



Quit Banging on Brits

October 24, 2025

We hear so much bad news about censorship coming out of the United Kingdom that it's almost shocking when something good happens instead.

That good news is a [retreat](#) from harassing innocent people for posting online too freely for the taste of British police enforcers.

In the big picture, the change in policy by the Metropolitan Police Service is but a minor tactical withdrawal in the pursuit of a censorship agenda that is otherwise proceeding on all fronts. It's not so minor for people like, say, comedy writer Graham Linehan.

Several weeks ago, Linehan was [arrested](#) at Heathrow

Airport by five armed officers.

"I was arrested at an airport like a terrorist, locked in a cell like a criminal, taken to hospital because the stress nearly killed me, and banned from speaking online." His sin was posting a few tweets critical of transgender activists.

The charges against Linehan have been dropped.

And from now on, says the [Met](#), it will stop investigating "non-crime hate incidents." A spokesperson explains that the commissioner "doesn't believe officers should be policing toxic culture war debates...."

The "non-crime hate incidents" will still be logged, though.

The policy of harassing Britons for cranky words has been softened before, by the Tories. When Labour came in, the new government promptly hardened things again.

And further caution: Met policy is *not* government policy.

So this particular hammer for banging upon speakers daring to offend the easily offendable could come swinging down again at any moment.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.