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Fugitive will not be sent back to jail



■ Freed: Gary Hayes.

FUGITIVE Gary Hayes who escaped from a Greek jail 15 years ago will not be extradited, magistrates ruled yesterday.

It had been expected that the Greek authorities would press for Mr Hayes, 44, to be sent back to serve the remainder of his 12-year jail sentence for drug possession.

He staged a dramatic escape from a jail in Athens in 1980 and fled back to Britain to set up home with his Greek-born wife.

But after 15 years on the run he was arrested on January 25 after

he filled in a criminal injuries compensation form after he was attacked in a street.

Mr Hayes admitted he was a fugitive, the Home Office alerted the Metropolitan Police and they issued a warrant for his extradition.

At Bow Street Magistrates in London yesterday prosecutor Arvinder Sambei for the Greek Government, applied to discharge the case against Mr Hayes as no formal request from Greece for extradition had been made.

Magistrate Ronald Bartle discharged the case, telling Mr Hayes, a performing arts student, of Priory Avenue, Whitley Bay, he was free to go.

Hayes was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in Athens in 1980 after being convicted of smuggling cannabis into Greece via Egypt.

While on remand he launched the first of two escape bids from a Greek hospital where he was receiving minor treatment.

He badly injured himself

leaping from a third-floor window and appeared in court in a wheelchair.

He denied the charges, claiming he only had a small amount of drugs for his own use and had just bought the car, not knowing it was packed with drugs.

Last night Mr Hayes was not available for comment. The Greek authorities could not be contacted on why they had not filed to extradite Mr Hayes as yesterday was a national holiday.

Concern at shock rise in caesareans

By DAVE BLACK

A MASSIVE increase in the number of babies deliv-

umberland will be told later this week that the caesarean rate at Ashington Hospital is now back down to around the national

It may well be a case of consultants deciding not to take any risks

and the reasons for them.

Many consultants and midwives told the NCT that fear of being sued was influencing their

Water bid

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immediately attacked the approach as unsolicited and unwelcome with finance director Mike Taylor saying that the announcement was "somewhat unfortunate for the North-East" although he recognised that it made "some commercial sense".

Hugh Speed, vice president of Lyonnaise des Eaux, said the two businesses complemented each other extremely well.

The move means that the

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