

Rex

-V-

MOHAMMED IBRAHIM

Sentencing comments.

1. I must sentence you for causing the death of Amanda Riley and Linda Phillips by dangerous driving. I must also sentence you for causing serious injury to Laura Riley, Charlotte Riley and George Phillips by dangerous driving.
2. I have read 6 victim personal statements from those you injured and their wider family. They speak of the harrowing impact of witnessing the effects of the crash that you caused and the subsequent devastating impact upon them and their wider family. By way of example, George Phillips was married to Linda Phillips for 51 years. He describes her as his best friend and soulmate. He speaks of her love of her family, the holidays they enjoyed together and her passion for gardening . He describes his feelings of loss, despair and devastation and indicates that he cannot adapt to being on his own and will soon be seen by a psychologist. Mr Phillips describes his daughter Amanda as being someone who would light up a room with her infectious smile and was loved by everyone.
3. Laura Riley describes her mother Amanda Riley, as being a woman who loved her unconditionally and guided her through life. She says, “that day, in that moment our whole world was destroyed. The defendant ripped the heart out of our family when he took the lives of the most beautiful, funny, caring

and loving two people.” She speaks of every day being a battle that will never end and says that your actions have affected her mentally, physically and emotionally.

4. Jessica King is Linda Phillips’ granddaughter and Amanda Riley’s niece. She says that her grandma was the glue that held the family together. She says that she was a kind and gentle woman with a fantastic sense of humour. She describes her aunt, Amanda, as a woman with a laugh and smile that could brighten any room she walked into. She says, “they were both loved so deeply and we are completely broken by losing them.”
5. Charlotte Riley and her 3-year-old son Carter were in the back of the car that you struck. Charlotte speaks of the enduring impact of your actions upon Carter and says, “there are no words to explain the pain and heartbreak that one person has brought to my family by their actions on the night of 26 December 2023.”
6. Amy Riley is Amanda Riley’s daughter. She says, “as a family we are broken and cannot be fixed. Two generations gone, a family ripped apart and devastated by grief as a result of someone else’s selfishness and stupidity.”
7. That is the future you have consigned this family to. How then, did this come about?
8. Shortly before the 26 December 2023 you acquired a BMW 420 grand coupe car. You insured it commencing at midnight on the 26th. By 8 PM that evening, you were driving the car through the Kitts green area and racing with another BMW. It was dark and this was a 30-mph residential area. You

drove along a road known as the Meadway East and overtook another vehicle at such excessive speed that the driver felt the need to pull over. You then overtook a stationary bus which was being driven by the witness Hamza Tariq. He describes your car as coming out of nowhere. He immediately realised that you were racing and thought that you were going so fast that you were going to hurt someone. The other BMW followed you although at a slightly slower speed. You both stopped at a red traffic light and then both sped away when it turned to green.

9. You then approached a four-way traffic light -controlled junction. From your direction of travel, there were 3 lanes. You were intending to go straight on, and you therefore should have positioned yourself in the middle lane. That lane was occupied by stationary cars that were intending to drive straight on through the junction. As the lights turned to green, you went into the right-hand lane which is reserved for people intending to turn right. You did that to overtake the stationary vehicles and you did it at a speed of between 80 and 84 mph. As you entered the junction, a quad bike came through a red traffic light to your left and by inference you struck it causing it to turn over. In consequence, you lost control of your BMW and then crossed onto the wrong side of the carriageway and collided head-on with a car being driven by Laura Riley.

10. That car contained 5 passengers. Laura Riley's father (George Phillips) was the front seat passenger. Her mother (Linda Phillips) and her sister and aunt (Charlotte and Amanda Riley) were in the back of the car as was Charlotte's 3-year-old son, Carter. Their car was struck with extreme force causing it to spin and then burst into flames. The occupants were unable to get out and had it not been for the bravery of members of the public who went to their assistance, they might all have died at the scene. Instead, they were pulled

from the burning vehicle. Tragically, and despite the efforts of paramedics, Linda Phillips and Amanda Riley died at the scene.

11. You were seen lying on the ground near to your car and were heard to say that you needed to go. You then left the scene. You subsequently presented at Heartlands hospital with a leg injury and said that you had been involved in a road traffic accident but you didn't provide further details.
12. You were arrested that evening at the hospital and the police then asked you to provide a sample of blood for alcohol and substance analysis. You refused. You later told a physiotherapist that you had no memory of what happened and you have maintained that account to the author of the pre-sentence report. In circumstances where you were able to leave the scene, make your way to hospital and tell medics that you were involved in a road traffic accident, I have no doubt that this is simply untrue.
13. Linda Phillips was 72 years of age at the time of her death. Her daughter, Amanda Riley was 49. They both died as a result of extensive chest and abdominal injuries. Laura Riley suffered a fractured breastbone and bruising to her heart. George Phillips suffered a fractured left collarbone. Charlotte Riley suffered a fracture to her left leg which required surgery during which metal plates were fitted. She subsequently required two further surgical procedures. In her victim personal statement made 18 months after her injury, she says that she is still having physiotherapy and taking co-codamol to manage her pain. She walks with a limp and cannot bend her knee or kneel. This affects her ability to care for her young son and she believes that her present condition is likely to be permanent.

14. Having set out what you did, I now turn to consider the sentencing guideline but before doing so, I want to make the obvious point that no sentence passed by me today can even begin to reduce the indescribable tragedy that these events represent.
15. You were racing another car and your decision to go into a lane dedicated to cars turning right in order to overtake stationary vehicles, and then drive at over 80 mph into a junction, represents an obviously dangerous manoeuvre amounting to a deliberate decision to ignore the rules of the road and a disregard for the obvious risks caused to others. This wasn't an isolated manoeuvre and the evidence demonstrates that you were racing and driving dangerously for about half a mile, as you approached the junction. I conclude that there are multiple features indicative of culpability A, and I place the offences of causing death by dangerous driving into that category. The harm that you caused is incalculable. I do not want your victims to think that it has been ignored but that harm is incorporated into the starting point within the guideline. That starting point for a single offence, is one of 12 years custody with a range of between 8 and 18 years.
16. The 3 offences of causing serious injury by dangerous driving fall into culpability A within the relevant guideline for the same reasons that I have already explained in relation to the offences of causing death by dangerous driving. The injuries sustained by Laura Riley and George Phillips fall within harm category 2. The injury sustained by Charlotte Riley has had a substantial and long-term effect on her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and therefore falls into category 1. It follows that counts 3 and 5 each have starting points of 3 years custody and category ranges of between 2 and 4 years. Count 4 has a starting point of 4 years custody with a category range of between 3 and 5 years.

17.I identify 4 aggravating features. First, you had a passenger in your car at the time of the offence. Second, you failed to stop and left the scene in circumstances where you must have known that you had caused a catastrophic accident. Third, you refused to provide a specimen of your blood for analysis. Those aggravating features apply to each of the 5 offences you committed and require a significant uplift from the starting points I have identified.

18.Finally, as you appreciate, I am not sentencing you for just one offence of causing death by dangerous driving. Instead, I must sentence you for 2 such offences and in addition 3 other serious offences of causing serious injury by dangerous driving. The sentencing Council have specifically addressed this position at step 2 of the causing death by dangerous driving guideline. They state, *“the starting point and category ranges below relate to a single offence resulting in a single death. Where more than one death is caused and they are charged in separate counts, or where another offence or offences arising out of the same incident or facts is charged, concurrent sentences reflecting the overall criminality will be appropriate.”* It follows that the appropriate course is for me to choose a lead offence and then to treat the other 4 offences as aggravating features. In this respect I propose to treat count 1 relating to the death of Amanda Riley, as the lead offence.

19.I turn to consider such mitigation as exists. I accept that the actions of the unidentified rider of the quad bike made a significant contribution to what happened, and I treat that as being mitigatory

20. At the time of the collision, you were 23 years of age, and you were therefore relatively young and almost certainly short of full maturity. There is however no suggestion that your maturity was not commensurate with your chronological age. You are now aged 25, you have no previous convictions and prior to these events you had a clean driving licence. Focusing upon your character I have read a series of personal references in which family and friends express their positive view of your character. Having read them, I accept that there is a worthwhile side to your character, and I accept the view expressed in your probation report to the effect that you represent a low risk of reoffending in the future.

21. Mr Mann argues that you are remorseful and relies upon a psychiatric report dated 15 July 2025, prepared by Dr Salman Hashmi. That report indicates that as a result of what happened you now fulfil the criteria for an adjustment disorder and show signs of moral injury. He suggests that you feel intensely guilty, anxious and experience negative emotions such that you are now on prescribed antidepressants. In light of this report and notwithstanding your actions following the collision, I am prepared to accept that you do feel remorse and I bear that in mind. I also accept that you have worked hard and made progress whilst in prison on remand.

22. You pleaded guilty before the Crown Court at your plea and trial preparation hearing and at face value that entitles you to a discount of 25% from the sentence that would have been appropriate after trial. Mr Mann argues that I should give you in excess of that discount because you accepted your guilt as soon you received advice from him and he informed the prosecution of that fact 5 days before the PTP hearing. Despite your claim to the contrary, you obviously knew what you had done. You didn't need advice to

understand that you were guilty and you therefore could reasonably have been expected to indicate your guilt before the magistrates court. An indication of guilt at that stage would have entitled you to a discount of 33%. On balance, your acceptance of guilt after this and 5 days before the PTP hearing entitles you to a discount marginally in excess of 25%.

23. The length of the inevitable sentence in this case means that I must consider whether you are dangerous. That involves me asking myself whether you pose a significant risk of causing serious injury by the commission of further offences specified by Parliament. No doubt based upon your grossly irresponsible behaviour and the resulting consequences, the author of the probation report suggests that you are dangerous. You are however young, and I bear in mind that with youth comes the capacity for change. You will be in custody or on licence for many years to come and thereafter you will be disqualified from driving for many more years. I take the view that in combination these things are sufficient to protect the public from such risk as you pose.

24. Turning to consider your sentence, I must ensure that the overall sentence I impose is just and proportionate. In this respect, in the recent Attorney General's reference of Connor Malpass, Lord Justice William Davies made the following observation. *"In the guideline, the category range for a category A offence is 8 to 18 years custody. The more culpability factors which apply to the facts of a given case, the more serious it will be. Eighteen years, namely the top of the category range, is not the maximum available sentence. Rather, it reflects the length of sentence that will be appropriate where culpability, by reference to the factors in the guideline is very high. There may be cases where the level of culpability is so egregious that the*

interests of justice require an even longer sentence after trial. In addition, cases in which the aggravating factors are significant and/or there are relevant associated offences are likely to require a sentence after trial in excess of 18 years.” The present case is plainly an offence where there are significant aggravating features and where there are several grave associated offences. As against that I accept that there is significant mitigation to be found particularly in the actions of the quad bike driver, your youth and previous good character.

25. The starting point is for me to assess the appropriate sentence on each of the charges individually. In this respect, I take the view that the appropriate sentence on counts 1 and 2 after a trial would have been 12 years custody. The appropriate sentence after trial upon counts 3 and 5 would be 3 years and the appropriate sentence upon count 4 would be 4 years custody. Standing back and assessing your overall criminality, I conclude that following a trial the appropriate sentence would have been one of 18 years. Discounting that by slightly in excess of 25% to reflect your guilty pleas produces a sentence of 13 years and 3 months imprisonment. I pass that sentence upon count 1.

26. I pass the following sentences concurrently upon counts 2 to 5. Count 2, 9 years. Count 3, 27 months. Count 4, 3 years. Count 5, 27 months.

27. You will serve up to two thirds of the 13 years and 3 months, I have imposed. You will then be released on licence. If you breach the terms of your licence, you will be returned to custody.

28.I must next consider for how long you should be disqualified from driving.

In this respect, the appropriate period of disqualification is one of 10 years. That is significantly in excess of the minimum period of disqualification, but in my judgement, it the fair and proportionate term to reflect what was an appalling piece of driving and to deter others from similar offending. Furthermore, your behaviour demonstrates an attitude of complete irresponsibility in relation to driving and a significant period of disqualification is in my view necessary to protect the public from your behaviour. The intention of Parliament is that a period of disqualification should be effective after an offender is released from custody and for this reason, section 35A of the Road traffic Offenders Act 1988 requires me to extend your disqualification by a period equal to two thirds of your prison sentence. The effect of this is that the total length of disqualification is therefore one of 18 years and 9 months. Each offence attracts a separate period of disqualification, and I therefore disqualify you for that length of time upon each count concurrently. The time you have spent subject to a period of interim disqualification will count towards that period. After that period, you must pass the extended retest before applying for the return of your driving licence.

29.The surcharge will be applied as appropriate.

30.Finally, the actions of Mr Stuart Bates were courageous and may well have saved 3 lives. I direct that his bravery be recognised by an award of £300 from the Sheriff's purse.