

IN SOUTHWARK CROWN COURT

Case No: 43SS0637823

Courtroom No. 9

1 English Grounds  
(off Battlebridge Lane)  
Southwark  
SE1 2HU

Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Before:  
THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE GOSS

R E X

-v-

GREG HAZLETINE

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UNKNOWN COUNSEL appeared on behalf of the PROSECUTION  
MR M CONNING[?] appeared on behalf of the DEFENDANT

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SENTENCE

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SENTENCE

MR JUSTICE GOSS: Greg Hazletine, you may remain seated until I indicate otherwise because these sentencing remarks will take a little time.

Greg Hazletine, you are now 41 years of age. On 30 November 2023 you pleaded guilty to three offences, the first in time was using threatening abusive or insulted words or behaviour towards Dharmesh Patel with intent to cause him to believe that immediate unlawful violence would be used against him or to provoke unlawful violence, that was committed on 13 July 2023. The other offences were committed on 29 November when you assaulted Patrick Perusko thereby occasioning him actual bodily harm and caused criminal damage to a radiator belonging to the Milton Keynes County Court.

The offences were related and arose in proceedings in the Milton Keynes Family Court relating to a dispute between you and your former partner in relation to contact with the two children of your relationship. I have read all the references and the detailed history provided by your current partner. It is clear that issues between you and your former partner relating to your children had become fraught and increasingly exacerbated and that the proceedings were taking their toll on everyone involved. You are said to see things in black and white and clearly have difficulty controlling your emotions. There had been previous hearings in which you had behaved in a volatile manner.

On 13 July, there was a hearing before Recorder Dharmesh Patel in which you were the respondent and appeared in person. You remained calm and seated with permission during the hearing until the Recorder delivered his decision. At this point you reacted saying “well this leaves me an awkward decision to make”. Dialogue ensued between you and the Recorder, who was attempting to understand what you needed to think about. You then became visibly agitated, challenging the order and shouting, interrupting the Recorder and becoming more animated and aggressive in your tone and language. You told him to “be a man” and “stand there and make some proper decisions”, that you hoped he never had children because he was a piece of shit that did not care about children. You were angry and shouting numerous expletives including “that is why you lot are pieces of shit scum”. The Recorder pressed the panic alarm and informed you that the hearing was coming back, to which you responded that it was not and said “why don’t you come here let’s go outside. Call security like you did last time you fucking weasel” to the Recorder when he stood to leave the courtroom.

As a result of your behaviour the Recorder has been apprehensive, much more aware of his surroundings at court and generally more alert to his personal safety and fearful of being

A approached and being subject of reprisals from you.

B His Honour Judge Patrick Perusko, the Family Designated Judge for Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire, listened to the recording of that hearing and took over the conduct of the case. He determined that a security officer was to be present in the court and hearings should be in Court one, the largest and safest courtroom at Milton Keynes. There was a hearing on 20 September 2023 in front of Judge Perusko at which you were difficult but manageable.

C On 29 November there was a hearing relating to the imposition of a non-molestation order refraining you from attending an area around your children's school, and/or a permitted steps order. You attended that hearing with your partner. You told the security guard brought in for the hearing that, 'if the Judge asks me to go I will go quietly, I will not give you guys any trouble'.

D Having heard submissions the Judge determined that he was going to make a non-molestation order but was not making a prohibited steps order. He left the courtroom twice because you were being verbally abusive and aggressive. When he returned to give reasons for his decision and explain the terms of the order you continued to be verbally abusive so he decided to leave. As he stood up to leave you picked up a laptop on a desk and a small free standing electric radiator, then threw the radiator across the courtroom towards the Judge's bench, and jumped on top of the table and vaulted the judicial barrier.

E The Judge ran out of the door of the court to his chambers and through two doors into hearing room one where District Judge Nutley was working. You pursued and caught up with him as he got past District Judge Nutley and pushed him to the corner of the room, he hit his head on the metal base of a coat stand. You pinned him down with your body weight, your hand on to of his chest and throat and punched him to the head a number of times.

F District Judge Nutley described the punching as relentless. You were saying things such as you only wanted to see your kids to say goodbye and that you were knew that you were going to prison for a long time but you did not care and he deserved it. District Judge Nutley was telling you to get off Judge Perusko but failed to get you off him. Every blow you delivered to Judge Perusko was with a clenched fist. Your face was bright red. You would occasionally stop punching him to say something abusive or threatening and would then start punching him again.

H He began talking to you saying it would all be okay. Your partner and the security officer had followed and eventually found you. She pleaded with you to stop, you ignored them telling the Judge to promise that he would let you see the children. They tried to pull you off and

A eventually you let go enabling the judge to leave the room.

The police were called and you were arrested. When interviewed you admitted having thrown the radiator, losing your temper with the Judge and pursuing him but said you could not remember what has happened when you caught him.

B As a result of the attack on him, Judge Perusko sustained a 2 x 2cm wound to the left side of his head which was closed using staples and glue, two wounds to the top of his head and one to his left cheek, and soft tissue swelling around his head. He had reddening around his neck, on the top of his back and on his chest. His vision was blurred, he felt dizzy and his heart rate and blood pressure were elevated. The wounds are to be seen in the photographs taken in hospital. In his witness statement, made almost two weeks after the attack, he described being in a lot of pain especially with his back and struggling to get up on his own without having to support help and push himself up. He has strong pain spasms from his back. He feared for his life at the time you attacked him, and was concerned about repercussions and being assaulted and fears for his safety, especially after your comment, to which I have referred.

D You have three previous convictions. In 2004, when you were, 20 you assaulted a traffic warden. In 2008, for an offence of inflicting grievous bodily harm, you were sentenced to six months' imprisonment. On 10 February 2023 for an offence of battery you were sentenced to a community order with a rehabilitation activity and an unpaid work requirement. That offence related to an attack on your former partner's mother when arguing with her about your being at your children's school, and you pushed her to the ground. You were also cautioned in July last year for damaging a door at your children's school which was on 14 July, the day after the offence committed against Recorder Patel.

E The Pre-Sentence report of Mr Ferguson dated 13 February this year notes that although you acknowledge your actions, you minimised both them and your desire to intimidate the respective Judges. You were out of control and have very little insight into your behaviour, the role of the Judge and the very frightening ordeal to which you subjected him. He considers you have issues with regulating your emotions and temper and seek to resolve issues by resorting to physical violence, acting impulsively and failing to see the potential harm. It is clear that you have a close attachment to your children but have no perception on how your behaviour may have contributed to why you have restricted access to them. As part of a Cafcass assessment for the hearing before Judge Perusko, you were required to undertake a scheduled psychological assessment but chose not to do so. It may be that you have some underlining personality disorder which may in part account for your propensity to use violence.

A The references that I have read paint a different picture of you. You are hardworking and helpful in the community. However you are clearly aware of your history of intermittent aggression and did not seek any assistance in relation to it, and you specifically rejected any psychological assessment until after you committed these offences. I share the opinion of Mr  
B Ferguson that, when angered, there is a significant risk of you using physical violence and causing serious injury. You now apologise and say you are truly sorry. You are making efforts in prison, I take appropriate account of these matters.

C I am satisfied that it is appropriate to make a restraining order under Section 5(i) of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. By this order you are prohibited, until further order, from (1) Contacting directly or indirectly Patrick Perusko. (2) Attending any address where you know or believe Patrick Perusko is or may be present. (3) Attending the Milton Keynes County Court and Family Court, 351 Silbury Boulevard, Witan Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 2DT.

D Any breach of this order will be an offence for which you are liable to be punished by up to five years' imprisonment.

E In fixing the sentence I must follow Sentencing Guidelines unless I am satisfied that it would be contrary to the interest of justice to do so. I take the offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm as the lead offence. It was committed in the context of the other offences. Standing alone, by reason of the prolonged and persistent nature of the assault and the serious injury caused to Judge Perusko, this was an offence of high culpability and Category 1 harm under the guidelines, so the starting point is two years six months' custody, and the sentencing range is one year six months to four years' custody.

F I identify your previous convictions as an aggravating factor attaching more weight to the recent offence of battery in 2023, and regard the fact that Judge Perusko was a public servant, carrying out a public duty in a court building as very significant aggravating factors.

G In relation to mitigating factors, I note you have your own business and have expressed remorse and now apologise, but those features can carry little weight in the light of your pattern of behaviour and minimisation until now of the seriousness of your actions and their consequences.

H The seriousness of the associated offence of criminal damage lay in your using it as a weapon and not its inherent value, which was very low. By reason of your intention to create a high risk of injury, it was an offence of high culpability under the guideline and, by reason of the serious distress caused to the Judge and others in the courtroom, was Category 1 harm. It too

A was significantly aggravated by your offending history and committing the offence against a public servant in a courtroom. The guideline range is a medium-level community order to three months' custody with a starting point of a high-level community order. It was a separate offence from the ensuing assault but was part of the lead up to it. Only a custodial sentence is appropriate. I shall pass a separate penalty for this offence but do not treat it as aggravating for the later serious assault.

B The public order offence against Recorder Patel was an offence of high culpability under the guideline by reason of the sustained nature of the incident, and Category 2 harm, so the starting point is a medium-level community order with a range of Band C fine to 12 weeks' custody. C Your previous offence in 2023 was an aggravating factor and being an offence committed against a person performing a public service in a courtroom was a very significant aggravating factor. Again, the offence is so serious that only a custodial sentence is appropriate.

D For the offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm by reason of the seriousness of the assault, the very significant aggravating factors to which I have referred, and the very limited mitigation, the appropriate notional sentence requires considerable upward adjustment from the starting point and to outside the identified category range. In my judgment the notional sentence would have been one of four years three months' custody which I reduce by one-third for your guilty plea at the first opportunity, resulting in a sentence of two years 10 months' imprisonment.

E For the offence of criminal damage, for the same reasons, I elevate the notional sentence from the guideline starting point. After a trial the sentence would have been six weeks' custody which I reduce to six weeks' imprisonment for your early guilty plea.

F Finally, again for the reasons I have set out, the notional sentence for the public order offence requires significant elevation from the guideline starting point to one of three months' custody. Your guilty plea reduces the sentence to two months.

G I take account of the principle of totality and reflect it by ordering the sentence for criminal damage to run concurrently with the other sentence. The resulting sentence is just and proportionate to the totality of your offending. By reason of your having committed a specified offence under Schedule 18 part one of the Sentencing Act 202 I am required by Section 306 of that act to consider whether you are a dangerous offender. However, as you have not been convicted of an earlier offence listed in Schedule 14, I would have to pass a determinate sentence of four years' imprisonment or more for the dangerous offender provisions to apply. H Accordingly, the sentence I pass will be a determinate sentence of imprisonment.

A Greg Hazletine, would you stand? The sentence of the court is as follows: For the offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm the sentence is one of two years, 10 months' imprisonment. For the offence of criminal damage, the sentence is one of six weeks' imprisonment to run concurrently with the sentence of two years and 10 months. For the public order offence, the sentence is one of two months' imprisonment to run consecutively to the sentence of two years 10 months making the total sentence one of three years' imprisonment. You will be released no later than halfway through the sentence, namely 18 months, and the remainder of the sentence will be served on licence in the community. You must comply with all the conditions of your licence, failing which you will be at risk of recall to prison to serve the remainder of the term in custody.

C I order payment of the statutory surcharge in the appropriate amount but make no other financial orders.

That is the sentence of the court. Would you take him down please.

Mr Conning, -

D MR CONNING: Thank you.

MR JUSTICE GOSS: - do you wish them to remain with the court or will you take custody of them?

MR CONNING: He did ask me if I would return them to her.

MR JUSTICE GOSS: The certificates and the references are there.

E MR CONNING: Thank you very much.

MR JUSTICE GOSS: I take it there are no matters arising out of my sentence?

UNKNOWN COUNSEL: No thank you Your Honour.

MR CONNING: No thank you.

MR JUSTICE GOSS: Thank you very much.

F **End of sentence.**

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**A**

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**B**

(Acolad UK Ltd) hereby certify that the above is an accurate and complete record of the proceedings or part thereof

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