

Labour is making a mockery of the rule of law

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I have a fear about what Yvette Cooper did last week. I believe that what she did in promoting the Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2025 makes a mockery of the rule of law.

When the law imposes penalties that are obviously disproportionate to the crime (if there has been a crime) committed, then those who seek to impose such sanctions do not uphold the rule of law, and all that flows from it. They do, instead, turn it into a laughing stock, the subject of ridicule, and something for which respect is lost across society.

This is what I think is going to happen with regard to this law. Whatever the merits of the issue that the law claims to address (and this is not a matter open for discussion here now), the question is whether the penalties imposed are appropriate, which is a reasonable question to ask. The reason is that there is a long history of juries refusing to find people guilty of offences when they are aware of the possibility that a disproportionate and unreasonable penalty might be imposed as a result. I think that this might be the case when cases resulting from the regulation (and those now seem likely) are brought to court.

The problem is not, however, ever limited to the one bad piece of law that has been promoted by a government. The discontent spreads very quickly, most especially when the government in question is already suffering a credibility problem.

The issue then becomes one of government competence.

And the question asked is whether they are simply abusing the rule of law for personal gain.

Soon thereafter, doubts began to rise as to whether other law needs to be complied with, because if some law is obviously inappropriate, might not others be as well?

Obviously, this has not happened yet in reaction to the events of last week, but what can be said with confidence is that Labour already looks like a lame duck government

that has no idea what it is doing, and which never did have a clue as to why it wanted to be in office in the first place. Add to those obvious issues the fact that it has now passed a law that makes it a laughing stock because it obviously seeks to overturn natural justice and replace it with draconian measures, and its actions will lose, for many, whatever shred of credibility they once had.

This is where Labour is going. There is no known road back from there.