

REX

-v-

TYLER ROBERTS-EMMANUEL

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SENTENCING REMARKS

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1. You have been found guilty of the murder of Shaquille Graham and must be sentenced for that offence.
2. Shaquille Graham was 30 years old when he died. His family attended throughout the trial. They have suffered a profound and unimaginable loss. Their lives will never be the same. His absence has left an irreplaceable void in the lives of everyone who loved him. For them the world feels an emptier, quieter and colder place.

*Circumstances of the Offence*

3. On 10 March 2024 Shaquille Graham was in "Silks" nightclub in Catford. At closing time at 4am he came out and stayed in the vicinity talking to a few people. He crossed the road with Sade Chaplin chatting to her, trying to get her phone number. The atmosphere was happy. The night was calm. They began walking south along Bromley Road. Sade Chaplin gave Shaquille Graham her phone, so he could add her to his Facebook account. He paused. He and Sade Chaplin were about one pace apart from each other.
4. What happened next was unexpected and shocked all those present at the scene. Shaquille Graham was approached from behind and shot once at point blank range with the gun angled so that the bullet entered his neck and travelled into his skull. He was killed instantaneously. The gunman disappeared.
5. That murder was targeted, premeditated and ruthlessly executed.
6. One of the shocking features of this case, is that you, Tyler Roberts-Emmanuel were only 18 years old when you fired that gun. You are now 19.
7. The motive for this killing remains unknown. What is clear is that you did not act alone.
8. On 22 February 2024 you tried to buy a high-powered electric scooter for £2,500. By 6 March 2024 you were in possession of high-powered Kaaba Wolf Warrior electric scooter which could travel up to 60mph. That was the vehicle which took you to and from the scene of the murder.

9. On 27 February 2024 you went to St Lucia with your cousin, LA. You and he returned on 6 March 2024 and were in contact with AM. CCTV footage from Gatwick airport shows your return to the UK. That is the only footage of you with your face and head uncovered.
10. From that moment onwards, whenever you were seen on CCTV you were wearing a head and face covering to hide your hair and features. A deliberate tactic to avoid identification.
11. You often wore gloves to minimise leaving fingerprints and used cash to make it harder to track your movements.
12. On 6 March 2024 you went to 153 Linden Grove SE15. That is a single-story terrace house with one bedroom. It was your grandmother's address, where you stayed while she was in St. Lucia.
13. On 7 March 2024 you were captured on CCTV coming and going several times from 153 Linden Grove. On every occasion, even when you went to your local corner shop, your head and face were covered. By now you were using the Wolf Warrior escooter.
14. On 8 March 2024 you were away from 153 Linden Grove for about 5 hours. You told the jury that you were a drug dealer supplying £20 and £30 bags of cannabis to users. You said, you had been doing that for two years. You told the jury that you used a house in Peckham to store and measure out your stash of cannabis. You had built a base of customers, whom you supplied using a drug line with telephone number T1294. You also had a personal telephone line T2157.
15. At 5.20pm on 8 March 2024 you returned to 153 Linden Grove. You were in contact with AM who travelled from Stratford to the area of Linden Grove. At about 6.30pm you left 153 Linden Grove and returned a few minutes later. As you walked towards 153 Linden Grove you pulled a handgun from your clothing and repositioned it. The image of the handgun was examined by a firearms expert, who concluded it was a Turkish Carlos Arms KS01 self-loading pistol. It was the weapon to be used in the murder.
16. The next day you mainly stayed inside. At 7pm on 9 March 2024 you left 153 Linden Grove wearing black clothing, your head and face covered on the Wolf Warrior escooter and travelled to Catford. This was, in the words of the prosecution, a dummy or dry run for the murder. It took you about 6 minutes to ride from 153 Linden Grove to Catford. You remained in the area for about an hour. Your cousin LA and his friend SB were also in the Catford area at that time.
17. In evidence you disputed this was a dry run and said you had gone to visit family in Canadian Avenue. That has been maintained in mitigation. I am satisfied on the evidence, it was a dry run. The route was identical, the method of transport was identical, and it took place just hours before the murder. You only needed to identify where Silks was located, you did not need to physically go to it. You may have met others and spent time in Canadian Avenue, the two activities are not mutually

exclusive. You admitted there was not a single photograph of you meeting any member of your family at that time, which would have been expected in the circumstances.

18. At 8.10pm you rode back to 153 Linden Grove. You spent the early part of the night at your girlfriend's address in Elephant and Castle.
19. At about 1.30am, in the early hours of 10 March 2024, you and your girlfriend returned to 153 Linden Grove. You detached your drug line T1294 from the network either by turning the handset off or by putting the phone into aeroplane mode so that its location could not be traced.
20. At 3.32am LA and SB arrived at 153 Linden Grove.
21. At 3.51am you came out of 153 Linden Grove wearing a black top and black tracksuit without any identifying logos. Your head and face were covered. You were wearing gloves. You were in possession of the loaded handgun. LA and SB followed you out of the house. You rode away on the high-powered electric scooter heading to Catford to carry out the murder.
22. LA and SB drove away towards the Kensington area. You left your other telephone in T2153 in Linden Grove. Your girlfriend remained in the address.
23. You arrived in Catford shortly before 4am. You rode around the area looking for Shaquille Graham. You waited by a bus stop watching people leaving "Silks". Eventually you spotted Shaquille Graham crossing the road with Sade Chaplin. You followed them into Bromley Road waiting until he was no longer in physical contact with her.
24. You approached Shaquille Graham from behind and shot him once at point blank range. Then returned to the scooter and rode away. It happened so fast that Sade Chaplin did not even see you.
25. That single shot caused Shaquille Graham to immediately fall to the ground. The emergency services attended and did all they could to save him, but was too late. His life was pronounced extinct at the scene. He died from a gunshot wound to the head.
26. The bullet and bullet jacket were recovered at the post-mortem. The cartridge case was recovered from the scene. The firing marks were consistent with that ammunition having been fired from a Turkish Carlos Arms KS01.
27. The police began the painstaking task of recovering CCTV footage to trace the movements of the gunman and soon discovered 153 Linden Grove and your connection to it.
28. Meanwhile at 5am, about 40 mins after the shooting and your return to 153 Linden Grove, SB arrived at the address. He left after about 5 minutes.
29. The handgun has never been found.

30. At 8pm that evening, the scooter was collected by SS. It has never been recovered.
31. The plain black hoodie and tracksuit bottoms have not been recovered.
32. No gunshot residue was found despite the clothing, the firearm and the scooter having been taken into 153 Linden Grove.
33. You dumped your phones T2157 and T1294.
34. The last known usage of T2157 at 18.22 on 11 March 2024.
35. You passed the drug line (T1294) to someone else.
36. On 13 March 2024 you began to use a telephone T8875. You stopped using that after 5 days and on 18 March 2024 began to use T6553.
37. On 21 March 2024 you were arrested. You remained silent during both interviews. You served a defence statement denying that you were the scooter rider on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March. At trial you said "X", whom you refused to name, had entered 153 Linden Grove via the roof on 7 March 2024 and was the man seen in the footage on 8 and 10 March. The jury rejected that defence, no doubt concluding that you had fabricated "X" in an attempt to tailor a defence to the prosecution evidence.
38. You were convicted unanimously by the jury.

### *Sentencing Guidelines*

39. The sentence for murder is fixed by law, it is custody for life.
40. I must set the minimum term that you will serve in custody. A minimum term means what it says. Even after you have served that term, you will not be released unless and until the Parole Board decides that it is safe to do so. You may never be released. If you are, you will remain on licence for the rest of your life and will be liable to recall, if you commit any further offence or breach the conditions of your licence.
41. Because the murder involved the use of a firearm, the starting point for the minimum term is 30 years. Had you been six months younger, the starting point would have been 27 years.
42. The factors which increase that starting point are:
  - (a) The degree of planning and premeditation demonstrated, for example, by the fact Shaquille Graham was targeted, the use of a high-powered electric scooter and the dummy run.
  - (b) The murder was committed in a public place, Catford town centre, where many people were present and close to shooting.

- (c) You attempted to conceal your identity and reduce the forensic risk before the murder. There was an extensive clean up afterwards.
43. You were born on 30 October 2005. You were only 18 years old when you committed this offence. I have had regard to the Sentencing Council Guideline on Sentencing Children and Young People and to *R v Blake* [2021] EWCA Crim 249.
44. There was no application for a pre-sentence report. I am satisfied a pre-sentence report is unnecessary as the only issue is the length of the minimum term.
45. You have had a difficult upbringing, moving between cousins and not having a stable home. You have been affected by negative influences. The letter from your mother and the Social Care Assessment describe some of the challenges you have faced.
46. You told the jury you had been supplying cannabis for two years. You have one previous conviction for possession of cannabis and driving whilst unfit. You have no other convictions and notably, none for violence.
47. I have carefully considered your level of maturity. I have seen you interact with others on the CCTV footage. I have had the advantage of seeing you give evidence over several days. You demonstrated a good grasp of the issues and the papers in this case. On your account, using your own initiative you were running your own drug dealing business. You are an intelligent and capable individual. You were in a relationship with your girlfriend, CE. You had your own hostel accommodation, as well as a number of other places to stay. The interaction with your local shopkeepers showed you to be a confident and outgoing person.
48. There was no link between you and Shaquille Graham and therefore, it is likely you were acting under the direction of others. As a young person, you are more likely to be susceptible to pressure from others. You are still developing and may be less able to understand the consequences of your actions.
49. LA, SB and SS were all older than you. They were far away from the scene at the time of the shooting.
50. As a teenager you have the capacity to change. You are not fully developed. You have not attained full maturity. You have many positive qualities. As you continue to mature, perhaps you may come to realise the full extent of the harm you have caused to others.

### *Sentence*

51. Tyler Roberts-Emmanuel for the murder of Shaquille Graham, you are sentenced to custody for life.
52. The minimum term would be 28 years, but you have spent 377 days in custody awaiting trial. Those days should count towards your sentence, so are deducted from

the 28-year starting point. Therefore, the minimum term you must serve before you can be considered by the Parole Board for release on licence is 26 years and 353 days.

53. Surcharge applied.

HHJ Plaschkes KC  
Sitting at the Central Criminal Court  
London EC4M 7EH  
4<sup>th</sup> April 2025