



IN THE CROWN COURT AT AYLESBURY

Between:

**R
v.
JASON KING**

EXTRACT FROM SENTENCING REMARKS

Introduction

1. You are to be sentenced for a number of offences including the section 20 Wounding of Alistair Mahwuto, Having a Bladed Article (lock knife), Having an Offensive Weapon (cross bow), S18 Wounding of PC Foster with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, and Affray.
2. The most significant offences involve the possession of a potentially lethal crossbow and then using it to shoot a police officer, PC Curtis Foster, and other officers who came to his assistance. This behaviour is wholly unacceptable. This type of offending is serious. It affects your individual victims but also the well-being and security of the community. Behaviour of this kind puts anybody responsible for it in jeopardy of a severe sentence to protect the public, and to deter others.
3. PC Foster was present outside your house maintaining order after an earlier incident in which you had stabbed your neighbour with a lock knife. At the conclusion of these remarks I will commend PC Foster and two of his colleagues for their bravery in responding to the threat you presented to the public that day. They are a credit to the Thames Valley Police. Each one of them put themselves in the line of fire and their prompt action saved others even as they put their own lives at risk.

The facts

4. The facts are set out in a helpful prosecution note for sentence which was fully opened in court and I repeat only a limited summary for today's purposes.
5. In short, on 9th May 2024 there was an incident in which you say your windows were broken by a neighbour. You called police, you made a report, but the people you believed responsible were not arrested. You were upset. You were drunk.
6. In the late afternoon of 10th May 2024, you saw a visitor arriving at your neighbours' house by car. You took a lock knife outside your house into the street. You chose for some reason to get into the car - the visitor had left it unsecured for a few moments as he delivered food. Seconds later when you were found in the driver's seat of the car, you were challenged, and the visitor removed you from the car. You threatened your neighbour Alistair Mahwuto with the knife you were carrying. You were clearly beside yourself with anger. You said you were going to cut him and you lunged at his stomach several times, wounding him with the tip of your knife. You then chased both men around the close, before they made it back inside their house. You then launched a frenzied attack on the front door of their house, calling on the neighbours' dog to attack them, and striking the door with the knife in your hand. Video shows the anger and the intensity of your attack.
7. When you failed to get in to your neighbours' house, you retreated to your own house. Police and paramedics attended the scene to deal with the casualty, who had been bleeding quite heavily, albeit the wound turned out to be superficial.
8. In the meantime you armed yourself with a powerful crossbow, equipped with a laser sight and you used it from an upstairs window to shoot at those present, the steel tipped bolts hitting masonry close to police officers. You then came out of your house to try to shoot police officers from the roadway and to chase police from the scene.
9. PC Curtis Foster was one of those present. He was there to maintain order and to establish a cordon around your neighbour's house, in part to protect them, and to prevent matters escalating. You had other ideas. You approached PC Foster and raised your crossbow to aim and then fire at him. From a distance of roughly two car lengths' away you shot him in the leg as he turned to run. The crossbow was so powerful that the bolt took less than half a second to land in the officer's calf, causing significant immediate bleeding. PC Foster tried to run to safety and you pursued him. As he did so he warned more members of the public to keep away from you.
10. A second officer who I refer to as PC C8 then came onto the scene with a police dog and you pointed your crossbow at him. He thought he was going to die. He released the dog to distract you and you then trained the crossbow on the dog, firing at the dog and then at the officer, luckily missing both. You then hid in a wooded area, and when armed police arrived you refused to put down your weapon. You pointed it at different police officers, you attempted

to shoot at them. PC B4 deemed it necessary to shoot you, and the threat you posed was then nullified.

11. I have to consider the Sentencing Council Guideline for each offence. Each one requires an assessment of culpability, and of harm. Before embarking on that exercise it is important that I consider your mental health, with the relevant SC guideline – for dealing with Mentally Disordered offenders - in mind:

Mental Health

12. From the report of Dr Galappathie, I note you have a long history of mental health issues involving generalised anxiety disorder, depression and marked by panic attacks. You were prescribed an anti-depressant and there is some suggestion that around the time of this incident you were non-compliant with that medicine and were choosing to take cannabis instead. This is probably a major component in two symptoms you demonstrated – hearing voices, including the voice of the neighbour's dog, and also feeling a kinship with a mythical goddess.
13. I am required by the mental health guideline to consider whether there is anything in that history that limits or diminish your culpability. The answer is that this combination of factors can only have a limited impact if any on your culpability. You were motivated to act as you did by a sense of grievance towards your neighbours and towards the police. You knew exactly what you were doing, you were capable of making judgements. You no doubt felt fearful and threatened – at least to some extent - by the behaviours you had encountered the previous day but you made a choice to take matters into your own hands, and to escalate the gravity of your actions very significantly. Ultimately you were offering very serious, potentially life-threatening violence towards police officers who were there to assist you.
14. [Having turned to the relevant offence specific guidelines, totality guideline and setting out mitigation:]

Individual sentences

15. I take the s18 offence as the lead offence. Although it is properly categorised as an A3 category with a starting point at five years with a range to seven years, the combination of high culpability factors means that the starting point should be adjusted upwards. Combined with significant aggravating factors the commensurate sentence on this offence alone, even allowing for full credit, and for the mitigation available would be 5 years imprisonment. However, in conjunction with the other offences committed that day – and being careful not to double count elements I have already considered - the commensurate sentence must be raised to a total of nine years, including credit, with all remaining sentences [as set out below] to run concurrently:

C2: UNLAWFUL WOUNDING (Alistair Mahwuto)

- 20 months imprisonment, concurrent

C3: HAVING AN ARTICLE WITH A BLADE OR POINT (lock knife)

- 6 months imprisonment, concurrent
- F&D of the lock knife

C5: HAVING AN OFFENSIVE WEAPON (Crossbow)

- 14 months imprisonment, concurrent
- F&D of the Crossbow

C8: AFFRAY

- 8 months imprisonment, concurrent

16. These are the appropriate commensurate sentences. However because you have been convicted of a specified offence I am required to consider the issue of dangerousness, that is, whether you present a significant risk of causing serious harm by committing further specified offences in the future. I have considered the views of Dr Galappathie, Dr McAlees, and the author of the pre-sentence report and I am satisfied that you do present such a risk, bearing in mind the nature and circumstances of the instant offending and associated offences, your previous convictions, your mental health issues and the risk in future of non-compliance with medication that assists you.

17. I have considered whether a standard determinate sentence is appropriate. Such a sentence would not fully address the risk you represent. This case does not call for a life sentence but it does require an extended sentence. I do consider it necessary to impose an extended sentence in order to protect the public in the future. The extended sentence is made up of two parts: a custodial period, which will be no longer than the nine year period I mentioned, and an extended licence period of three years making an extended sentence of 12 years' duration in total.

18. The sentence on Count 6 is therefore as follows:

C6: WOUNDING WITH INTENT (PC Curtis Foster)

- Extended sentence of 12 years comprised of 9 years custody with 3 years extended licence
Victim surcharge

Community Order imposed on 06-09-23 by Buckinghamshire Magistrates'

- Community order revoked

19. [Release provisions explained.]
20. [Weapons forfeit and destroyed]
21. [Costs, compensation and Victim Surcharge]

Officer commendations:

22. PC Curtis FOSTER - you maintained position to protect others and took the brunt of the attack when you found yourself trapped by your surroundings. You were injured but made your escape, although not before alerting members of the public to seek safety and protect themselves.
23. PC C8 Dog handler – you were called to the scene, assessed it, and with your dog Merlyn you went forward into danger. You stared the attacker in the face as he levelled his cross bow at you. You thought you were going to die. You deployed your dog to distract your attacker, and were able to safeguard not only yourself and your dog but also the general public.
24. PC B4 – As a police marksperson you took swift and decisive action to resolve this dangerous situation without any loss of life. Your action prevented the loss of life of any police officer, any member of the public, or indeed of the person presenting the danger. Your calculation of the risk was careful and considered. It is extremely important that Police officers understand they will be supported when taking necessary, proportionate and sometimes decisive action to protect life and to safeguard the community they serve.
25. In each case you are a credit to the police force and to the community and your exceptional bravery must be commended.

20th August 2025

HHJ Jonathan Cooper

ENDS