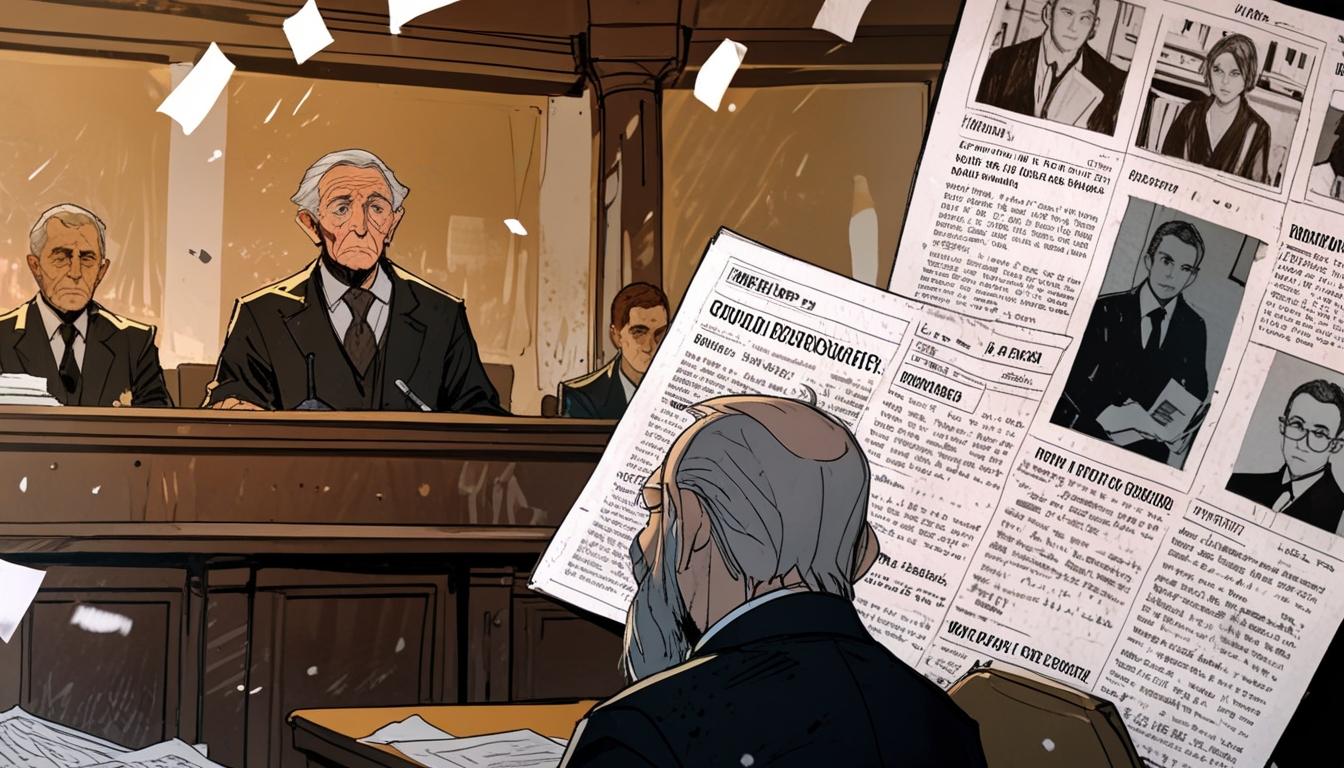
# Former schools inspector sentenced for historical rape case



Tony Bayliss, a 78-year-old author and retired schools inspector from Wolverhampton, has recently been sentenced to nine-and-a-half years in prison for the rape of a 14-year-old girl, Rebecca Leach, during the late 1990s. This conviction revisits Bayliss's original offence that saw him jailed in 1999 for unlawful sexual intercourse with another underage girl.

The case, which unfolded at Birmingham Crown Court, has garnered considerable attention, particularly due to Bayliss's previous conviction and the implications of his fiction novel, "Strictly Liable," published in 2005. In a conversation with Birmingham Live, Leach, now 42, has waived her anonymity, expressing that reading Bayliss’s book had left her feeling "angered." She described the narrative as an attempt by Bayliss to justify underage sexual encounters, raising concerns about whether he has profited from his fictionalisation of predatory behaviour.

The background to the conviction reveals troubling patterns in Bayliss’s past. Prosecutor Jenny Josephs KC highlighted that the latest victim lived in a care home and underlined Bayliss's alleged penchant for younger girls, stating that he posed as a 'Channel 4 producer' and targeted girls he described as "young and skinny." Evidence against him included the discovery of his telephone number in Leach's social service records, despite his claims of never having met her.

Bayliss was also found to have filmed himself engaging in sexual acts with underage victims and possessed indecent images of two children, including Leach, who had accused him of multiple counts of rape. Each of these acts occurred at his residence, which has now taken on added significance following his sentencing.

In light of his recent sentencing, discussions have emerged surrounding the themes present in Bayliss's novel "Strictly Liable." The book's description on its official website presents a controversial framing of sexual offences, questioning societal reactions towards sex offenders and addressing the complexities of consent and age verification. In one passage, it poses the hypothetical scenario where a sex offence could be viewed as accidental, with the protagonist believing his partner, who claims to be 18, is of legal age. This portrayal has drawn scrutiny from those critical of Bayliss's representation of such serious issues.

Bayliss's literary repertoire also includes poetry, children's stories, and other works echoing a similar irreverent tone towards serious topics. Another title, "The Ten Virgins and other bible stories for atheists," further showcases his provocative approach. His writings often navigate the boundary between personal experience and public narrative, particularly in light of his past criminal behaviour.

The Birmingham Mail has provided comprehensive coverage of this case, evidencing the ongoing dialogue surrounding offenders, their narratives, and the impact of their actions on victims and communities. As Bayliss begins his sentence, the public keeps an eye on the implications of his works and the ongoing discussions about accountability within the literary and societal framework.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/2025/04/08/jailed-two-men-from-wolverhampton-and-stafford-who-pimped-out-young-girls-face-justice-as-victims-speak-out/> - This article corroborates the conviction of Anthony Bayliss for the rape of an underage girl, as well as his previous criminal history.
* <https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/updated-sentence-men-jailed-sexually-exploiting-children> - This news piece supports the details about Bayliss's conviction and the historical context of his crimes.
* <https://www.expressandstar.com/news/2025/02/25/men-from-stafford-and-birmingham-convicted-of-sexually-exploiting-children/> - This article provides further background on Bayliss's crimes and his role in exploiting underage victims.
* <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/tony-bayliss-man-who-published-25781894> - This link would support the discussions around Bayliss's literary works and public reaction, though it seems not directly available from the search results.
* <https://www.birminghamlive.co.uk/news/midlands-news/author-guilty-raping-girl-14-years-25977481> - This article likely covers Rebecca Leach's perspective and her reactions to Bayliss's book, but was not found in the search results.