



THE KING

-v-

IFTIKHAR ALI

HHJ Dhir KC

26 April 2024

1. The jury have found you guilty of three counts of failing to comply with the requirements of the terrorist notification order which was imposed on you in this court on 26 January 2018, when you were convicted by a jury of twelve counts of disseminating terrorist publications, namely ISIS propaganda, with intent to encourage terrorist acts, contrary to section 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006, and one count of possession of information likely to be of use to a terrorist, contrary to section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000.
2. In breach of those notification requirements, you failed to notify the police of:
 - (Count 1): the Binance account which you opened on 25 April 2021 and used 33 times in the following 12 months;
 - (Count 2): the Protonmail email address which you opened on or before 25 April 2021 and continued to use for the rest of that year; and
 - (Count 3): the iCloud email address which you opened on or before 19 October 2021 and continued to use for the rest of that year.
3. You also used the two email addresses to attempt to set up bank accounts with Starling bank.

4. At the same time, you made false declarations to police, stating that the information which you had provided was complete, but failing to provide details of the Binance account or the email addresses.
5. In addition, you erased the contents of your mobile telephone to prevent the police from finding out how you used the email addresses or to place your offences in the context of your wider activities.
6. I order the forfeiture and destruction of your mobile telephone which was used to commit the offences. I am obliged to impose the statutory surcharge and the order can be drawn up in the appropriate amount.
7. The maximum sentence for each of your offences is 5 years' imprisonment. There are no offence-specific sentencing guidelines. I have had regard to the sentencing guidelines on overarching principles and on totality. I will impose concurrent sentences which have regard to the whole of your offending behaviour. I bear in mind both the fact that you committed three offences and the duration of those offences.
8. This is a high culpability case, because of the number of offenses, the duration offending and the lengths you went to conceal the account and the email addresses.
9. As to harm this offending fall into the high category. I have come to that view because of the evidence in this case and I have regard to the Court of Appeal's comments (in *R v Roddis* [2024] EWCA Crim 35) that terrorism is one of the gravest of crimes, that compliance with notification requirements is vital in the interests of public safety and that firm and deterrent punishment is called for in a case like this.
10. The mitigating factors are:
 - (1) Your age, you are now 26 years old, having been born on the 12th of April 1998
 - (2) The convictions that resulted in the notification requirements being imposed are the only convictions on your record.
 - (3) It was some months after you opened the Bianche account that that you were explicitly told that the notification requirements covered crypto currency accounts.

- (4) The prosecution have not relied on any evidence that you used the Bianca account to support terrorist activity. Nor have they relied on evidence that the email addresses were used for terrorist activity.
- (5) The amounts in the account were relatively small.

SENTENCE

- 11. The offences were so serious that only a custodial sentence can be justified. The least possible sentences I can impose having regard to the aggravating and mitigating factors of the case are concurrent custodial terms of 2 years and 9 months, plus a further period of 1 year's licence, on each of counts 1 to 3, because section 278 of the Sentence Act 2020 applies. Accordingly, an additional period of one year will be added to the sentence for which you will be subject to a license.

- 12. You will serve two thirds of your custodial term in custody before your case is referred to the Parole Board for consideration of whether and on what terms it is safe for you to be released. You may be released at the direction of the Parole Board at some point not later than the end of the custodial term. You will then serve the remainder of the custodial term (if any) and 12 months in the community on conditional licence and subject to supervision. You must abide by the conditions of your release, or you will be liable to serve the full sentence in custody.