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RGB

SENTENCING REMARKS

1. RGB you will be sentenced to a Referral Order for 10 months. Please sit down as I must explain why I have imposed that sentence.
2. RGB you are 14 years old (dob 24/12/2010) and had no previous convictions until you appeared before me on the 21/1/2025 and pleaded Guilty to the offence of Violent Disorder. That offence arose from events on the 18/7/2024 in the Harehills area of Leeds, which were reported throughout the country, following widespread public disorder.
3. On that day social care workers were attempting to take some children into care from a house in Harehills. They were initially prevented from doing so and required the assistance of the police. This led to a large crowd gathering and the crowd turned hostile and then violent towards the police officers, attacking them and their vehicles. Other property and vehicles were then targeted and attacked, including a First Bus, that was damaged, then set alight and burnt out. That bus helped people in the very community where you lived. Your family or friends may well have used such a bus to get to school, college or work. The overall financial costs of the damage, the clearing up operation and the wider impact on the community, your community, where you live with your family, is estimated at over £800,000.
4. It should be noted that you were only 13 years old on the 18/7/2024. As far as your individual behaviour is concerned it was captured on various CCTV and social media footage and can be summarised as follows :-

- i) You kicked a football, then aimed a kick then threw missiles at moving police vehicles;
- ii) You then helped attack an abandoned police vehicle by aiming kicks at it, throwing missiles at it and at one point using part of a pram to hit it. You are dragged away by another youth but then return and continues to cause damage to the vehicle and try to open the boot.

It is shocking that a 13 year old should behave in this way, without any apparent reason for doing so.

- 5. There is a pre-sentence report, dated 7/2/2025. When the youth justice officer spoke to you about events you and your parents became upset. They are plainly ashamed of your behaviour and you could only say that you did so because others were behaving in this way and you joined in. Your family are hard working and law abiding, you are doing well at school, you attend the local CATCH community centre on a regular basis and have abided by the night time curfew that has been in place since last summer There has been no further offending. The risk of re-offending is assessed as low.
- 6. In sentencing you I must apply the principles set out in the Definitive Guideline for Sentencing Children and Young Persons.
- 7. Paragraph 4.1 of the Guideline sets out the 6 matters I must have regard to when considering sentence. They are that the principal aim of the youth justice system is to prevent re-offending / the welfare of the child, in other words what is best for you / your age / the seriousness of the offence / the likelihood of further offences being committed and the extent of harm likely to arise from any further offending.
- 8. Paragraph 4.2 of the Guideline suggests you should start by looking at the seriousness of the offence. There is no doubt this is a very serious incident of Violent Disorder.

9. Paragraph 6.2 of the Guideline goes on to state that the Court must consider the sentence likely to have been imposed on the date when the offence was committed. I repeat you were only 13 years old in July 2024. Given your age and lack of previous convictions then custody could only be imposed if the sentence was fixed by law, and it is not in this case. The grave crime provisions do not apply to an offence of Violent Disorder.
10. More importantly paragraph 6.19 of the Guideline states as follows :-
- “ A Referral Order is the mandatory sentence in the youth court for most children and young persons who have committed an offence for the first time and have pleaded guilty to an imprisonable offence”
- In other words that is the sentence I am required to impose, unless any of the exceptions apply in this case and they do not.
11. As I explained at the outset of my sentencing remarks the sentence is therefore a Referral Order for 10 months.
12. Given what I have read about your family it is not realistic or practicable to impose any compensation order that would have to be paid by your parents. They will however have to pay the costs of £85 and a surcharge of £26, a total of £111, and I will hear representations about how the money can be paid.