



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

JOHN RADFORD

(formerly known as JOHN WARBOYS)

1. This is a complex and difficult sentencing exercise. The result is of great importance to all the victims, to the wider public and to the Defendant himself. Of necessity, these remarks are lengthy.
2. As John Warboys, your case attracted considerable publicity when you were arrested, convicted and sentenced in 2009. More recently when your release application was considered by the Parole Board and was the subject of a Judicial Review that publicity was repeated. As a result, another four of your victims came forward to make complaints. You have admitted the truth of those complaints by pleading guilty to these offences.

The Current Offences

3. On each of these occasions you were the licensed driver of a London Black Taxi. Working late at night, you picked up young women, who had been out drinking on social occasions. By different lying accounts you persuaded them to have a drink. Those drinks were laced with drugs, designed to render them unconscious so you could carry out serious sexual assaults, without their consent or knowledge.

Count 1

4. CJ was one such young woman; on a night in 2001 she left a wine bar in central London. She had been drinking throughout the evening and hailed a taxi to take her home. She described you as very chatty, you said you were celebrating a win on the horses. You offered her champagne. You stopped in a road off the A40. You served her what appeared to be red wine in a plastic cup

and her last memory was finishing that cup of wine. She woke the following day, naked in bed, her clothes were laid out in a trail across the bedroom floor. She did not have any physical injuries and she did think that she had had sexual intercourse. She noticed that the door was not bolted, as was her usual practice. She also noticed that she had more money in her purse than she expected. At the time of your arrest in 2008 your photograph was published. CJ immediately recognised you as the man who had given her red wine when you had picked up in your taxi. She chose not to report the matter at the time because you had been convicted and sent to prison. In 2018 she read of your possible release and came forward. She attended an identification procedure and positively identified you as the driver who had picked her up on that night in 2001.

Count 2

5. HM was a university student in 2003 and lived just off the Edgware Road. She had gone out for the night with some friends including another young woman with whom she shared her house. They had been to a club in central London and left in the early hours of the morning. They hailed your taxi. You told them that you had won the lottery that they were your last passengers and you would take them home for free. You chatted on the way home and you offered the two young women a drink. When they arrived at the address HM stayed in the cab and accepted a drink. Her friend said no and got out of the cab and went into the house. The next memory HM has is of being in the cab driving somewhere near the Edgware Road possibly into the area of the Paddington Basin. She has a fleeting recollection of the driver being “in her face”. She does not remember the detail. She remembers that you gave her more to drink. Her next recollection is of the cab being parked outside her house by now it appeared to be early morning, she was lying on the floor of the cab with her legs towards the kerb, the door of the cab was open and you were standing in the door. She enquired what she was doing on the floor of the taxi. You told her that she’d fallen. You helped her out of the cab and she made her way into her house. She felt very unwell the following day and had a sense of anxiety and uncertainty. She learned from her friend that the cab had left the address and returned later. She went to Edgware Road police station but could not

bring herself to go in to report the matter. She recognised you at the time of your earlier conviction. She has had flashbacks of the incident over the intervening years. When she read of your possible release she was put in touch with the police and made a witness statement. Her friend CD confirmed the account of the two being taken home in the taxi. She said that as she got out of the taxi to make her way into the house it drove away. She tried to call HM but got no reply. The two young women have not remained in contact. They spoke in early 2018. CM attended an identification procedure in December 2018 and positively identified you.

Count 3

6. FP went out with some friends to a nightclub in Chelsea in August 2007, she left the nightclub at about 2:30am and hailed a black cab. You told her that you had had a great day and had won money at a casino. FP has a recollection of being shown a bag of money. You also showed her a bottle of champagne and repeatedly asked her to have a drink. Eventually she agreed. The cab pulled up in Lots Road in Fulham. You got into the back and sat on one of the fold down seats diagonally across from FP, you offered her a drink in a white plastic beaker. You shared a couple of cigarettes. Her best recollection was that she spent about 15 minutes in the back of the taxi. Her next recollection was waking up in her own bed the following morning at about 10am. She had no recollection of getting home. In March 2009 she saw a photograph in the newspapers and recognised you. She understood that you were going to prison and did not want to pursue the complaint. She also learned of your possible release and came forward. She does not believe that she was sexually assaulted but knows that she was drugged in some way. On the 20 December 2018 FP positively identified you at an identification procedure.

Count 4

7. LB went out with a friend drinking in 2007 or 2008. Along with her friend she hailed your taxi, you were chatty on the journey and told the two young women that you had had a win on the lottery. You showed them miniature bottles of champagne and asked if they wanted to celebrate. She drank some of the champagne before stopping and thinking she should not have taken a drink

from a stranger. Her friend was dropped off and she continued to chat for the remainder of the short journey home. She recalls the taxi arriving at her address but has no memory of getting from the taxi into her own flat. She woke in bed the following morning, she was lying in an unusual position for her normal sleeping pattern. She was undressed but still wearing her underwear and there were no signs that she had been assaulted. She felt “quite floaty” the next day. In 2009 when you were arrested, she saw a photograph and immediately recognised you. As she believed there was no evidence that anything had happened to her she decided not to make a complaint. The more recent coverage caused her to come forward and make a complaint to the police. On 20 December 2018 she positively identified you on an identification procedure.

8. On 4 July 2019 you interviewed under caution at HMP Wakefield. You were represented by a solicitor. When questioned you answered no comment to all matters.
9. On 10 June 2019 you entered guilty pleas to the four counts on this indictment.

The Past Offences

10. On 13 March 2009 following the trial before Mr Justice Penry-Davey you were convicted of 19 serious sexual offences. Those offences had been committed between October 2006 and February 2008 against 12 victims. They included rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault and attempted sexual assault and 12 offences of administering a substance with intent.
11. The similarity between that pattern of offending and these offences is clear.
 - a. you were driving a black cab at night;
 - b. you picked up female passengers, often drunk;
 - c. you chatted to them and told them a story of having won money;
 - d. you offered them drink: sometimes champagne, sometimes wine;
 - e. you drugged them;

- f. they all suffered considerable difficulty in recalling the events of the evening and felt drowsy and unwell the following day.
12. I have read carefully all the statements from your victims. They are to be commended for the courage they have demonstrated in coming forward. They have shown great dignity and restraint. The consequences of what you have done to them continues and will no doubt remain with them.

The Issues

13. On 21 April 2009 Penry-Davey J found you to be dangerous within the terms of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and sentenced you to an indeterminate sentence for the protection of the public. He set a minimum term of 8 years based on a notional sentence of 16 years.
14. He described you as having “a powerful and enduring interest in sexual matters”. The PSR at the time described you as “a repetitive predatory sexual offender”, “high continuing risk to women” and as “a significant risk of re-offending”.
15. When the issue of your possible release was considered these further victims came forward. They had hoped it would never be necessary. They set out similar accounts to the victims who had given evidence in the original trial.
16. This time you accepted your guilt and pleaded guilty. You tried to reduce the time span of your offending by having a Newton trial on one of those allegations. The victim CJ gave evidence before me. She was clear and compelling on the date of your attack on her. You did not give evidence. I accepted her account.
17. I have a number of reports,
- a. Psychological report from Dr Kerry Beckley,
 - b. Psychological report from Jackie Craissati,
 - c. Psychiatric report from Dr Philip Joseph,
 - d. Psychiatric report from Dr Nigel Blackwood

18. The issue remains the same, are you still a danger?
19. The Newton hearing raised two issues
 - a. The length of the period of your offending and
 - b. Your continuing desire and ability to mislead about the extent of your offending.
20. Both those issues cause substantial concern about future risk, particularly when viewed in conjunction with your denials of offending in the past until the point at which you thought it would help your application for parole.
21. These two aspects remain of great concern; your ability to manipulate others and your failure to acknowledge the risk you pose because you have only ever admitted the bare minimum of the offences that can be proved against you.
22. You are assessed by Dr Philip Joseph and Dr Nigel Blackwood as a medium risk of future offending. Dr Kerry Beckley and Jackie Craissati find that you are a low risk and that risk could be managed by a range of controls imposed by licence on your release. I recognise that the management of offenders in the community is Jackie Craissati's expertise. All the experts agree that you are not suffering from a recognised mental illness.
23. I am satisfied to the required standard on the evidence I have heard and the expert opinions that you are a continuing risk.
24. I find that you are currently dangerous. Your offending spans five years more than was originally known. You have only admitted further offences when seeking release or when confronted by further evidence. You are now 62 years old, your increasing age may well mitigate the risk in the future.
25. I do not know when, if ever, you will cease to be a risk. That cannot be resolved now, it will be for the Parole Board to decide in the future.
26. It is submitted on your behalf that had these matters been taken into account then the sentence passed in 2009 would not have been different. I disagree, in any event, a great deal more is now known about you and the risk that you present.

27. The maximum sentence for administering a drug with intent contrary to s. 22 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 is life imprisonment. The maximum sentence for administering a noxious substance with intent contrary to s. 61(2)(b) of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 is 10 years. The intention in each of your offences was to stupefy in order to commit sexual offences.
28. I must sentence you according to the law as it is today. The court has the power to impose a determinate sentence with or without an extended licence period. I have carefully considered all the sentences available.
29. The aggravating features are as previously outlined. The only mitigating factor is your plea of guilty, albeit late. That is balanced against the fact that you required CJ to give evidence on a Newton hearing. I assess your plea in those circumstances as meriting a reduction of 20%.
30. I am not bound to impose an indeterminate sentence but, in my view, that is the appropriate sentence to punish and more importantly to protect the public.
31. The sentence I pass on counts 1 and 2 is a discretionary life term. I impose that because the evidence that you continue to be a danger is sufficiently compelling. All the criteria are met in your case. I must set a minimum term, that is simply the period you must serve before you can apply to the Parole Board to begin the process of considering your release. I set that term at six years on each to be served concurrently, that represents a notional term of 12 years after your guilty plea. You are sentenced to imprisonment for life. After six years you may apply to be considered for release. That will be for the Parole Board to decide. You may never be released. I set that term to account for the number of offences and the period over which your offending continued.
32. On counts 3 and 4 the determinate sentence, after your plea, is six years on each. All sentences are ordered to run concurrently.
33. The Sexual Offences Prevention Order remains in place and I impose the statutory charge.