

**REGINA**

**-v-**

**CARL BEECH**

**SENTENCING REMARKS**

1. Between December 2012 and March 2016 you deliberately, repeatedly and maliciously told lies to the police and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority falsely claiming that, as a child between the ages of 7 and 15, you had been a victim of appalling sexual and physical abuse, had witnessed other children being similarly abused and seen three children being murdered. You falsely accused a number of well-known public figures including politicians, very senior military figures and the heads of the intelligence services, many of whom had since died but some were still alive, of having been members of paedophile groups and the perpetrators. It was after the public revelations of the commission by Jimmy Savile of a number of sexual offences that you made your first complaint to the Metropolitan Police in late 2012. The initial investigation was entrusted to the Wiltshire Police. You told them that your stepfather, who had been a Major in the Army and you knew was dead, sexually abused you from the age of 8 and introduced you to a group of about 20 males, only naming one, Jimmy Savile, who systematically sexually abused and injured you and, on occasions, other boys. You could not name other abusers or victims apart from your friend, Aubrey, which was a lie. Due to the absence of support for your allegations and the inability to identify any living person responsible for any offence, in May 2013, the Metropolitan Police were informed that the investigation was closed as undetected. You pursued the deceit. In October that year you made a claim to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority for compensation for damages for physical, emotional and sexual abuse and torture caused by your stepfather and other unidentified men, which left you with emotional scars. As a result of the lies contained in your prolific blogging, you were contacted by a news agency and gave a recorded interview to media representatives that was broadcast on national television. In October 2014, you provided to the Metropolitan Police a list of names of politicians, the highest commanders in the army and the heads of MI5 and MI6 at the material time who you alleged were members of the group. The police acted on your

allegations for a period of almost two years but failed to uncover any support for them.

2. You are now 51 years of age. Having watched the recordings and read the transcripts of hours of your interviews by the police as a witness in which, tearfully, with fake reticence and professed difficulty, you made the various allegations, and having considered all the other evidence put before the jury including your blogs, internet chats, a draft transcript of a book I have no doubt you intended to publish, and having seen you give evidence over a prolonged period, I am quite satisfied that you are an intelligent, resourceful, manipulative and devious man. You are a trained paediatric nurse and was a nursing manager before becoming a Care Quality Commission inspector. You were chairman of the governors of your son's school. You convinced the counsellor you engaged that you were genuine and used her as something of a buffer in your dealings with the police, who you tested by adding to and embellishing the detail of your allegations. No doubt you were encouraged by their apparent willingness, at that time, to accept the truthfulness of your accounts. You described witnessing abhorrent acts of sadistic torture, one child being run over and killed by a car driven by and at the behest of group members and seeing two abused children, on separate occasions, being brutally murdered in your presence. The vast majority of your false disclosures about names and places were the product of careful research, largely on the internet. You produced items that you had kept and alleged were connected to the offences, produced drawings you falsely claimed were made from memory and used the internet to create a fictitious person, said to be your childhood friend who was abused with you, and pretending to be him, corresponded electronically with those involved in the investigation.
3. A further particularly cruel and callous aspect of your behaviour was to provide the Police with an e-fit picture of one of the boys who you said you had witnessed being murdered, which resembled a boy who, from your researches, went missing at around the time you claimed to have seen a boy murdered. You thereby provided false hope to his family of a line of enquiry; you said you were wanting to meet them because you felt so bad about it. You enthusiastically associated yourself with genuine victims of child sexual abuse and their situations and was anxious to give your account to the Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse. Deceived by your lies,

the investigation gained momentum and credibility. You were keen for the Police to arrest those you had named and expressed disappointment that prosecutions were not commenced.

4. It was all a fabrication. In fact, far from being a victim, you were covertly taking photographs of young boys outside your home and recording your son's friend urinating in your house. You also downloaded indecent images of children of all categories of seriousness.
5. Your actions traduced reputations by maliciously making lurid and the most serious false allegations against distinguished former public servants no longer alive, and accused living persons of the highest integrity and decency of committing vile acts including rape, torture and child murder. The distress, anger and loss caused to the individuals you accused and their families, some of whom died during the process, has been immense. Prolonged searches of homes were carried out in very distressing personal circumstances, long interviews under police caution were undertaken and, for a considerable time, a dark cloud of suspicion hung over those you falsely accused and significantly impacted them and those close to them. The Victim Personal Statements read to the court disclose the cruel effects and ongoing consequences of your lies.
6. Your false allegations and behaviour had another very significant aggravating feature, serving to undermine the situation and cases of those who have genuinely been abused, thereby deterring them from making or pursuing allegations because they may be disbelieved, and thereby secure justice as well as directly impacting those genuine victims of abuse with whom you associated.
7. The fraudulent claim to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, which you said you were only making to pay for your counselling fees, resulted in a payment of £22,000 by way of compensation, a significant part of which was used as payment of the deposit on a new Ford Mustang that you had ordered.
8. Finally, your false claims led to a Metropolitan Police investigation that engaged a minimum of 20 officers a year working on it full-time, therefore diverting them from other duties at a time of stretched public resources, and was estimated to have cost £2 million. To be added to that was the costs to the Wiltshire Police. The total

operational costs of the consequences of your offences must have run to a good deal more than £2 million.

9. The thorough investigation by the Northumbria Police uncovered your deceitful behaviour. When prosecuted for the offences of possessing indecent images and voyeurism, in breach of bail, you failed to attend the Crown Court at Worcester for your trial or attend at the magistrates court in respect of the offences of which the jury have now convicted you, and lived as a fugitive under a false identity in Sweden where you had acquired two houses in remote regions in the north of the country until your arrest in Sweden on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. You eventually pleaded guilty on the second day of your trial to the Worcester offences on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019, but have maintained the lies of your false accusations of abuse and murder and the purported honesty of your claim for compensation in this court to the end. You acted out of motives of financial gain, personal pleasure, malice and attention seeking. You have no remorse and I do not accept the genuineness of the limited expressions of remorse you have made for some of your offences. You are now to be sentenced for 12 offences of doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice, one offence of fraud, four offences of making indecent images of children, one offence of possessing indecent images, one offence of voyeurism and two offences of failure to surrender to bail.
10. I apply the respective appropriate definitive guidelines for the fraud, indecent photographs and voyeurism offences and for failure to surrender to bail. I give you appropriate credit for your guilty pleas and their timing. In relation to the offences of perverting the course of justice, I take account of the underlying seriousness of the substantive offences, which are of the highest in this case, the degree of persistence of the conduct in question and the undermining effect of such offences on the process of justice and public confidence in the truth of genuine complaints. Your offending calls for severe and deterrent sentences. I attach appropriate weight to your previous good character but identify no other mitigating factors. The consequences of your offending for you and others is a consequence of your own actions. In fixing the length of the total sentence, I have regard to its totality and what is just and proportionate in terms of your overall culpability and the harm caused by your offending.

11. I pass concurrent sentences for each of the 12 offences of doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice to reflect their accumulated seriousness and consequences. I determine that the offence of fraud, which is a Category 3A offence under the definitive guideline, was a part of, but a significant aggravating feature of your deceitful and dishonest allegations, and merits a consecutive sentence, but I reduce its length to take account of the principle of totality. The offences of making and possessing indecent images and voyeurism also attract consecutive sentences but, again, to take account of the total sentence, the length will be reduced. Similarly, but for the length of the total sentence, the sentences for failure to surrender would have been ordered to be served consecutively.
12. The total sentence is 18 years' imprisonment. It is made up as follows. For Counts 1-12, doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of public justice, concurrent sentences of 15 years' imprisonment. For the offence of fraud, Count 13, 18 months' imprisonment to run consecutively. For the indecent photographs and voyeurism offences of which you were convicted in Worcester, reflecting your total culpability in the sentences on Counts 1 and 4, the possession of the Category A images and, again, having regard to totality, the sentences on those Counts are 18 months' imprisonment to be served consecutively to the other sentences. On the remaining counts on that indictment the sentences are concurrent terms of 6 months on Count 2, 1 month on Counts 3 and 5, and 3 months on Count 6, the offence of voyeurism. For the offences of failing to surrender, there will be concurrent sentences of 2 months' imprisonment. You will serve one half of the sentence in custody, receiving credit for the period already served and I specify that the number of days you were kept in custody in Sweden awaiting extradition as 19, you will then be released on licence and subject to recall to prison if you breach its terms for the remainder of your sentence. I have already set a timetable in respect of confiscation proceedings and other ancillary orders must await the outcome of those proceedings.