

British cop convicted for deadly pursuit

by UPI

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, England -- A police officer in the British city of Newcastle upon Tyne caused the death of a 16-year-old girl by driving dangerously during a pursuit, a court ruled.

The Times of London said Thursday that Police Constable John Dougal was convicted in Newcastle Crown Court of causing death by dangerous driving in relation to a May accident that killed teenager Hayley Adamson.

A Crown Court jury reached a unanimous decision Wednesday that the 41-year-old police officer acted inappropriately by driving 94 mph in a 30 mph zone without using his police vehicle's siren or lights, The Times said.

Police driving standards expert Gordon Robertson testified during Dougal's five-day trial that there was no reason for the officer to have been driving at those speeds in a residential area without the lights or sirens.

Dougal, who had been chasing a suspect vehicle when the accident occurred, did attempt to stop after seeing Adamson crossing the road in front of his patrol car. The Times said the officer, who faces a possible jail sentence for his conviction, also stopped immediately after the accident.

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