

Cleared doctor fights deportation

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A Staffordshire doctor cleared of any involvement in the 2007 London and Glasgow car bomb plots will fight to stay in the UK, his solicitor has said.

Mohammed Asha, 28, a Jordanian living in Newcastle-under-Lyme, remains in custody and was served with deportation papers as his working visa has expired.

His lawyers said he wanted to stay in the UK and resume his medical career.

A Woolwich Crown Court jury found Bilal Abdulla guilty of plotting to set off car bombs with Kafeel Ahmed, who died.

Abdulla, 29, is facing a life term for conspiracy to murder and conspiracy to cause explosions.

The first attack, on 29 June, involved two failed car bombs left in London's West End.

'Very disappointed'

A day later, a burning Jeep filled with gas canisters was driven into Glasgow Airport. Ahmed died from 90% burns sustained during the attack.

Dr Asha was acquitted on Tuesday of plotting to murder and cause explosions.

During the nine-week trial, he admitted knowing Abdulla, who is also a doctor, and Ahmed but denied any knowledge of their attacks.

Dr Asha was on the highly-skilled migrants programme

Dr Asha's legal team said he was disappointed he now faced being transferred to a immigration detention centre.

Solicitor Tayab Ali said: "He wants to stay in this country and resume his medical career.

"He is very disappointed that he is still in custody after being acquitted in one of this country's biggest cases."

'Bright future'

Dr Asha was on a highly-skilled migrants programme visa which expired while he was on remand.

At the time of his arrest on 30 June last year, he was working for the University Hospital of North Staffordshire and living in Sunningdale Grove with his wife and daughter.

He had been due to go on holiday, before transferring to Coventry's Walsgrave Hospital to continue training in neurosurgery.

Jurors heard he was a strictly observant Muslim with a very bright future in neurology.

One colleague had told the court he would not be surprised if Dr Asha became Britain's best neurologist.