

Should stolen data be admissible in court?

Manchester City FC – Background



- One of the world's top 5 richest clubs
- Owned by Sheikh Mansour - very rich man from a very rich family
- Recently been charged by the EPL of breaking Financial Fair Play rules
- FFP - a club cannot spend more than they earn in the pursuit of success

What are the charges?

Around 100 charges relating to...

- Inflated value of sponsorship deals
- 'Secret' contracts for managers to receive almost double pay
- Purchases of players going through other companies
- Not providing accurate financial information

- Accused by UEFA of breaking FFP rules in 2020 - charges dropped.
- Most recent charges come from EPL who abide by different laws
- In the UK a judge can accept hacked emails in the interest of justice
- The data used as evidence for these cases comes from hacked emails!

Meet Rui Pinto

Robin Hood of football

- Created Football Leaks in 2015

“The information Football Leaks made public pulled back the curtain on the murky world of soccer finance, led to criminal tax prosecution of several top players and even helped prompt officials in the US to reopen a sexual assault investigation involving Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo

- The New York Times reporter, Tariq Panja



“A striking feature of the English legal system is that a judge will accept hacked emails as evidence in court unless persuaded to exclude it. Even if you’ve done the hacking, you’ve still got a pretty good chance of getting it in [to the court]”.

Peter Ashford, a London solicitor and expert in the admissibility of illegal evidence

Another case – Hacked Off

- Hugh Tomlinson recently won a £££ fraud case using hacked emails
- His client allegedly used a hack-for-hire group to gather evidence
- He is chairman of 'Hacked Off' - a pressure group set up to support victims of press abuse, who have had their private data stolen.

In conclusion – Is This Okay?

Is it okay to steal data for justice?



Who decides when illegally obtained data can be used?

Where will this lead us?