid tax, just as only 'little' people pay tax, and loot.

And yes, I do find that duality sickening. So should anyone with a sense of justice.