# How the £23 million Britoil fraud shaped lives decades on



The £23 million Britoil fraud, which occurred 37 years ago, continues to resonate in the lives of those involved, particularly Alison Anders and Roy Allen. Anders and Allen, who both served time in prison for their roles in the fraud, have since moved on to lead relatively quiet lives, punctuated by significant events that shaped their post-incarceration years.

Both Anders and Allen were incarcerated for approximately 20 months, with their relationship blossoming during their time in prison. After their release, the couple married on April 23, 1993, at the Peterhead Registry Office, celebrating with a reception at the Waterside Hotel in Peterhead. Anders identified herself as a ‘horticulturalist’ on their marriage certificate, reflecting a period when she evaded law enforcement by assuming a false identity and working at a florist in Oregon.

Following their marriage, the couple settled in Maud, purchasing a home from a retired farmer. Although they attempted to lead a mundane life, their past continued to cast a shadow over their present. Anders took a position as a tutor with Rehab Scotland, earning £12,000 a year, but was dismissed for not disclosing her criminal history.

A friend of the couple remarked on the challenges they faced, saying, “The fraud was never going to be a success for them,” noting that there were too many variables in the criminal scheme that could have led to dire consequences. The friend, who chose to remain anonymous, recalled Allen expressing their luck in surviving the fallout from the failed fraud.

Roy Allen, who had a charismatic presence and was remembered fondly by his peers, developed a successful career in academia after graduating from Aberdeen University with a degree in psychology. His engaging teaching style, which included sharing anecdotes, such as pictures of his pet dog, earned him admiration among students and colleagues alike. Sadly, Allen passed away in October 2014 after a brief illness, at the age of 62. Following his death, a tribute from a student publication acknowledged his past but celebrated his impact, calling him a “criminal mastermind” in a light-hearted context.

In contrast, Alison Anders appears to be more reticent about her past. She remains in the education sector in Aberdeenshire and continues to reside in Maud. Despite multiple attempts to reach out to her for comment over several months, she has not responded.

The case also had repercussions for others involved, such as Jill Ruddell and Omar Hammoud, who, despite being described as victims of the circumstances, have shied away from media attention. A source close to them emphasised their integrity, stating, “They are good people. They did nothing wrong,” pointing out that their desire for justice ultimately led to unwanted scrutiny.

Detective Constable Hamish Moir, who played a pivotal role in resolving the Britoil case, has also moved on. After retiring from Grampian Police in 1996, he has been enjoying his retirement in the north-east at the age of 65, reflecting on his drawn-out investigation that ultimately exposed the fraud.

As time passes, the Britoil fraud remains a significant chapter in the lives of those involved, illustrating how past choices continue to influence present realities.

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

## Bibliography

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