



**From Dr A Majid Katme**

What about the tens of thousands of doctors who are ALCOHOLICS?  
When our LIVES are in their hands?  
VIVE ISLAM

## **Disgraced consultant anaesthetist caught FOUR TIMES over the limit on early morning trip to buy alcohol is spared jail**

- **Clare Holdsworth's own partner called police because he was so concerned**
- **The doctor, 44, was already suspended from work for drinking**
- **She was handed 12-month community order and 200 hours unpaid work**

Doctor Clare Holdsworth, 43 was sentenced to a 12-month community order and 200 hours unpaid work for being four times over the limit behind the wheel

A drink-driving doctor who was four times over the limit was shopped to police by her concerned partner when she took an early morning drive to buy more alcohol, magistrates' heard today.

Disgraced consultant anaesthetist Clare Holdsworth, 44, was stopped by police only yards from her house in October last year.

Officers had been alerted by her long-term partner who called 999 to warn them Holdsworth was drunk and had taken his car, which she was not insured to drive.

After being stopped near her home in Halifax, West Yorks, the court heard that she refused to give a breath test and kept telling officers 'will you just let me go home'.

Calderdale Magistrates' Court heard instead of getting out of the car she reached for a bottle of vodka mix. Officers then spotted a bag containing cans and bottles in the footwell.

Holdsworth then screamed at the officers as they tried handcuff her.

When she was finally tested her breath recorded 135mg of alcohol in 100mls of breath, the legal limit being 35mg.

Malcolm Nowell, Holdsworth's solicitor, told the court that she no longer works for the health authority, and is on employment benefits of 70 pounds a week, but now 'devoted her energies to work with people who have similar illnesses'.

The former consultant was handed a 12-month community order with 200 hours of unpaid work after magistrates' heard she had been attending AA meetings and a support group.

The court previously heard that Holdsworth, who worked as a consultant anaesthetist in Calderdale and Huddersfield since 2005, has been suspended since December 2010 after she admitted to her manager she had once had a drink on duty.

Speaking at that earlier hearing, Mr Nowell said: 'She has always been able to cope with the demands of the job and thought she had a good relationship with her boss.

'She mentioned the difficulties she was having and that on one occasion she had had a drink while on duty.

'She thought that would be met with some sympathy and understanding, but she was reported to the GMC.'

He added: 'She had drunk a significant amount on the night before the offence. She was stopped because her partner called the police, because he was concerned for her and for the public.

Holdsworth was also disqualified from driving for 32 months and will have to pay 85 pounds in costs.

Speaking after the sentence Holdsworth said: 'I don't really have anything to say. I'm perfectly happy with the sentence.'

Mr Nowell told the court today that Holdsworth, who admitted driving while over the limit and driving without insurance, had made great improvements with her alcohol problem.