

SENTENCING REMARKS
OF
THE RECORDER OF SHEFFIELD
HIS HONOUR JUDGE JEREMY RICHARDSON QC
AT
THE CROWN COURT AT SHEFFIELD
SITTING AT DONCASTER
ON
MONDAY 28TH JANUARY 2019

REGINA

V

ELLIOT MASON CHRISTIAN BOWER

DECLAN BOWER

And

MASON CARTLEDGE

Preamble

You may all remain seated. You must listen with care to what I am about to say.

In the printed version of these sentencing remarks there will be headings for ease of reference.

These sentencing remarks will be made available to you, your lawyers, the press and the public a short while after the conclusion of this hearing. I also direct that the printed version of these remarks shall be placed within the relevant section of the Digital Case System.

Introduction

1. Elliot Bower, you are aged 19 years.

Declan Bower, you are aged 23 years.

Mason Cartledge, you are aged 18 years.
2. Elliot Bower and Cartledge you were aged 18 and 17, respectively, when the events of 9th November 2018 occurred.
3. All of you fall for sentence for your part in crimes that have led to the death of four innocent people and the infliction of life-changing injuries on three others. You have visited a catastrophe of the highest magnitude on two families. I am fully aware of the truly dreadful consequences for the innocent survivors of this shocking incident and the consequences for the family members of those that died. The Personal Statements that have been read to the court this morning reveals the enormity of the consequences for two families.
4. Each one of you – in a differing way – is responsible for the devastation of the highest magnitude visited upon two innocent families.
5. Those killed and maimed as a result of your criminal conduct were the following. Each one was a wholly innocent victim of your crimes. The four that died were killed instantaneously by the force of the impact:

The Deceased

Adnan Ashraf – aged 35, was the driver in the driving seat.

Mohammed Usman Bin Adnan – aged just 16 months and the infant son of Adnan Ashraf. He was in the rear of the vehicle.

Miroslav Duna – aged 50 and seated in the rear.

Vlasta Dunova – aged 44, seated in the rear, and the wife of Miroslav Duna.

The Injured

Nicola Dunova – the daughter of Miroslav Duna and Vlasta Dunova. Her parents were killed that night. She is now an orphan. She sustained traumatic brain injury, a fractured spine,

a collapsed lung, tears to her liver, and other very serious injuries including fractures to her pelvis and leg. She remains gravely ill and it is unclear how brain damaged she will be at present.

Livia Matova – aged 3 years and the daughter of Nicola Dunova. She had been a happy carefree child. She is now severely brain damaged. She has grossly impaired vision and it may be lost completely. She cannot walk or stand. She has to be fed via a tube which may be a permanent feature of her life. She can barely speak and may develop post traumatic epilepsy. She may never recover. Her future is parlous.

Erica Kroscenova – who was the wife of Adnan Ashraf and the mother of the infant Mohammed Usman Bin Adnan. She lost both her husband and her infant son that night. Her injuries consisted of fractures to her limbs and a lacerated liver.

6. You, Elliot Bower, are responsible for every item of that catalogue of catastrophe.
7. You, Declan Bower and Cartledge, share a large part of the blame for this too. You had a vested interest in evading justice, and you were undoubtedly complicit in the high level of risk taking. There is not a shred of evidence that you were anything other than keen to get away from the police at the time. Neither of you has given any explanation to the police about your conduct, and both of you were involved in the criminality surrounding the stolen car for some time. There is no evidence at all that you were seeking to discourage Elliot Bower. He was the driver, but your culpability is nearly as high as his. I have not the slightest doubt you were in the criminality surrounding the car together and I make the clear inference that you all wanted get-away from the police in order to evade justice.
8. Those of us in court earlier today who watched the DVD recording of part of the road journey, witnessed your conduct that night in November last. It records driving of a kind rarely seen. It was both chilling and breathtaking in its horror.
9. On 9th November 2018, during the evening, a group of two families were travelling home from an excursion to London. They were all in a VW Touran small utility vehicle. That vehicle was correctly positioned and executing a right turn on the B6200 Main Road in the eastern suburbs of Sheffield. The two families were all near, indeed, within a few seconds of arrival at, their homes at Darnall in Sheffield.
10. That VW Touran was smashed into by a car driven by you, Elliot Bower. The driving you exhibited was one of the worst examples of dangerous driving it has been my misfortune to consider.

11. By that egregious driving, that can only be characterized as exceptionally dangerous, you killed 4 innocent people and have inflicted life shattering injuries on three others.
12. After the terrible collision two of you – Elliot Bower and Cartledge – endeavored to make good your escape. You never gave a thought to help anyone who was injured or dying, indeed you even left your criminal associate, Declan Bower, to his fate in the damaged car.
13. Not one of you has displayed a morsel of contrition or genuine regret for what you did. Each one of you has given instructions to your counsel to express remorse. Genuine remorse, even for one as young as you Cartledge, would have been expressed much earlier and in much less contrived circumstances than a courtroom. The only item of mitigation in this case is the fact you have each pleaded guilty. You will receive credit referable to the stage at which you pleaded guilty – namely the PTPH.
14. Each one of you thinks of himself as a local villain who enjoys committing crime. Two of you, the Bower brothers, plainly enjoy taunting the police.
15. In truth you are nothing more than a somewhat miserably inadequate group of deeply malevolent local criminals. On this occasion you have committed an exceptionally serious crime with many aggravating features. You will – each of you – be punished severely for what you did.
16. The maximum sentence open to the court is 14 years on counts 1 to 4 and 5 years on counts 5 to 7. By reason of a decision of the Court of Appeal (**R v Jaynesh Chadusama [2018] EWCA Crim 2867**) I am compelled to take 14 years imprisonment as the maximum sentence open to me where multiple fatalities arise from a single incident of dangerous driving. There is also no objection in a very serious case of the court regarding the maximum sentence as its starting point in an appropriate case. I shall have more to say about the current law at the conclusion of these sentencing remarks. I shall apply the law as it is – as I must – and not as I, or others, might wish it to be.
17. Elliot Bower, you were the driver of the car. You are the one mainly responsible for this catastrophe. You, Declan Bower and, you Cartledge, were passengers in this stolen car. Although, you do not fall for sentence in respect of the dangerous driving, I am certain that you were part of this small group of criminals who had a vested interest in evading the police that night and, it is reasonable to infer, were not in any way seeking to do anything but go along with the escape and evasion plan of Elliot Bower.
18. As I have already made plain, each one of you will be punished severely within the law governing the crimes you committed that night.

19. Where appropriate, I have well in mind the principle of totality when passing sentence upon you. I am also not unmindful of the age of each one of you. That is particularly so in the case of you, Cartledge, because you were aged 17 at the time these crimes were committed. You were, in common with your co-accused, a youth moderately well versed in the ways of crime. I have detected not a shred of naivety on your part or the part of your co-accused.
20. Each one of you was well on the way to becoming a local practiced criminal. You were all living lives immersed in crime and it was becoming ever more serious crime as evidenced by the fact you were in a stolen high-powered motor car and had been for a day or so. That car was professionally disguised in the way that practiced villains seek to camouflage their criminal conduct.
21. I shall come to the individual aggravating features of this case later in these sentencing remarks.

The Crimes falling for Sentence

Elliot Bower

22. In your case Elliot Bower you fall for sentence for these crimes:
 - (1) Causing the death of Adnan Jaral by dangerous driving (Count 1)
 - (2) Causing the death of Muhammed Adnan by dangerous driving (Count 2)
 - (3) Causing the death of Vlasta Dunova by dangerous driving (Count 3)
 - (4) Causing the death of Miroslav Duna by dangerous driving (Count 4)
 - (5) Causing serious injury to Erika Krosce nova by dangerous driving (Count 5)
 - (6) Causing serious injury to Nicola Dunova by dangerous driving (Count 6)
 - (7) Causing serious injury to Livia Matova by dangerous driving (Count 7)
 - (8) Possession of Cannabis on 31st July 2018
 - (9) Failing to surrender to Bail on 22nd August 2018
23. You have committed all these crimes during the operational period of a Suspended Sentence Order of 10 months for burglary.

Declan Bower

24. You fall for sentence for the crime of Aggravated Taking of a Vehicle in which death was caused (Count 9) and Having a Bladed Article (Count 10).

Mason Cartledge

25. You fall for sentence for the crime of Aggravated taking of a Vehicle in which a death was caused (count 11) and Possession of Cannabis (Count 12). You committed these crimes during the currency of a Youth Rehabilitation Order in respect of Being Concerned in the supply of Class A drugs by providing the wrapping of the drugs. I have the power to re-sentence you in respect of that crime. I have well in mind the guideline for sentencing youths in that regard.

The Facts

26. The facts of this case have been fully covered during the opening of this case this morning by Mr Richard Wright QC. I shall summarise the facts and identify the aggravating features. The full opening is to be found at section T5 of the DCS.
27. I am sure that during the evening of the 9th November 2018 the following was the position:
- (1) All of you were habitual criminals.
 - (2) Each one of you knew you were wanted by the police.
 - (3) Each one of you had a desire to avoid the police and thereby sought to evade justice.
 - (4) Both, Elliot Bower and Declan Bower, had the utmost contempt for justice and the police which is self-evident by your social media posts in the days before 9th November 2018. I am convinced you were endeavouring to taunt the police.
 - (5) The car in which you were all travelling on 9th November 2018 was stolen on 6th November 2018. It was a high-powered VW Golf and it had been stolen 3 days before. It had been materially camouflaged by a change in its registration plates to a number cloned from an entirely innocent member of the public.
 - (6) I have no doubt whatever you were all operating in the swamp of professional criminal activity. However, you can all only be characterised as miserably wretched local criminals.
 - (7) I am equally sure – based upon a reasonable inference – that each of you had attached yourself to an enterprise where you were each

within a high-performance stolen car which, if required, would be used to evade capture.

28. The weather on 9th November last was persistent rain and there was reduced visibility for road users. The road surfaces were wet. That is obvious from the DVD recording.
29. The car in which you were all travelling, driven by you, Elliot Bower, was first seen on the Price of Wales Road to the east of the city. The police simply noted the registration number. Much later, at about 8.45pm, you were spotted on the Parkway by a police vehicle. They followed and pulled alongside. Having been spotted as wanted criminals, you then tried to evade capture.
30. I shall cover the features of your exceptionally dangerous driving shortly. It was almost all captured by the camera in the police car.
31. You drove along the Parkway at very high speeds and eventually pulled off that dual carriageway in to Darnall where the fatal collision occurred on Main Road. It is noteworthy that on the Parkway the DVD records the police car was travelling at 103mph and its still could not keep up with you. I wish to make it clear that not a jot of blame for this, attaches to any police officer. It appears to me the police officer driving the police car in pursuit, drove with commendable skill in extremely difficult circumstances.
32. The VW Touran, with its seven occupants including the driver, Adnan Ashraf, was waiting to turn right. They were all nearly home. The VW Touran had been travelling in the same direction as you. Mr Ashraf then started to execute a faultless right turn and was at right angles to the main road when you, Elliot Bower, drove the stolen high-powered car into the side of the VW Touran. You did not brake, and you were on the wrong side of the road. You were travelling at approximately a speed a little short of 80mph. It is thought you were trying to overtake the VW Touran when it was manifestly unsafe to do so. Such was the force of the catastrophic collision, the VW Touran was rotated 360 degrees and pushed 33 meters down the road. The photographs of the damage to the VW Touran reveal the cataclysmic nature of the collision.
33. There were seven people in the VW Touran – four were killed and three were grievously injured. Their lives have been ruined.
34. The aggravating features of your driving – Elliot Bower – were these:
 - (1) You were deliberately evading the police who were trying to stop you;
 - (2) You were travelling in a stolen motor car;

- (3) The road conditions were poor; of which, you took no account;
 - (4) Having been identified by the police at 8.48pm in the vicinity of the Parkway you drove persistently in an extremely dangerous way for a further 5 minutes over about 5 miles until the fatal crash;
 - (5) You were driving extremely fast in a very high-powered vehicle;
 - (6) You drove straight through a place where there were double white lines and you were not permitted to overtake or cross;
 - (7) You drove at high speeds on the wrong side of the road on a blind-bend;
 - (8) You drove the wrong way around a roundabout;
 - (9) The speeds you reached in an urban area were in excess of 100mph. You were on occasion driving so fast the police driver in the vehicle in pursuit was not prepared to endanger his and the lives of others by trying to keep-up with you. Notwithstanding, you accelerated further;
 - (10) There were many other road users on busy roads that night leading into and out of the city of Sheffield. Indeed, the Parkway is major arterial road in the city;
 - (11) You travelled on the wrong side of the road at one point causing other legitimate road users to brake heavily;
 - (12) Having pulled onto a wet and busy local road (where there were pedestrian crossings), and where the speed limit was 30mph, you drove at nearly 80mph;
 - (13) At the time of the collision with the VW Touran you were travelling at nearly 80mph on the wrong side of the road where it was plain an obvious no overtaking was possible.
35. After the fatal crash both you, Elliot Bower, and you, Cartledge, thought only of yourselves in your characteristic selfish and arrogant way, and made off leaving utter devastation in your wake as well as leaving your co-accused, Declan Bower – who was injured – to his fate.
36. You were all arrested nearby. You, Elliot Bower denied being the driver and told police officers you would do, in effect, the same again if necessary. You thereafter declined to answer questions when formally interviewed.

37. When arrested, you Declan Bower, had possession of a lock knife and you, Cartledge, had possession of a quantity of cannabis consistent with personal use.
38. In interview, you, Declan Bower, declined to answer questions.
39. Cartledge, you were interviewed after you had been arrested. You had been contrite when arrested but this changed because you declined thereafter to answer questions. It is noteworthy that when you were brought before the custody officer in December 2018 for interview about other matters, you bragged to the police about being in custody for these matters and expressed abuse towards the custody sergeant.

Previous Convictions

40. Each one of you has previous convictions.
41. Elliot Bower, you have convictions for house burglary; and you were scheduled to attend before a court in August 2018 for breach of a suspended sentence order in respect of a house burglary. You committed these crimes during the operational period of that order. I see every reason to activate that sentence and make it consecutive to the sentence for these crimes.
42. Declan Bower, you have an extensive criminal background, and this includes previous convictions for aggravated vehicle taking, attempted burglary, dwelling house burglary, handling, dangerous driving and other related crimes.
43. Cartledge, you have previous convictions for drug dealing, acquisitive criminality, anti-social behaviour, and crimes connected to driving.
44. I have the previous convictions of each one of you well in mind when determining sentence.

The Mitigation

45. All defence counsel have uploaded written submissions to the DCS and I therefore forbear to recite the details. I have their submissions well in mind when reaching my conclusions.

Elliot Bower

46. Mr Barradell has emphasised your guilty plea and the fact it was intimated to the prosecution after a consultation before the PTPH. Indeed, that point has been made by all defence counsel. I have that point well in mind and it would have had currency if there had been any semblance of a purposeful reply in interview. There was not. In these circumstances I see no justification for departing from the

principles explained in the guidance of the Sentencing Council on this subject.

47. Your youth has been emphasised. I have already indicated how I regard you and your co-accused in relation to that aspect of the case.
48. It was also submitted that you are remorseful. Mr Barradell had to concede that there is nothing in the papers to reveal any remorse. I beg leave to doubt your remorse is anything other than belated. I do, however, accept you are a man with a low level of education. You are, however, a young man filled with cunning and criminal instinct.
49. I have noted your criminal convictions.
50. The only real mitigation is the plea of guilty.

Declan Bower

51. You were a back-seat passenger. Miss Allam made submissions about your plea and the fact you are now said to be remorseful. I have already made observations about that in relation to Elliot Bower. Those observations are equally applicable to you.
52. My view is you are entitled to reduction in sentence of one-quarter.
53. I am aware of the case of **R v Woolley [2006] 1 Crim App R (S) 123**. In a case where a defendant is not the driver and is charged with aggravated vehicle taking where a death has occurred the court must calibrate the culpability of the offender with care. Each case is distinctly fact-sensitive. Miss Allam has submitted I should reduce the level of sentence in this case by at least one third from the level that might be applicable to a driver. I shall address that issue and the related submissions of Mr De La Poer in a short while.
54. The only real mitigation is your guilty plea in respect of which sentence will be reduced by one quarter.

Mason Cartledge

55. Your guilty plea has been emphasised and submissions have also been made about your age. I simply do not accept you are a naïve youth. You were bordering your 18th birthday when you indulged in these crimes. You were no stranger to the criminal justice system.
56. In common with your co-accused you will receive a reduction in sentence of one quarter by reason of the only real piece of mitigation, which is your guilty plea.
57. I am also aware of the case of **Taylor [2016] UKSC 5**, and in particular the judgment of Lord Sumption to which reference has been made. I take the view that I must calibrate your culpability with care.

58. Even though I have made observations about your age, I have not lost sight of the fact you were a passenger and you were relatively young, albeit not criminally inexperienced. I have your age well in mind.

59. I have also considered the contents of the PSR.

The Sentencing Guidelines

60. In respect of the crime of Causing Death by Dangerous Driving I shall pay close attention to the definitive guideline of the Sentencing Council for crimes of that kind. I have not the least doubt the circumstances of this case places it firmly with category 1. There are many aggravating features, all of which I have already fully set-out, but I shall briefly rehearse:

- 4 people were killed;
- 3 others were grievously injured;
- Complete disregard of warnings of the dangers of driving so dangerously and to stop the car;
- Driving a high-performance stolen car;
- Seeking to evade the police and apprehension;

61. In respect of the causing serious injury by dangerous driving there is no guideline, but there is guidance from the Court of Appeal that this court should utilise the extant guideline to which I have made reference in a measured way and the factors already covered apply equally to this aspect of the case.

62. In relation to the Aggravated Vehicle Taking when death arises the maximum sentence is 14 years. There is no definitive guideline for this crime, but the features identified are equally relevant to this crime. It must, however, be noted that you, Declan Bower and Cartledge, were being carried in a motor vehicle and you were not the driver. Your culpability has to be calibrated with some care.

63. I shall also pay close attention to the definitive guidelines in respect of possession of bladed article and possession of cannabis.

64. In respect of the former, which relates to Declan Bower, I am satisfied this case falls within category A2.

65. In respect of the later, which relates to Cartledge, I am satisfied this level of personal possession falls within a range up to 6 months imprisonment.

66. I should add for the sake of completeness that I have well in mind the definitive guidelines in respect of reduction of sentence by reason of a guilty plea and the guideline covering the well-known principle of totality.

Conclusion

67. Having regard to all of the features of this case that I have identified already, this case demands severe sentences upon all of the defendants.
68. I am very mindful of the ages of each one of the defendants and their criminal backgrounds.
69. It is important I address the submissions of Miss Allam and Mr De La Poer. As I have already explained, the culpability of each non-driver in a case of Aggravated Vehicle Taking where a death occurs, must be carefully calibrated on an individual basis.
70. In this case I have come to the conclusion that the two non-drivers were an integral part of the criminality. They had a vested interest – each of them – in evading justice and there is not a shred of evidence to suggest they were in any way endeavouring to stop what was occurring. I have given each of them the opportunity to explain by giving evidence and being subject to cross-examination. They have each declined that offer. Neither of them has said anything in their police interviews and the only reasonable inference to make is that they not only had a real and pressing interest in making good their escape (as Cartledge sought to do when he could) but they each were compliant in an acutely high level of risk-taking. They had also been connected to the criminality surrounding the stolen care for some time. They are at a level below the driver but not substantially lower.
71. I have well in mind the ages of all of the defendants. I also have well in mind the principle of totality.
72. I must also consider disqualification from driving and holding a driving licence in respect of each defendant. As each of you will be serving a custodial sentence, I am required to extend that period to reflect the date upon which you are likely to be released. In simple terms the disqualification I feel is just will not become operational until such time as you are released from prison.

Elliot Bower

73. There can be no doubt that you, Elliot Bower, must be punished the most severely, as you were the driver and had the power to stop this dreadful episode in its tracks. Your driving was persistently of an exceptionally dangerous kind. I have no doubt at all, that following a trial you would have been sentenced to the maximum allowed and that would have been 14 years on count 1 to 4. The maximum would also have been passed on counts 5 to 7 but those counts would have to be concurrent. By reason of your guilty plea that sentence will be reduced to 10 years and 6 months.

74. In respect of the possession of cannabis there must be a sentence of 2 months detention. It will be concurrent to reflect the principle of totality.
75. In respect of the suspended sentence, I see every reason to activate it and to make it consecutive to the other sentences.
76. I shall impose a consecutive sentence of 2 months imprisonment for the failure to surrender. It must be consecutive because all this criminality occurred whilst you were evading justice.
77. The total sentence in your case will be 11 ½ years detention.
78. Apropos disqualification: it has been conceded that you must be disqualified for a very long time. I propose to fix that at 10 years and you must take an Extended Test. You will remain disqualified until you pass that test.

Declan Bower

79. In your case, Declan Bower, I have no doubt that following a trial and having regard to the level of culpability you share in this appalling case, the sentence for the Aggravated Vehicle taking would have been 10 years imprisonment.
80. As that sentence must be reduced by reason of your plea, that sentence is reduced to 7 years and 6 months.
81. In respect of possession of the bladed article there will be a sentence of 4 months imprisonment consecutive to the main sentence. That sentence is less than it would have been following a trial, and is less than it might have been had it stood alone.
82. The total sentence in your case is 7 years and 10 months.
83. Apropos disqualification: I take the view you must be disqualified for a period of 7 years.

Cartledge

84. In your case, Cartledge, I take the view that following a trial there is no distinction between you and the other non-driver save your chronological age. I have considered whether to make any distinction due to that fact, and I simply cannot justify it at all.
85. In these circumstances the sentence must be the same on the charge Aggravated Vehicle Taking. The sentence will be one of 7 years and 6 months.
86. For the possession of cannabis, I shall impose a short concurrent sentence to reflect the principle of totality and I shall re-sentence you in

respect of the class A drug offence. I shall impose a consecutive sentence of 4 months detention in respect of that. I have assumed you pleaded guilty to that at the first reasonable opportunity and have given you full credit. I have also taken into account the contents of the PSR about that. It must, however, be consecutive to the other sentence.

87. The total sentence in your case is one of 7 years and 10 months detention.

88. Apropos disqualification: you too will be disqualified for 5 years.

Referral of these Sentencing Remarks to the Secretary of State for Transport

89. Before passing sentence, I wish to make this observation. It is my intention to refer these sentencing remarks to the Secretary of State for Transport. I am aware that HM Government has embarked upon a review of extant road traffic legislation including sentencing. It is not for me to recommend changes in the law. I simply invite those who have that responsibility, namely the Secretary of State, to consider the following point.

90. It may be worthy of consideration whether a court, when there are multiple deaths arising from a single episode of dangerous driving, particularly when the dangerous driving is of an exceptionally serious kind – as in this case, should have power to impose a higher level of custodial sentence than would be permitted by the current law.

91. I merely call this case to the attention of the Secretary of State for consideration.

92. It is not for me to make this observation, but there may be some who feel that Parliament may wish to revisit the issue of the powers available to a court when sentencing in an exceptionally serious case of this kind.

93. I repeat what I said earlier – the sentence I pass today is governed by the law which is operational today. I am bound by that law and I shall pass sentence in accordance with it.

Sentence

You will all now stand.

Elliot Bower I impose the following total sentence upon you.

You are sentenced to detention for 11 ½ years.

That is made up as follows:

Counts 1 to 4 – 10 years and 6 months concurrent on each count.

Counts 5 to 7 – 3 years and 6 months concurrent on each count.

For the possession of the cannabis on 31st July 2018 – 2 months concurrent.

There will be a sentence of 2 months consecutive for the failure to surrender.

I shall activate the suspended sentence and it will be consecutive to the main sentence – that is 10 months.

I disqualify you from driving for 10 years. An Extended Test order is made

Once the necessary statutory criteria have been applied – as it has with the assistance of counsel – the total disqualification is 189 months.

Declan Bower the total sentence I impose upon you is 7 years and 10 months imprisonment.

That is made up as follows:

For the Aggravated Vehicle Taking (Count 9) – 7 ½ years.

For Having a Bladed Article (Count 10) – 4 months consecutive.

I disqualify you from driving for 5 years.

Once the necessary statutory criteria have been applied – as it has with the assistance of counsel – the total disqualification is 152 months.

Mason Cartledge the total sentence I impose upon you is 7 years and 10 months detention.

For the Aggravated Vehicle Taking (Count 11) – 7 ½ years.

For the Possession of Cannabis (Count 12) – 2 months concurrent.

I re-sentence you for the class A drug matter and there will be a consecutive sentence of 4 months detention.

I disqualify you from driving for 5 years.

Once the necessary statutory criteria have been applied – as it has with the assistance of counsel – the total disqualification is 152 months.

The appropriate statutory charge will apply in each of your cases.

I shall now hear counsel as to the length of disqualification depending upon the length of the sentence I have imposed. The disqualifications will, in effect, commence upon your release

Take them down.