

## R-v-BOLLINGER

### SENTENCING REMARKS

You have pleaded guilty to a number of offences. You have also been convicted by a jury of "attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming".

On the 10th February 2014, you pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity to "Administering a poison or noxious substance". I give you maximum credit for that early guilty plea. On 6th July 2010, you soaked a cloth with dry-cleaning fluid and placed it over the face of Urlene King. She was a friend of yours and was visiting your home. Mercifully, she protested. She felt dizzy and you stopped what you were doing. I have read a victim personal statement from her and there is no doubt that she has suffered considerable trauma as a result of this incident. It has unsurprisingly had a very bad psychological effect upon her and the effects will be long term.

On the 10th February 2014, you also pleaded guilty to 2 counts of making indecent images of children. These were pseudo-images in the sense that they had been digitally altered. There were a total of nine images and included images of a naked female child, aged between 6 to 9 years, lying on the side of what appears to be a large serving dish with an apple in her mouth; a naked girl of between 11 to 13 years of age, wearing lace topped stockings; a naked female child aged between 12 and 15 years, standing in front of an oven with another naked female child of four or five years of age inside the oven; a naked female child of between six and eight years of age, tied with a rope around her ankles, knees and pelvis, to a metal pole which is positioned over a barbecue, and other like images which have a cannibalistic theme. I give you maximum credit for pleading guilty at the earliest opportunity to these offences. These images are extremely sickening examples of indecent images of children.

Counts 1 to 7 on the first indictment represent offences of "Publishing an Obscene Article". They relate to 7 "chat logs" in which you were discussing over the Internet with a variety of different people and in the most extreme and explicit terms kidnap, sexual abuse, torture, murder and cannibalism of women and children. You discussed disabling a woman by the use of chloroform. This was an unhappy but clear echo of your behaviour towards, and treatment of, Urlene King. It is plain that you were obtaining sexual gratification from indulging in these discussions.

You did not plead guilty to these charges at the first opportunity. Instead, it was argued on your behalf that these matters did not amount to the criminal charges alleged because the material under discussion was not obscene or that to prosecute you amounted to an abuse of the process of the court. The court rejected these arguments on 21st March 2014 whereupon you pleaded guilty to these counts. I will therefore give you 20% credit for your guilty pleas.

The jury convicted you of "Attempting to meet a child following sexual grooming". You were communicating with a person whom you believed to be a 14-year-old girl called Eva who was living in Germany. You believed from what she told you that she was vulnerable. You invited her to visit you in the UK. You made arrangements with her for you both to meet at Ashford International railway station. You discussed with her how you wanted to have sexual intercourse with her and how you would then kill her with an axe and eat her. On 17th September 2012, you purchased an axe in Broadstairs and later photographed yourself holding the axe in your bedroom. On the day upon which you had arranged to meet Eva, you travelled to Ashford International Station but happily no one arrived.

I have seen and heard you give evidence. You told the court that you had had fantasies about cannibalism since you were a child. You are now 58 years of age. You have been married, have had children and have been employed as a nurse. You demonstrated when giving evidence that you are an arrogant and manipulative man. You have shown no remorse and indeed cannot understand why anyone should find your behaviour in any way abnormal or perverted, let alone criminal. You lack any insight into your behaviour and fail to understand that right minded people will find your behaviour abhorrent, shocking, repulsive and dangerous, dangerous because, by talking about these activities, there is always the risk that your fantasies will tip over into actions. There was also the real danger that you would inflame or incite the people with whom you were discussing these activities to move from fantasy to action themselves.

I have read the careful report prepared on you by Dr Joseph. Dr Joseph observes and I conclude that the Urlene King incident and the "Eva" incident are examples where you crossed a threshold and began to act out your fantasies. There are here a unique series of offences. I have heard mitigation ably advanced on your behalf by Mr Jarvis. I follow the sentencing guidelines where they apply. For the substantive offence of "Attempting to meet a child", this is in my judgment a Category 1 offence. You exposed your victim to extreme sexual discussion, you believed that she was a particularly vulnerable child and you said that

you wanted to have sexual intercourse with her. The indecent pseudo-images are Category A images because they involve sadistic activity and bondage.

All your behaviour was designed to indulge your perverted sexual fantasies and to obtain sexual gratification. I bear in mind that you are 58 years old and that you have no previous convictions. Having seen and heard you give evidence, I conclude that you do pose a risk to the public. Given the statutory constraints on my sentencing powers, I have had to consider very carefully how I can best protect the public from you. I have come to the conclusion that I can best do that by the imposition of a long, determinate sentence coupled with a Sexual Offences Prevention Order. The effect of the sentences that I'm about to impose upon you is that you will be on licence for a very long period. Should you breach the terms of your license, you can expect to be returned to custody in order to serve the balance of your sentence.

On the second indictment, I remind myself that the statutory maximum sentence for the offence of "Administering a noxious substance" is one of five years imprisonment. I take as a starting point four and a half years imprisonment because I regard this as a very serious example of this type of offence. With maximum credit for your early plea of guilty, the sentence of the court is one of three years imprisonment.

On the first indictment Counts 1 to 7, offences of "Publishing an Obscene Article", I take as a starting point 30 months imprisonment. Giving you the 20% credit to which I have earlier referred, the sentence of the court for each one of these 7 offences is one of two years imprisonment, to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to the sentence for the offence of 'Administering a noxious substance'.

On Count eight, the offence of "Attempting to meet a child", I remind myself that this was an attempt and not the full offence. You were convicted after trial. The sentence of the court is one of three years imprisonment consecutive.

On Counts nine and 10, the indecent images offences, I take as a starting point 18 months imprisonment. With maximum credit for your early guilty pleas, the sentence of the court for each offence is one year's imprisonment, to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to the earlier sentences which I have passed.

In the result, the total sentence of the court for these offences is one of 9 years imprisonment.