

Project Evaluation

I found this project more challenging than I had anticipated. Even though the subject matter attracts a lot of attention in the newspapers and at the Cinema, most of the material I discovered really tended to be about specific cases and prosecutions. I found that I accumulated a lot of research that was irrelevant to the core question of whether the law itself is right. Consequently, the whole thing took a lot longer than I had planned and my original drafts were more about events than the actual core premise. My tutor suggested that I take elements from what I had done but look again at the arguments for and against Insider dealing and market abuse.

I found the CISI workbooks to be a helpful starting block but found almost all of the areas that I researched centred around Insider dealing as opposed to the wider area of market abuse. As a result I do feel that my project may be slightly unbalanced in that way but I certainly felt that by doing the necessary research and interpretation that I understood the subjects well enough to come to informed conclusions. There were other obstacles too – despite its headline grabbing status, I couldn't find a single book on the subject despite numerous library visits. I was able to get around this by using the internet and found the FSA website and newspaper websites the most useful. Perhaps a more fundamental problem was that what content there was was overwhelmingly for Insider Dealing and Market Abuse to remain illegal – it was very hard to find anything to support the contrarian argument. This, again, makes me worry that my project may be too skewed. My tutor was able to offer me guidance on a number of occasions by helping me think

about what the alternative views might be and I think I explained them quite well although it was hard to find source material.

By doing this project I do feel that I have a greater understanding of how the City and financial markets work and I certainly feel more comfortable with the terminology. I found it interesting which is why I wanted to do it in the first place but I think I originally got over excited about things and accumulated a lot of interesting but irrelevant material. I think next time I would need to be more disciplined in my approach by drawing up a skeleton plan and then sticking to it – i.e. researching and writing up on each bit rather than just accumulating lots of information and trying to make an argument out of it. The other thing I would mention is that having done all of this research and writing in the final analysis the whole thing boils down to the very simple themes of ethics versus greed and right against wrong. These are issues that I feel very strongly about and would like to do more on in the future and I think I would definitely be interested in a career in regulation.

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