



THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT
OLD BAILEY

REX

V

KAMAR WILLIAMS

SENTENCING REMARKS

Friday 18th July 2025

The Victim surcharge applies here and given the sentence I am about to pass there is no order in relation to driving.

Sentencing remarks

1. You may remain seated. On 30th July last year you were simmering with rage throughout the evening having been arguing with your ex-partner Carron Thomas and her family members. I am sure that in your frustration and anger you planned to have a violent confrontation with one of the Thomas family that night. In fact you threatened as much in earlier messages and conversations to Carron where you state that you are going to show her “something” and to “watch this space”.
2. You can be seen on CCTV in their street just prior to the killing, walking with your hood up. You got back into your vehicle and started to drive away. You should have kept driving. Then you saw Mr Derek Thomas aged 55 walking along. He was on his way home from work as a bus driver, headphones in and listening to music. He was carrying shopping for his family and was oblivious to the arguments you had been having with them that night. He was minutes from home.
3. Instead of driving away and calming down you pulled up and jumped out of the van. You had with you a large knife that has been described as almost a sword with a curved tip. Witnesses saw it gleaming. You ran towards Mr Thomas. You confronted him. You stabbed him through the side of his torso and into his heart. He had incised wounds on his ear and on his back. The pathologist described the fatal injury as unsurvivable.
4. Mr Thomas died there on the street minutes from his home with the shopping he had bought strewn around him. I am satisfied he carried no weapon and

was completely unarmed and defenceless. By its verdict on Count 2 the jury was sure you had the 50 cm long knife with you when you got out of the van.

5. Derek Thomas was a loving, kind, hardworking, helpful and gentle man. He was always there for his family, friends and community. He was a useful and productive member of society who tried to do good and was an irreplaceable part of many people's lives. His sister read the impact on her to the court and found the dignity to show thanks to others. His daughters have told the court about the terrible consequences of his loss both in their lives and those of the wider family including young children. There is a deep sense of betrayal of trust and trauma that the circumstances of his death have left. They speak of the unfairness and pointlessness of it. The sadness filters through the whole family says Jade. Carron feels lost in grief, unable to believe she won't see her Dad again. Mr Thomas's sisters bring him back to life in the words in their statements, with his bright smile, love of football and family, sense of humour, wisdom and kindness. They contrast his good life with the suffering the family now must endure and the senseless loss of his death. Finally, his wife after 35 years must learn to live without him. Every day is a battle for her, and she told the court that he is always on her mind and will be forever in her heart. This devastation is apparent in the faces of his family who have sat in court every day.
6. Given the eyewitness evidence I heard, about your actions, I am sure that you intended to kill Derek Thomas. This was a merciless and determined attack. You killed him even though at one time you had seen him as a father figure, as you told the jury. You knew how important he was to his wife and children as you had lived alongside them. You knew that targeting him would hurt them all. Mr Derek Thomas had nothing to do with the petty arguments you were having that night.
7. Your account was rejected by the jury but is still relied on in mitigation which submits that this was not a premeditated attack with an intent to kill. I reject that analysis and do not accept the characterisation of this as a chance encounter with tragic consequences.

8. When you spotted Mr Thomas walking home you had time to pause and think about what you were doing. Having seen you give evidence and heard the witnesses I agree with the Prosecution's case that you picked a soft target. He was completely unaware of your presence until you appeared before him wielding the huge knife. He did not have a chance. You targeted him for revenge because of your own fury. I am sure that to this extent this was a planned and targeted attack motivated by anger and directed towards the Thomas family.
9. This murder took place in a residential street at night, with members of the public witnessing the savage violence
10. You made off immediately and disposed of the weapon in the river. You then went on to evade police for a month. At one stage you were chased in a car and the jury saw this pursuit and the way you were determined to escape. You gave false names to the authorities and again when discovered at the Notting Hull carnival and arrested. You have been determined to save your own skin throughout this case with no thought for the family of your victim and no remorse.
11. You blamed Mr Thomas for attacking you with a knife and the anguish and suffering of his family continued throughout the trial. The children of Mr Thomas are also blameless in this terrible crime. You alone are responsible for this killing and no one else.
12. You have convictions for 8 offences of robbery from 2007 and 2014. You also in 2014 committed an offence with an imitation firearm. On two occasions you possessed an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence for which you received a total of 9 years imprisonment. You have a battery conviction from 2022. Therefore, you have a history of violence and possessing and threatening weapons, albeit firearm offences not knives.

13. You have driven whilst disqualified on a number of occasions in contravention of court orders. At the time you committed this offence of murder you were disqualified from driving and had been for some years.
14. The sentence for murder is life imprisonment. That is what I will pass on you a -life sentence.
15. I must by law set a minimum term that you must serve of that life sentence before you could even be considered for release. If you are assessed as a danger and risk, you may never get out. Be in no doubt that you could spend the rest of your life in prison if the parole board consider you to remain a danger.
16. The law says that I must start calculating the minimum term you must serve at 25 years. I must look at the overall seriousness of this case and the evidence I heard from witnesses and you. You showed no mercy towards your blameless victim either at the time you killed him or in your attitude afterwards. Those who saw this happen described the speed, suddenness and savagery of the attack.
17. I add to this starting point factors that make this murder even more serious - , a plan to do harm given the earlier threats and your behaviour in the street where the Thomas family lived and the time you had to consider whether to approach Mr Thomas or not. You selected a totally unaware, blameless victim. This was a killing in a residential area in front of members of the public at night. Their terror and shock was palpable.
18. You didn't stay at the scene having achieved your intention, you made off and disposed of the murder weapon. You then evaded capture for a month including escaping the police in a car chase. You then gave false details to the police when arrested.

19. You are also a man with previous convictions for serious violent offences with weapons and were driving about whilst disqualified that evening with a very large knife on you.

20. I do not add anything to the term for Count 2 as it is reflected in the term I must set already you having brought this knife to the scene of this murder.

Mitigating factors

21. You are now 34. You have a teenage daughter who is now without parents. I have read 5 statements sent on your behalf from your mother, sister and daughter and those who support you. It is clear that your family love you and will feel the effect of the sentence I pass acutely. You did not think of them when you were killing Mr Thomas and the effect of this offence on them is your responsibility. I do bear in mind that the people who spoke for you love you and have found you to be a loving supporting person who can work and inspire affection. There is a gap in your offending but the commission of this crime shows your violent tendencies were still active and reignited that night.

22. I have read a letter from you that bears the title "letter of remorse". It is concerned mainly with you and your family's own troubles and the effect of this case on you and them. It takes no responsibility for Mr Thomas's death. It describes how it is only with the benefit of hindsight that you wish he was still here. It ends with the line "*there is nothing I can do to bring him back to his loved ones*". It is not a letter of remorse. It does not even contain the word apart from the title and it does not contain any expression of regret for what you have done. It shows me that you still accept no responsibility for the murder you committed.

23. Without mitigation you would serve 30 years for this terrible crime.

24. There is, in fact, little mitigation for your actions despite the considerable efforts of Ms Power KC on your behalf.

Stand up

25. On Count 1 you go to prison for life. For Count 2 the sentence is 3 years imprisonment concurrent. You will not be eligible for release for 29 years. 324 have been spent on remand. These days on remand must count by law. Therefore the minimum term is 28 years and 41 days. I repeat you might never be released if still a risk

HHJ Angela Rafferty KC