

THE KING

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C. D.

SENTENCING REMARKS

This case concerns sexual offences against a young girl. She is entitled to the lifelong protection of the provisions of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1992. Accordingly, during her lifetime, no matter may be included in any publication if it is likely to lead members of the public to identify her as a victim of these offences.

1. I have to sentence you for grave crimes, perpetrated by you against a vulnerable young girl. Having deliberately targeted her online, you subjected her to a campaign of sexual abuse and exploitation. You used multiple identities, not only to try to cover your tracks, but also to manipulate and frighten your victim into continued compliance. You progressed from online abuse to contact offending, meeting her in plain sight outside her school and while she was wearing school uniform. You sadistically encouraged her to inflict physical harm upon herself, even supplying her with razor blades. You terrorised, controlled, manipulated and demeaned her. You have destroyed and corrupted her childhood and adolescence. You have caused her severe harm which will be lifelong.
2. You first targeted your victim a year before the period which is covered by the indictment. She was at the time aged 13. You contacted her online, posing as a 16 year old boy, and you persuaded her to share sexual images of herself with you. You then persuaded her to share further images with another account, pretending that this was a different person: it was, of course, you, playing mind games with her. Then you pretended to be the original '16 year old boy' again. Further contact with that persona was curtailed when your wife gained access to that account and put a stop to it. But that didn't deter you. You carried on having contact with your victim through the second persona you had pretended to be. This was cynical and targeted sexualised contact with a 13 year old child, to ensure she continued to send you intimate pictures of herself, for your sexual gratification, and you revelled in it.
3. Your offending took an even more sinister turn after several months, when you contacted her online, pretending to be another male, and threatening her into sharing further images and videos. You instructed her to insert objects into her vagina. I have no doubt that she felt trapped and afraid and unable to do anything but comply with your demands.
4. A few months later, in early 2024, you contacted her from another online account with yet another false persona ('Joey Fitz'). In this guise, you threatened to share previous images with this child's father unless she complied further. This time you compelled her to send videos of her inflicting pain on herself: flicking elastic bands onto her genital area until it was swollen,

and inserting items into her bottom. Your persona 'Joey' then introduced her to another of your false personae: 'Lee', and she was compelled to share yet more images and videos. By the middle of 2024, as 'Joey' you then instructed her to meet 'Mark' (you again) in person.

5. You travelled to this now 14 year old girl's school in your car and you picked her up in broad daylight and while she was wearing her school uniform. You drove her to a secluded place and in your vehicle you subjected her to various demeaning sexual acts (counts 1 to 3). You told her she was doing very well for a 14 year old, demonstrating not only that you were always fully aware of her age, but that you were sexually attracted to a child of that age. You penetrated her mouth with your penis, then her vagina, and then her mouth again. As 'Joey' you had, prior to the meeting, instructed her to video these acts and send them to 'Joey', which she did. Of course, she was actually sending them to you but she thought she was sending them to a man called Joey, of whom you knew she was afraid, because she told you. You, as 'Mark', faked kindness to her in order to ensure she would comply with you in future.
6. A day or so later, you again picked her up in your car from her school and drove to the same location. This time you put your penis in her mouth, you digitally penetrated her vagina, you penetrated her vagina with your penis while she was on all fours, and you again put your penis in her mouth. You ejaculated.
7. You continued to manipulate and play mind games with her: pretending to be at risk yourself from 'Joey' and suggesting future contact should be through 'Lee' another false online persona.
8. You met her again and this time got her to suck your penis while you drove on the motorway. After you had parked the vehicle you again put your penis in her mouth.
9. Another hallmark of your depraved and sadistic behaviour was to encourage her to self-harm and to share the images of the injuries she had inflicted on herself. You even provided her with a razor for the purpose. To encourage a vulnerable young girl to inflict harm on herself for your sexual gratification really does plumb the depths of abhorrent behaviour.
10. The fourth and final meeting with your victim took place about a month later, in July 2024. Your persona 'Lee' messaged her to tell her that he was coming to get her, with several other men in order to have anal sex with her. This terrified her, resulting in a reaction that caused her to be excluded from school. When you then messaged as 'Mark' (the falsely 'kinder' persona) she agreed to meet with you. You collected her from Stockport town centre, when you knew she should be in school, you drove her to a carpark and put your penis in her mouth before penetrating her vagina with your penis.
11. Thankfully, what had been going on came to the attention of her parents and social services and then to the police. Your victim thought she had been in

contact with several men, all with Liverpool accents. They were all you of course. You had used trickery, lies, manipulation, threats and blackmail to satisfy your completely twisted sexual appetite and your desire for control. Your behaviour demonstrates a breathtaking combination of planning, subterfuge and cunning, and a brazen disregard for your victim's welfare and safety.

12. You were arrested after the police traced your vehicle. They found an image of you with your penis in her mouth. You made no comment in interview.
13. The effect upon your victim is far-reaching, profound and likely to be very long-lasting. I have read with care the statement prepared by her complex safeguarding social worker, who expresses that in her ten years of experience in this field, your offending represents one of the worst cases of the sexual exploitation of a child, as she puts it, 'in plain sight', and that the effect upon your victim, and on her family, has been little short of catastrophic. For a year after your arrest, your victim has been deprived access to education or friendships, such was the level of damage to her and to her family. Not only has she experienced suicidal thoughts, behavioural difficulties and low self-worth, she has missed out on the family and school life she should have been able to enjoy as a 14 and 15-year-old. You have not just destroyed her childhood and adolescence, you have destroyed a family. She became a child in Care.
14. You are 42 years old and you have a troubling history in terms of your sexual behaviour. You have regularly used and exploited the services of sex workers, and in late 2021 you were discovered kerb crawling a sex worker, with a lock knife in your car.
15. You have demonstrated in your offending in this case that you have a monstrous sense of sexual entitlement and a sinister desire for control, and you are prepared to go to any lengths to get what you want. You showed your victim no pity and no mercy.
16. You pleaded guilty at the plea and trial preparation hearing and you will receive 25% reduction in your sentence to reflect this. There is little other mitigation: you are not of previous good character, and while I disregard the two offences committed many years ago, the more recent one to which I have already referred, is a troubling one. You have expressed some remorse to the author of the pre-sentence report, but you have also told her that your victim just 'popped up' on your snapchat in the first place and that she 'didn't look underage'. You also deny being sexually attracted to children, particularly girls in their early teens, which is difficult to reconcile with your preparedness to collect a 14 year old girl from school, in her school uniform and take her to a secluded place for sex.
17. I have regard to the sentencing guidelines in respect of all the offences on this indictment, save of course for Count 11, for which there are no guidelines at present. I propose to sentence you in the following way: In respect of the four

meetings where there was sexual contact, (the first represented by Counts 1, 2 and 3; the second by Counts 4, 5, 6 and 7; the third by Count 8 and the fourth by Counts 9 and 10) there will be sentences which are consecutive to each other, having regard to the principle of totality. The sentence will also reflect not only the severely aggravating features in each of the offences, but also the fact that for a lengthy period of time prior to the meetings, you debased and demeaned, groomed and manipulated your victim, and also that you encouraged her to seriously self-harm. The total sentence reflects the overall gravity of all your offending.

18. The sentences for Counts 12-15, and 16-17 will run concurrently, as they reflect the same incidents for which I am sentencing you on the other counts.
19. In respect of Counts 1-10, these are all category 1A offences: penetration occurred, and there was a significant disparity in age. For a single offence, this would mean a starting point of 5 years' imprisonment with a range of 4 to 10. In respect of Counts 1, 2 and 3 (the first meeting), the correct starting point is one of 5 years. The aggravating features though are very significant: sustained grooming and manipulation, severe psychological harm, victim compelled to leave their home and their school, and victim encouraged to self harm. Mitigation is, as I have observed, limited. The correct sentence after trial is thus one of 8 years' imprisonment, reduced to 6 years for your guilty pleas, and then further reduced to take account of the principle of totality. The sentence on those three counts is thus one of 5 years' imprisonment, on each to run concurrently with each other.
20. In respect of Counts 4-7: the same category, aggravating and mitigating features apply (with the addition of ejaculation). The correct sentence after reduction for guilty pleas and totality is one of 5 years' imprisonment, to run concurrently with each other but consecutively to the sentence on Counts 1-3.
21. The same considerations apply in respect of Count 8: a sentence of 5 years, consecutive.
22. And in respect of Counts 9 and 10: 5 years' imprisonment, concurrent on each but consecutive to the other sets of counts. I make clear that I have had regard in each set of counts to the principle of totality.
23. Count 11: there was scarring, a serious effect upon your victim, and against a background of grooming and sexual abuse: the sentence after trial would be 4 years' imprisonment, reduced to 3 years for your guilty plea, to run concurrently.
24. Counts 12-15: 5 years on each, concurrent.
25. Counts 16 and 17: 5 years on each, concurrent.
26. This makes a total sentence of 20 years' imprisonment.
27. Because you have been convicted of specified offences I am required to consider the issue of dangerousness, that is, whether you present a

significant risk of serious harm by committing further specified offences. I am satisfied that you do present such a risk, because of the following factors: the author of the pre-sentence report concludes that you present a high risk of serious harm to the public, particularly vulnerable girls and women. You deployed devious methods to target your victim over a considerable period, using manipulation, false kindness, threats, blackmail and subterfuge to continue sexually exploiting her. You demonstrated again and again that you were prepared to take great risks of being discovered, collecting your victim from outside her school premises, during daylight hours, and sexually exploiting her in your vehicle while parked in a secluded but nonetheless public place.

28. I have considered whether a standard determinate sentence is appropriate. If imposing such a sentence the least period of imprisonment I could have imposed in all the circumstances (including credit for your guilty pleas) would, as you know, have been one of 20 years' imprisonment.
29. Such a sentence would not fully address the risk you represent and I do consider it necessary to impose an extended sentence in order to protect the public in the future.
30. The extended sentence is made up of two parts: a custodial period, which will be no longer than the 20 year period I mentioned, and an extended licence period of 5 years, making an extended sentence of 25 years' duration in total.
31. You will serve two-thirds of the custodial period (that is, a little over 13 years) in prison before the Parole Board will consider whether it is safe to release you, and if so, on what terms. Once released, you will serve on licence any part of the custodial period which remains, and you will then be subject to an extended licence period of 5 years. If, when you are subject to licence, you commit another offence or fail to comply with the terms of your release, you are liable to be recalled to custody and may serve the entire sentence in custody.
32. The days you have spent on remand in custody will automatically count towards the custodial term of your sentence.
33. The total sentence is therefore 25 years, of which the custodial portion is 20 years, with a 5 year extended licence period.
34. Given the fact that I have imposed an extended sentence, I do not consider it necessary to impose a Sexual Harm Prevention Order, as your future risk will in any event be managed very carefully by the Parole Board.
35. The notification requirements apply, for life.
36. There will be a restraining order for an indefinite period, which is appropriate in the circumstances of this case.
37. If the statutory surcharge applies in this case, the amount can be calculated and imposed, and I make a collection order.

HILARY MANLEY

CIRCUIT JUDGE

20th October 2025.