



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

Sentencing remarks of Mr Justice Kerr

The Queen

v

**Daniel Wiltshire, Ruben Hoather
and Anthony Wood**

Liverpool Crown Court

29 July 2015

1. Jordan Campbell was only 17 when his life was cruelly and violently taken by these three defendants.
2. On New Year's Eve last year, they gathered with some other people at the prison where Ruben Hoather was due to be released after serving a sentence. Then they prepared for a party, supplying themselves with lots of alcohol, cannabis, and later, cocaine.
3. In the afternoon, they went to the flat in St Helens where they were to commit murder the next morning. They started to drink alcohol, take cocaine and smoke cannabis. They celebrated the New Year at midnight with friends.
4. By the early hours of the morning they were very drunk and had taken a lot of cocaine. Ruben Hoather was behaving aggressively and was spoiling for a fight. Daniel Wiltshire was showing off and wrestling with other party goers.
5. Jordan Campbell arrived at the party well after midnight. He had already gone to sleep but for some reason he got up and went to the party. By about 8.30am only he and these three defendants were left in the flat.
6. Not long afterwards, probably from about 9.20am, they viciously attacked Jordan Campbell, calling him a nonce and punching him in the face. They kicked him and stamped on him. Then Jordan was stabbed with a knife from the kitchen. He was cut on his hand and legs and suffered multiple injuries, probably from fighting back.

7. The defendants showed him no mercy. Daniel Wiltshire stabbed Jordan Campbell fatally in the back, causing him to collapse and die within a few minutes. But all three of the defendants were in it together. They tortured and terrorised Jordan before they killed him.
8. They dragged him into the next bedroom from the mattress where he lay bleeding to death, dumped him on the floor and set fire to his body and head using torn clothing, attempting to burn the body and burn down the flat to destroy evidence of the crime before fleeing from the scene. When the police came later that day and found the body, the fire damaged flat was still full of thick smoke.
9. These three killers have made victims of Jordan Campbell's family as well. Every day, they miss their Jordan. This court heard the moving tributes they paid to his memory. They wish he had not gone to the party and had been spared to live his life and become an adult. They now have to face empty days without him, because of what these three defendants did.
10. For these offences of murder, the sentence I am required by law to pass is one of life imprisonment in each case.
11. I have to determine the minimum term of imprisonment which each defendant must serve before being eligible to apply to the Parole Board to be considered for release.
12. To do so, I have to consider the provisions of Schedule 21 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003 regarding the seriousness of the offence, to determine the minimum term of that life sentence that they must serve as the punishment and deterrent term of their sentence, before consideration can be given to their release.
13. A minimum term is not the same as an ordinary sentence of imprisonment where a defendant will normally serve only half of that sentence before being released on licence. A minimum term is the term that must be served before the case may be referred to the Parole Board for a consideration of the prisoner's release upon licence. It means the actual length of time that the prisoner will spend in prison before that process can take place.
14. Whether or not these three men, or any of them, will be released after the minimum term has been served will be for the Parole Board to consider at the end of their minimum term. The Parole Board will not decide they can be released at that stage, unless it is satisfied that the prisoner whose case they are considering is not a risk to the public, and is ready for release into society.
15. If they are released at that time, or any later time, they will be released on licence with specific conditions attached, and may be

recalled to continue serving their life sentences if they breach any licence conditions that are imposed in each case.

16. This case is not, in law, to be treated one in which a knife was taken to the scene of the crime from elsewhere. In such cases, the starting point is a minimum term of 25 years. In this case, I will take the starting point as 15 years in each case, because the knife was taken from within the flat to the part of it where Jordan Campbell was repeatedly stabbed.
17. But I must bear in mind the guidance from the Court of Appeal in such cases (see the cases reviewed in *Dillon* [2015] EWCA Crim 3). The defendants are not entitled to a substantial reduction from the starting point just because the knife used to kill Jordan Campbell was already in the flat and not brought there from outside.
18. On the contrary, this is a case where there must be a substantial increase to a level well above the starting point. The case is not much less serious than it would be if the knife had been brought to the scene of the murder from outside the flat. So while I will take 15 years as the starting point, the aggravating features, particularly the use of the knife, mean that the minimum term in each case will be well above 15 years.

Daniel Wiltshire

19. You have pleaded guilty to murdering Jordan Campbell. The sentence I am required by law to impose upon you for the murder of Jordan Campbell is life imprisonment.
20. In your case there are the following aggravating features:
 - i. This was a brutal knife attack in which the victim was stabbed or slashed seven times, as well as being punched, kicked and stamped on.
 - ii. Jordan was only 17 years old when you killed him and was especially vulnerable because of his young age.
 - iii. You intended to kill Jordan Campbell. I am sure about that. You accept that you inflicted the fatal stab wound.
 - iv. The attack on your victim was fuelled by drink and Class A drugs. I do not accept that in the present context, where a frenzied attack is carried out on a vulnerable teenager by three grown men, this is a neutral factor.
 - v. The victim was taunted, insulted, terrorised and tortured before he died.
 - vi. You continued to insult his dignity after killing him,

setting fire to his body and the flat, putting others in danger and trying to conceal evidence of your crime.

- vii. You arrogantly boasted and bragged about the crime afterwards, needlessly aggravating the suffering of the family.
 - viii. It is said by Mr Lamb, who spoke eloquently on your behalf, that you are very sorry, that you feel remorse, and that this is demonstrated by your guilty plea. This weighs with the court hardly at all. The expression of remorse comes very late. You showed no remorse at the time.
 - ix. You have a criminal record which includes convictions for offences of violence, one of which was for having a knife in a public place.
- 21. The mitigating factors in your case, such as they are: you are still quite a young man, aged 25 at the time of the murder, and that you did not attempt to deny your guilt and indeed admitted it, and pleaded guilty. The mitigation you get from your admission is, however, made less by the manner in which you made it, revelling in your crime instead of hanging your head in shame.
 - 22. I am not sure that your part in the attack on Jordan Campbell was premeditated – whether you formed your intention to kill him very shortly before you stabbed him to death, or earlier that night, before he arrived at the flat. I will sentence you on the basis that you formed your intention to kill him at a late stage, after the others had left.
 - 23. Taking all those matters into account, I would have imposed a minimum term of 24 years. I reduce that to 21 years because of your plea of guilty. The sentence of the court for the murder of Jordan Campbell is life imprisonment, with a minimum term to be served of 21 years, less 205 days to reflect the period you have spent on remand awaiting trial.
 - 24. The statutory charges apply.

Ruben Hoather

- 25. You have pleaded guilty to murdering Jordan Campbell. The sentence I am required by law to impose upon you for the murder of Jordan Campbell is life imprisonment.
- 26. The aggravating features in your case are the same as in the case of Daniel Wiltshire, except that you did not boast and brag about the crime to the same extent as he did, and your previous criminal record is less serious. However, you committed this offence while on licence, less than 24 hours after being released from prison,

servicing a sentence itself committed for an offence of violence.

27. I cannot be sure that you intended Jordan Campbell to die, but you have accepted by your plea of guilty that you took part in the attack on him intending that he would suffer, or realising that he may suffer really serious injury. The attack was horrific, you took part in it, and you tore your clothes afterwards to burn the body and the flat.
28. The only other mitigating features are your young age; you were 22 when you committed the murder; and the fact that you gave yourself up to police, admitted the offence and pleaded guilty and, I accept, did not inflict the stab wound which killed him.
29. Mr Lander, who spoke well on your behalf, told me that you felt remorse. Yet there is no evidence of you feeling sorry about what you did to Jordan until we hear it today from your counsel. I do not accept that there is convincing evidence of any relevant psychiatric history before the court.
30. Taking all those matters into account, I would have imposed a minimum term of 22 years. Giving you appropriate credit for your plea of guilty, the sentence of the court for the murder is life imprisonment, with a minimum term to be served of 19 years, less 205 days to reflect the period you have spent on remand awaiting trial.
31. The statutory charges apply.

Anthony Wood

32. After a trial lasting five days, you were convicted by the jury of murdering Jordan Campbell. You attempted to deny your guilt and lied to the police twice in an attempt to deceive them into thinking that you were not part of the joint attack on Jordan Campbell. You tried to dispose of your bloodstained clothes and lied about what you had been wearing that night.
33. You falsely tried to make out you were the good man trying to rescue the boy you murdered. Your trial has delayed sentencing by this court. That delay has, I am sure, added to the suffering you have already caused to Jordan's family and loved ones.
34. You were as much part of the attack just as the other two defendants were. You were the oldest of the three, and instead of trying to prevent the attack as you claimed you had done in your evidence, which the jury did not believe, you took part in the attack.
35. I accept that you did not actually wield the knife and did not stab Jordan Campbell. I cannot be sure that you intended him to die. I sentence you on the basis that you took part in the attack on him

intending or realising that he could suffer really serious injury. I am also prepared to accept that your part in the attack was not premeditated.

36. Mr Sutton QC, who represented you well at trial and today, said you did not expect a knife to be used. I cannot be sure that you realised a knife would be used on Jordan Campbell. But you foresaw, at least, the possibility that he would suffer serious bodily injury, so that is not a point of much weight in your favour.
37. You are not entitled to any credit for a plea of guilty. Your record includes relatively minor offences involving violence, but those offences were committed several years ago and are not of much significance.
38. Taking all those matters into account, I sentence you to life imprisonment for the murder of Jordan Campbell. You will serve a minimum term of 21 years.
39. After your arrest for this matter, you were recalled for breach of your licence conditions having been imprisoned for another matter. Your legal representatives have accepted that you are not entitled to any further reduction to reflect the period you have spent in custody awaiting trial and since your trial.
40. I must also sentence you for another offence of perverting the course of justice, to which you pleaded guilty while in custody awaiting trial for this murder. You admitted that you had lied in the first witness statement you made, in which you falsely claimed to have slept through the murder, and lied about the clothes you were wearing at the party.
41. I bear in mind that I have already taken your attempt to deceive into account in deciding the minimum term in respect of your sentence of life imprisonment for murder. That is a factor that I take into account.
42. Giving full credit for your guilty plea and taking into account your record, which is not significant in the context of the offence, I will impose a sentence of 18 months in prison for that offence, which will run concurrently with the sentence for the murder.
43. The statutory charges apply.