

THE COUNTY COURT AT MIDDLESBROUGH

Russell Street
Middlesbrough
TS1 2AE

30th September 2016

B E F O R E:

HIS HONOUR JUDGE BRIGGS

East Durham Homes

Claimant

-v-

Graham Coles

Defendant

Judgment

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1. **His Honour Judge Briggs:** You must understand these are serious matters. If you make bomb hoaxes, there is a specific offence that could attract a sentence of up to seven years. Threats to kill, the criminal offence attracts up to 10 years. So be under no illusion that what you did was serious.
2. Insofar as your history is concerned, it is perfectly plain that you do suffer from some sort of disorder involving the controlling of your temper, but the basic problem is that these days any authority that employs others and where those sort of threats are delivered to the staff, they have to be taken seriously. Perhaps going back a few years, one could dismiss them with a degree of confidence. Sadly, such as the disordered state of the world these days, that they have to be taken seriously because disasters have occurred in the past when they perhaps have not been taken seriously and what is threatened comes to pass.
3. I accept entirely it is highly unlikely that you would have gone through with any actual bombing threat and, on the face of it, it is perhaps equally unlikely that you would involve yourself in any physical attack on anyone else. I do not know about that, but what is perfectly plain is that there has been a history of difficulty between you and the housing authorities for some considerable time.
4. Of course, I am concerned solely with the position between the date of the order and the date of these breaches but you did cause very significant disruption and I am afraid custody is inevitable - no one should have to put up with this sort of thing - but that custody can be tempered in the circumstances, bearing in mind your immediate admission, your expression of regret and, hopefully, your aim to behave in future.
5. In those circumstances, the six months' guideline I do start with, but I do bear in mind that you accepted your responsibility for that in fairly short order and I bear in mind the various other things that have been helpfully advanced by Mr Teate on your behalf. In particular, I must bear in mind the fact that the time you have spent in custody since your arrest does not count, so I have to adjust the sentence for that. The overall sentence, therefore, in respect of each of these breaches is one of three months' imprisonment, of which you will serve one half. That means you have a relatively short period from now on to spend in custody and you still have the criminal matters to face.
6. In relation to those criminal matters, what the Court does with you on that occasion is a matter for others, not for me and I should tell you that you are being punished for the breach of the order and for the damage it caused.
7. I accept there may be a degree of overlap but the eventual allowance will have to be made by those who deal with the criminal charges.
8. Very well, three months concurrent in respect of each of the charges and I pass that sentence bearing in mind your admissions and bearing in mind the fact that you have spent just over one month on remand. Very well, you may go down.

End of judgment

We hereby certify that this judgment has been approved by His Honour Judge Briggs.

Compril Limited