



# **Judiciary of England and Wales**

**IN THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT**

**THE KING**

**-v-**

**KHUEDR AL KURDI**

**MOHAMMED MANSARAY**

**[XY - NAME REDACTED]**

**ISA SITERI**

**YUSUF ABDI**

**MUKTAR SAID**

**SENTENCING REMARKS OF HHJ SIMON MAYO KC**

**5 SEPTEMBER 2025**

## Introduction

1. On 15 July 2025 you were convicted by the jury for your involvement in the murder of Janayo Lucima on 1 April 2024. I must sentence you now for your respective roles in that offence.
2. The sentence for murder is fixed by law. I must impose a life sentence in each of your cases, although the sentence in some cases will be expressed differently.
3. I must also set the *minimum* term that each of you must serve before you will become eligible for release on licence. In deciding what minimum term to impose in each case I have applied what is said in Schedule 21 of the Sentencing Act 2020. I should make clear that the minimum term that I set today is just that – a minimum. There is no guarantee that you will ever be released, but after you have served the minimum term that I set today the parole board will consider whether it is safe to release you. They will not release you unless they are satisfied that it is safe to do so.

## The brief facts

4. Janayo Lucima was shot dead on the doorstep of a residential property at 74 Comeragh Road in Baron's Court on the evening of 1 April 2024. You, Mohammed Mansaray, were the gunman who stealthily approached the porch of the adjoining property and waited there with a converted self-loading pistol for Mr Lucima to emerge from the door of number 74. He was lured out of the property and onto the doorstep by a telephone call from you, Khuedr Al Kurdi, where he was then shot dead by Mohammed Mansaray.
5. The prosecution's case was that this was a planned execution of a rival drug dealer. The jury, by their verdicts, accepted that assessment and rejected the false defences that each of you advanced.

6. I am sure that you, Al Kurdi, arranged for Mr Lucima to be shot dead. I am sure too that you supplied the murder weapon and then disposed of it shortly after the murder.
7. I am sure that you, Mansaray, knew exactly what was planned and you willingly took on the role of gunman. In the minutes before you shot Mr Lucima dead you were happily displaying the gun to your co-defendants who had gone to the scene with you to provide support and encouragement. The jury rightly rejected your lies about your knowledge of the lethal capability of that gun and how you came to be in possession of it.
8. I am sure that you [XY - name redacted], Siteri, Abdi and Said, knew what was planned. You each willingly agreed to join in that plan, travelling to the scene to provide back-up and encouragement to Mansaray. As a group you were armed with large and dangerous knives that you took with you to use if the need arose to ensure that the plan to execute Mr Lucima was successfully carried out.
9. Having presided over the trial which lasted five months, and having seen all of you with the exception of Muktar Said give evidence, I believe that I am particularly well-placed to make judgments about what happened, the role each of you played, what you each knew and intended, and the level of culpability in each case.

## **Impact**

10. The impact that your offending has had on Mr Lucima's family is powerfully conveyed by what is said in the victim personal statements that were prepared for this hearing. I have listened to the moving statements read out in court by Winifred, Margeret, and Sarah Ayo. The dignity and capacity for forgiveness which they have displayed is truly humbling.

11. I pay tribute to the remarkable dignity and composure which they have displayed throughout the trial. It is not hard to imagine the pain they must have endured listening to the terrible circumstances in which you robbed Janayo Lucima of his life.

12. Their enduring pain and suffering is movingly described in their victim personal statements. I repeat one passage from his mother's statement:

*"Nothing about our world has been the same since. No breath feels full. No day is whole...I had to do something which no mother should have to go through, I had to break the news to my other children that their brother was never coming home again. I can still see the pain in their faces."*

13. The courage and dignity of Janayo's family stands in stark contrast to the cowardice and disrespect which you, Al Kurdi, displayed by refusing to come to court for this sentence hearing.

14. I do not know if what Janayo's family have said will have any impact on you. I hope for your sake that it does. As Margret Ayo said:

*"As a family we have forgiven the defendants and this forgiveness is not for them but for us, so that somehow, we can begin to rebuild our life and move on. We do hope that in the months and years to come they will use this time as a time of reflection and maybe find a way to become better people in society. For us we have a life sentence which will be with us for ever."*

15. I recognise that no sentence I pass today can remove the deep sense of loss and pain which they feel. I hope that they will find comfort in the mutual love they share, and that in time they will find solace in the happy memories they share of their time with Janayo before his life was snatched away. Perhaps too there will be some comfort in knowing that for very many years you will be required to pay the price for what you did that day.

## **General Approach to Sentencing**

16. You were all knowing participants in the murder, and you must all bear responsibility for the murder that was carried out at the hand of Mohammed Mansaray. Although you must all share responsibility, my approach to sentencing has been individualistic in each of your cases. There are facts and circumstances which are common to all your cases, but I have been at pains to ensure that the sentence I pass in each case is the right one and reflects all the relevant circumstances in each of your cases.
17. I have been careful to ensure that my assessment of your culpability reflects all relevant factors including, your age, the role you played, and everything that I know about you.
18. Age is a relevant consideration in each of your cases, but it is particularly important in the cases of those who were 18 or under at the time of the offence. In every case I have carefully considered what is said in the guideline on sentencing children and young people ("the Youth Guideline") and the Youth Bench Book. I have also considered what is said in a number of cases decided by the Court of Appeal that have been referred to by your counsel.
19. When considering the relevance of your age and how that should affect my assessment of your respective culpability I have not just taken into account your age measured in years but also your level of maturity in the light of everything that I have heard and read about you, including those matters that will help me to better judge your ability at the time of the murder to think clearly and make good decisions.
20. When considering the appropriate minimum term to impose I have considered, as the Youth Guideline requires, your developmental and emotional age, the extent to which you appear to possess the necessary maturity to appreciate fully the

consequences of your conduct, the extent to which you may have been acting on an impulsive basis, and the extent to which your actions may have been affected by inexperience, emotional volatility or negative influences.

21. In your cases, Mohammed Mansaray and [XY - name redacted], your age is reflected in the lower starting points applicable in each of your cases. The factors I have just mentioned nonetheless remain important considerations.

### **Starting Points in Schedule 21 of the Sentencing Act**

22. The starting point in Schedule 21 for anyone aged 18 or over convicted of murder involving a firearm is 30 years. The starting point in your case Mohammed Mansaray is 27 years because you were 17 years old at the time of the offence.
23. The starting point in your case [XY - name redacted] is 20 years because you were 16 years and 6 months old at the time of the offence. That starting point in Schedule 21 applies to an offender aged 15 or 16 at the date of offence. In terms of your age measured in years you were much closer to the top of that age bracket than the bottom. In my judgment I am entitled to take that fact into account, together with all other relevant factors, in deciding the minimum term that you must serve.
24. I am sure that neither you nor Mohammed Mansaray is particularly immature for someone of your respective ages. I was able, over the course of the five months of the trial, to form a view about the comparative level of maturity of each of the defendants in this case, including the many days when you were each giving evidence from the witness box.
25. I recognise that you will have matured in the year between the date of the offence and the date that you gave evidence. Based on everything that I have seen and read, the level of maturity of each of you appears at least commensurate with your age measured in years. I have no reason to think that the position was markedly

different in April of 2024. Put another way, I am sure that your level of maturity when you committed the murder was in keeping with your age at that time.

### **Aggravating Factors**

26. The prosecution points to a number of factors which they submit apply generally in the case. They argue that those factors make your offending more serious.

Those factors are as follows:

- a. There was a significant degree of planning and pre-meditation.
- b. The murder was committed against a background of rivalry over drug dealing operations run by your group and that run by Mr Lucima and his associates.
- c. A youth aged 16 was used to convey the gun from Al Kurdi's flat to Fabian Road shortly before you set out from that address to carry out the murder.
- d. The shooting occurred on a residential street at night.
- e. Those who went to the scene took steps to conceal their identity through change of clothing and wearing masks or other face coverings.
- f. Mansaray, [XY - name redacted], Siteri, Abdi and Said left the jurisdiction to evade apprehension.
- g. The murder weapon was disposed of by you, Al Kurdi, in the immediate aftermath of the shooting.

27. In deciding the extent to which, if at all, those matters need to be reflected by an upward adjustment in the minimum term, I have kept well in mind that there is a degree of overlap between some of those factors and, more importantly, that the starting points contained in paragraphs 3 and 5A of Schedule 21 already reflect the fact that the offence is particularly serious, involving as it did the use of a firearm.

28. Whilst there was clearly a significant degree of planning and premeditation involved in this offence, it was not of an exceptional level for this type of case. I recognise too that not all those factors apply equally to every defendant. In every case I have been careful to ensure that my conclusions as to the extent to which these matters aggravate the already particularly serious offending is fair and balanced.

29. Some of you have previous convictions which could be said to aggravate your offending. I will address my approach to those convictions when I come to your individual cases.

30. In your case, Al Kurdi, I must in addition sentence you for your involvement in the supply of controlled drugs. The facts of those two separate cases are set out in a sentencing note. I intend to reflect this additional offending by an appropriate uplift in the minimum term. I will therefore impose concurrent sentences of imprisonment on those drugs matters.

### **Mitigating Factors**

31. I am sure that the intention of you all was that Mr Lucima should be killed. The mitigation that might otherwise be available from having any lesser intent is not available to any one of you.

32. I have considered with great care everything that has been said on your behalf by your advocates, both in the written notes that were submitted in advance of this hearing and what has been said orally on your behalf yesterday. Where reports or other material has been placed before me, I have similarly considered that material with care in advance of the sentence hearing.

33. To the extent that it is appropriate to do so I have reflected the mitigation that is available in the minimum term that I will impose in each of your cases.



34. During my remarks in due course, I will refer to some of the factors which have been urged on your behalf. The fact that I refer to some of the factors and not others does not mean that I have disregarded those others. On the contrary, I have considered it all and, to the extent that it is appropriate, factored it into my assessment of the proper sentence in each case.

### **Individual Sentences**

35. **Khuedr Al Kurdi**: I am sure that, with the assistance of your close friend Saleem Elrmali you were the guiding mind behind the plan to murder Janayo Lucima. You supplied the gun that was used to shoot him dead, and it was returned to you by Elrmali shortly after the murder. Your role in the murder was pivotal.
36. Mr Turner argues on your behalf that the lack of evidence of direct connections between you and those operating the trap house at Fabian Road, and the other matters set out in his sentencing note, means that I cannot safely conclude that you were the guiding mind behind the shooting. I disagree. Your account that your close friend Elrmali inexplicably betrayed you and went off on a diabolical frolic of his own without your knowledge is simply not credible. I am sure the jury recognised your account for the lie that it so clearly was.
37. The lack of direct contact with those at Fabian Road was likely a deliberate precaution on your part. It is clear, in my judgment, that Elrmali had a close connection with Fabian Road, and so did you through him. I also have in mind that one of the young men closely associated with Fabian Road came to your flat shortly before the murderous group set out. He met with you and collected the gun that you knew was going to be used to shoot Mr Lucima dead.
38. You are now 23 years of age; you were 21 at the date of the murder. You have previous convictions for battery and possession of a knife.

39. There is, in reality, no mitigation of substance available to you beyond considerations of your age at the time of the offence. I am satisfied that you are a calculating and callous individual who was prepared to order the execution of a rival drug dealer to further your own position and to enhance your perceived status and reputation in the drug dealing community. Your culpability is accordingly particularly high.
40. I have considered whether your age or level of maturity reduces your culpability. There is no evidence to suggest that you were immature for someone of your age. Indeed, my conclusion formed over the course of the five months of the trial is that you are an intelligent, calculating, and manipulative individual. I have made that assessment against the background of what is said in the Youth Guideline about the development of the brains of young adults up to the age of 25.
41. I must also sentence you for two sets of drugs offences. The first in time relate to the events of 9 December 2021 when you were stopped by police riding an e-scooter. You were found in possession of 40 wraps of crack cocaine and 28 wraps of heroin. You pleaded guilty on the first day of trial to possession with intent to supply. You put forward a basis of plea, namely that you were delivering those drugs to a dealer rather than dealing to users yourself. That basis of plea was accepted by the prosecution at the time. You are entitled to 10% credit for your late guilty plea.
42. The second set of drugs offences arise from the discovery of a substantial quantity of drugs including MDMA and cocaine at the flat that you shared with your parents. You admitted when giving evidence in the murder trial that you had been engaged in selling a variety of controlled drugs through a dedicated drugs line. You pleaded guilty to those matters in the magistrates' court, and you are entitled to full credit for that. This offending was more serious because you had committed these offences whilst on bail for the earlier drugs offences.
43. In assessing the appropriate sentence for those offences, I have considered and followed the drugs sentencing guideline, the guilty plea guideline, and the totality

guideline. If you were being dealt with for the drugs offences alone consecutive sentences would have been entirely justified, subject to consideration of totality.

44. The least sentence for possession with intent to supply in relation to the arrest on 9 December 2021 is 18 months imprisonment before discount for guilty plea.
45. The least sentence for the offences of possession with intent to supply in relation to the matters arising from your arrest on 5 April 2024 is 5 years before discount for guilty plea.
46. Considering totality, the least total sentence that properly reflects all the drugs offences is 50 months after appropriate credit for guilty pleas in each case.
47. I have then gone on to decide the extent to which it is appropriate to uplift the minimum term for murder to reflect this additional offending. I have decided that I should add 18 months to the minimum term.
48. The sentence for murder is imprisonment for life. The shortest minimum term that properly reflects all the circumstances of your case, and reflecting the additional drug offending, is **33 years** less the 515 days that you have spent in custody, resulting in a minimum term of **31 years 215 days**.
49. The sentence on count 1 and 2 relating to the offences on 9 December 2021 (01RP0530821) is 16 months imprisonment concurrent on each count. I impose no separate penalty in relation to counts 6 and 8 (simple possession),
50. The sentence in respect of possession of MDMA and cocaine with intent to supply in relation to the items found at your home on 5 April 2024 (01MP1268924) is 40 months. There will be no separate penalty in respect of the offences of possession with intent to supply Class B and C drugs because I have reflected that offending in my assessment of the appropriate sentence for possession with intent to supply MDMA and cocaine.

51. You must pay the statutory surcharge in the appropriate sum.
52. I make a forfeiture order in respect of the list of items prepared by the prosecution, and further order the destruction of the drugs and items of drug paraphernalia listed by the prosecution.
53. **Mohammed Mansaray**: you willingly accepted the task of being the gunman. You claimed that you were prevailed upon to take the gun from an older member of the group who has fled abroad. You claimed too that you believed that it was not a real gun capable of discharging a bullet. The jury, by their verdict, rejected those assertions as lies. I note that you persisted in telling those lies when you were interviewed by the author of the PSR, and you repeated those lies to Dr Magueri when she interviewed you in preparation of her psychiatric report.
54. You were seemingly comfortable in your role, openly displaying the gun to other members of your group. You were clearly conscious of the need for stealth as you approached the address of your victim. Having arrived outside the adjoining property you checked the line of sight and practiced your aim. When Mr Lucima was lured onto the doorstep of his property you did not hesitate. You aimed for his chest and pulled the trigger. You shot him dead at comparatively close range.
55. The gun appears to have jammed. It is impossible to know whether, but for that malfunction, you would have shot Mr Lucima again. There had certainly been at least one more round in the magazine of the gun.
56. You quickly made off taking the gun with you. Shortly thereafter you passed the gun to Saleem Elrmali who then returned the gun to Khuedr Al Kurdi for disposal.
57. You spent the night with your friend [XY - name redacted] at his girlfriend's address before making your way to Scotland with Muktar Said. I am sure your intention was to evade capture. I am sure too that if you had a valid passport, you would, like others, have fled even further from the jurisdiction.

58. I have read the content of a recent psychiatric report prepared by Dr Daniele Maugeri. I note what she says about your current mental health at paragraphs 52-56. Nothing that I have read leads me to believe that your mental health played a significant role in this offence. I have considered the guideline on sentencing offenders with mental disorders. Based on everything that I have seen and read, your responsibility for what you did is not significantly reduced by any contemporaneous mental health condition. I note what Dr Maugeri says about your welfare when serving the inevitable sentence that will be imposed on you today.

59. I have also read the content of the PSR prepared for this hearing by Marlon Mighty, so too the material in relation to a finding that you were in the past the victim of exploitation. I have had regard to the conclusion of the competent authority and the evidence upon which that conclusion was reached. I have also assessed the significance of that finding in the context of my own assessment of you and your involvement in the illegal activities that formed the backdrop to this murder. As a result, I have been able to form a fair and balanced view as to the extent to which your involvement in this offence was affected by the influence of others in the criminal group in which you operated.

60. Based on everything that I have seen and read over the course of this lengthy trial I am sure that you were a willing participant in the shooting, and you were comfortable carrying out that role.

61. You are now 18 years of age; you were 17 years and 3 months old when you committed this murder. Your age is reflected in the lower starting point of 27 years, but I have looked beyond your age measured in years and carefully thought about your level of maturity and the other matters which I mentioned earlier in my sentencing remarks relating to the assessment of culpability.

62. I have concluded that you are not someone who was particularly immature for your age. Indeed, having seen you give evidence over many days you appear to be intelligent and well capable of understanding the consequences of your actions.

Your answers to questions in the witness box demonstrate to me that you had a depth of understanding not just of the facts and issues in the case but also of the less obvious subtleties of the evidence. In reaching that conclusion I have borne in mind that you were a year older by the time that you were giving evidence in the trial. My view of your level of maturity is, in my judgment, consistent with what is said in Dr Maugeri's psychiatric report.

63. You have previous convictions which make your offending more serious. Whilst giving evidence you also admitted to carrying out a series of street robberies during which you threatened your victims with an imitation firearm to rob them of their mobile telephones. When assessing the extent to which I should reflect this in the minimum term in your case I have considered your young age at the time when you committed those offences. I have also considered the fact that the starting point for this offence is already very high.
64. I have read the letter that you sent to me yesterday in which you express remorse and say you now have some insight into the pain you have inflicted on Janayo's family. If that expression of remorse is genuine it comes very late and must be seen in the context of the fact that you continued to lie to your social worker and Dr Magueri about your knowledge of the lethal capability of the gun.
65. I have listened with care to what has been said on your behalf and to the extent that it is appropriate to do so I have reflected that mitigation in the sentence which I am about to announce.
66. The sentence in your case will be detention at His Majesty's pleasure. The shortest minimum term that reflects all the circumstances of your case is **27 years** less the 514 days that you have spent in custody up to today. The resulting minimum term is **25 years 216 days**.
67. The statutory surcharge must be paid in the appropriate sum.

68. **[XY - name redacted]**: you went to the scene armed with a large and highly dangerous knife. You remained close to Mohammed Mansaray as he approached Mr Lucima's address and took up position only a few metres away. I am sure that you did that so that you would be ready to leap to his assistance if the need arose. I am sure that you knew that Mohammed Mansaray had a real gun containing live ammunition and you readily agreed to participate in the plan to execute Mr Lucima on the doorstep of the flat where he was operating his drug dealing business.
69. You are now 17 years and 11 months old. At the time of the offence, you were just 16 years and 6 months old. As I have previously said your age at the time of the offence is reflected in the lower starting point of 20 years, but you were much closer to the top end of the age bracket than the bottom.
70. I have considered everything that is said in the pre-sentence report prepared for this hearing. I have noted what that report says about the difficulties and challenges that you have faced growing up, what it says about your level of maturity, and the extent to which your behaviour may have been influenced by others.
71. I also had the advantage of observing you during the trial, including the five days when you were giving evidence. I have reached the firm conclusion that you are an intelligent young man, not particularly immature for your age, someone who understood the connection between your actions and the consequences of those actions.
72. I have set those conclusions in the context of your young age and recognised that your ability to think clearly and make good decisions will inevitably have been less well developed because of your youth. I have thought very anxiously about all the matters that are referred to in the Youth Guideline, the Youth Bench Book, and the helpful guidance that can be derived from the decisions of the Court of Appeal that I have been referred to.

73. You have two previous convictions but considering the nature of those offences, the circumstances in which they were committed, and your age at the time, I will not treat those as aggravating factors in your case.
74. I have considered what is said about the more positive side to your character and the positive attributes that you possess. When dealing with an offence of this magnitude of seriousness such matters can only have a limited impact on sentence.
75. I have considered with care everything that has been said on your behalf by Mr Rutherford about the challenges of your family background and upbringing, and the effect that had on your vulnerability to influence from others already involved in serious criminal activity.
76. The sentence for murder in your case is Detention at His Majesty's Pleasure. The shortest minimum term that reflects all the circumstances of your case is **22 years** less the 454 days that you have spent in custody up to this point, resulting in a minimum term of **20 years 276 days**.
77. You must pay the statutory surcharge in the appropriate sum.
78. **Issa Siteri**: you like [XY - name redacted] was close at hand and armed with two knives to support and encourage Mansaray as he lay in wait for Mr Lucima. The jury rejected your denials that you were the man wearing the two-tone top at the scene of the shooting. They were clearly right to do so.
79. Two days after the shooting you fled the country with [XY - name redacted] and Abdi. It was through your family connections in Morocco that you and others had access to accommodation. Whilst there you seemingly enjoyed life. You spoke when giving evidence about living on the coast and having access to your family's speed boat.



80. Whilst there [XY - name redacted] spoke to his support worker back in the UK. During one of the calls, you joked about [XY - name redacted] living the high life and spending money dining on lobster. You displayed no remorse for what you had done. You were enjoying life, hoping no doubt to evade detection and prosecution. You only returned to this country when you must have realised that your hopes of evading justice were fast fading.

81. You are now nearly 20 years of age; you were 18 years 6 months at the time of the murder. You have no previous convictions. I have read the letters speaking to a better side to your character. The positive impact that your lack of convictions may have had on sentencing is substantially eroded by the fact that you were involved in dealing Class A drugs from Fabian Road in the lead up to the murder.

82. My approach to assessing culpability, including the relevance of your age in that context, has been similar to that in the case of your co-defendants who are of a similar age. I have taken your age into account in assessing the appropriate minimum term.

83. I will not repeat at length what I have said previously about my approach to assessing culpability in this case, but I have looked beyond your age measured in years to form a fair and balanced view about your level of maturity. In so doing I have considered all the material that has been placed before me, I have relied upon my judgment of you formed over the five months of the trial, and followed what is said in the Youth Guideline, the Youth Bench Book, together with the guidance that can be derived from the cases that your counsel and others have referred to.

84. Whilst it is submitted on your behalf that you are someone who is particularly immature, my judgment of you formed over the course of the trial is that although you, like others in the dock, displayed immature behaviour from time-to-time, you are not someone who is particularly immature for your age.

85. I have considered everything that has been said on your behalf by Mr Clark, both in his written note and in his oral submissions yesterday.
86. The sentence for murder in your case is custody for life. The least minimum term that reflects all the relevant circumstances of your case is **28 years** less the 452 days that you have spent in custody up to today, resulting in a term of **26 years 278 days**.
87. You must pay the statutory surcharge in the appropriate sum.
88. **Yusuf Abdi**: I am satisfied that you too willingly agreed to participate in this murder, knowing that a rival was going to be shot dead as he was lured from his flat. I reject the suggestion that you were not aware of the plan and the presence of the gun until the last moment. Your assertion that you were taken along as a mere passenger or observer, unaware of the terrible plan that was to be put into effect, defies logic and is simply not credible.
89. You like others went along to offer support and encouragement to Mansaray and were ready to assist in the execution of the plan should the need arise. You were no mere spectator. Having presided over the trial I am satisfied that you, like your co-defendants, were armed with a knife. I am sure that is why you can be seen running with your arm close to your side in CCTV clip 108. I reject your explanation that you were worried that money you had taken with you to the scene would fall out of your pocket.
90. You fled abroad with Siteri and [XY - name redacted] two days after the murder. I am sure that your intention was to lie low in the hope that you would evade detection and capture. Although you returned to this country months later in company of Siteri, you must have realised by then that there was no escape for you.
91. You are now nearly 20 years of age; you were 18 years and 6 months at the time of the murder. I have taken your age into account in assessing the appropriate

minimum term. I will not repeat at length what I have said previously about my approach to assessing culpability in this case, but I have looked beyond your age measured in years to form a fair and balanced view about your level of maturity.

92. You have previous convictions for violence and for possession of a knife. Those convictions have the potential to make your offending more serious. When assessing the extent to which I should reflect this in the minimum term in your case I have considered your young age at the time when you committed those offences and the circumstances of those offences. I have also considered the fact that the starting point for this offence is already very high.

93. I have carefully considered everything that has been said on your behalf by Mr Mulholland.

94. The sentence for murder in your case is custody for life. The least minimum term which reflects all the circumstances of your case is **28 ½ years** (more precisely **28 years 182 days**) less the **409 qualifying days** that you have spent in custody up to this point, the resulting period is **27 years 138 days**.

95. You must pay the statutory surcharge in the appropriate sum.

96. **Muktar Said**: you were one of the group who agreed to participate in the fatal shooting of Janayo Lucima. You did not give evidence at the trial. The jury by their verdict were sure that you were a knowing participant in the plan to execute Mr Lucima. You were one of those who was ready, willing, and able to assist in ensuring the plan was successfully executed. Your DNA was found on the sheath of a large knife discarded near to the scene. I am satisfied that you took that knife and had it available to use if the need arose.

97. Two days after the murder you travelled to Scotland with the gunman, Mohammed Mansaray. I am sure that was no mere coincidence as Mr Mansaray tried to suggest when giving evidence. You checked into a hotel in Glasgow together. I am sure your purpose was to remove yourself to a place far away from the murder in

the hope that you would be able to lie low in Scotland and avoid detection and apprehension. Your plans were thwarted when you and Mansaray were arrested at that hotel three days later on 6 April.

98. You were born on 18 July 2001. You were 22 years and 9 months' old at the time of the murder; you are now 24. You have no previous convictions or cautions recorded against you. That is a factor that I have considered in your favour.

99. Although you were clearly older than most of your co-defendants I have considered and applied what is said in the Youth Guideline about sentencing young adults. I also bear in mind that medical research shows that the brains of young adults are likely still developing up to the age of 25.

100. There is no evidence to suggest that your level of maturity was anything other than commensurate with your chronological age. No submission has been made to the contrary by Mr Reiz.

101. I have read the six character references that have been put forward on your behalf. Whilst those references speak about positive aspects of your character, the impact this can properly have on the sentence I pass today is necessarily limited.

102. I have considered with care everything that Mr Reiz has said on your behalf, including the explanation as to the events and circumstances that led to you become involved with those at Fabain Road.

103. The sentence for murder in your case is imprisonment for life. The shortest minimum term that reflects all the relevant circumstances of your case is **29 years** less the 514 days that you have spent in custody up to this point. The resulting term is **27 years 216 days**.

104. You too must pay the statutory surcharge in the appropriate sum.

105. I order that the knives recovered from the scene and the holster found at Al Kurdi's home be forfeited.

## **Final Remarks**

106. It is apparent that there is some disparity in the length of the minimum terms which I have imposed in this case; that is particularly so in the case of [XY - name redacted]. In my judgment the clear distinction between the minimum term in his case and that in the case of others who are only a year or two older is entirely just and proportionate. It reflects the markedly lower starting point in Schedule 21 for those aged 15 or 16 at the date of offence, and the wider principles of sentencing young offenders in the Youth Guideline.

107. My approach to sentencing in this case generally has been to ensure that any disparity in the minimum term orders which I pass today is merely reflective of the age difference between defendants together with all other factors (including the role each played) bearing on the proper assessment of culpability in each of their cases. In the final analysis I have taken a step back and paused to reflect on whether each sentence is both just and proportionate. I believe that they are.

**HHJ Simon Mayo KC**

**Central Criminal Court**

**5 September 2025**