

IN THE CROWN COURT SITTING AT WOOLWICH

BETWEEN:

THE CROWN

-v-

CHAO XU

SENTENCING REMARKS

OF

HIS HONOUR JUDGE GROUT

The victims in this case are entitled to the lifelong protection of the provisions of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1992. Accordingly, during their lifetime, no matter may be included in any publication if it is likely to lead members of the public to identify the victims as the victims of these offences. In the remarks which follow the names of the victims, where they are known, have been anonymised.

Introduction

1. Chao Xu, you are 33 years old, and I must sentence you in relation to 24 separate offences relating to the rape and sexual assault of a number of different women during the period 2021 – 2025. You pleaded guilty to all these matters at your Plea and Trial

Preparation Hearing on 29 August 2025 having indicated not guilty pleas in the magistrates' court.

Facts of the Offending

2. Some of the women who you have committed serious offences against have been identified by the police, some have not.
3. The three women who have been identified by the police, and who have provided statements in these proceedings, are Miss AB, Miss CD and Miss EF. Insofar as how those three women came to know you is concerned, Miss AB met you at an event organised by her university and became friendly with you thereafter, regarding you as a “big brother” type figure. The counts on the indictment which relate to the offending committed against her, namely counts 1 – 11 and count 13, took place when she visited your flat in Greenwich for the first time on 31 May 2025 in order to attend a party.
4. Miss CD [redacted]. She describes her previous relationship with you as regarding you like a brother and that you were very generous with your money. The offending committed against her is reflected by counts 14 – 16.
5. Miss EF [redacted] and had known you for around a year since April 2024. The offending against her is reflected by count 17.
6. Turning, then, to how it is that you came to the attention of the police, on 1 June 2025 Miss AB contacted the police to inform them that she had been assaulted by you. At the time of doing so, however, she was unaware of the extent of the offending against her and, indeed, other women.
7. Miss AB first met you at a presentation event that was being hosted by her university. You were working at the event as you had a company called UK Talent Online and you worked as a head-hunter. Miss AB was a participant at the event.

8. She then bumped into you again later that day on Waterloo Bridge when you were with several friends of hers. One of the friends was going with you to your office in order to socialise and Miss AB joined you. You proceeded to give career advice to both women. In her video interview account to police, Miss AB said that she was impressed by you as you had given her and her friend your time and advice without charge.
9. Following that initial encounter, you and Miss AB were in regular contact. You both discovered that you were from the same town in China, and it seemed like you had a lot in common. In her video interview, Miss AB describes you as being “almost like a big brother”. The two of you arranged to get together by combining two separate groups of friends and it was decided that you would all meet and have a meal together at your flat in Greenwich on 31 May 2025. Miss AB attended with several close friends. You had invited your two flatmates and a friend of theirs, along with two of your colleagues. All of your guests were female. This was the first time that Miss AB had visited your flat.
10. The food consisted of a barbeque, and you made cocktails that contained vodka and other ingredients. Miss AB thinks she had three or four glasses of this. You also gave her another drink that had similar ingredients, but you told her that it also contained “medicinal alcohol” which she understood to be Chinese herbal medicines. Miss AB had one glass of this. She says that within 20-30 minutes of having this drink she felt dizzy and wanted to take a rest. Her friend, who also attended the party, also had some of this drink and described immediately having a very dry mouth and it being like highly concentrated alcohol, almost like hand sanitizer.
11. [redacted]
12. Miss AB’s memory of what happened in the room is patchy, but she recalls feeling dizzy and very thirsty and being unable to open her eyes. Miss CD states that she came to check on Miss AB a couple of times and, both times, she wouldn’t wake up. At one point, she even tried to open Miss AB’s mouth to give her some water, but she couldn’t do so.

13. Miss AB remembers you coming into the room twice. She has memories of what happened when you were in the room on those two occasions but isn't sure of what happened on which occasion.
14. She remembers you pulling back the cover that was over her and pulling up her dress and trying to take off her tights and her underwear. She felt dizzy and had no strength, but she tried to pull her dress back down.
15. She also remembers you putting your fingers inside her vagina and then also using your fingers to penetrate her anus. She had no strength to fight you off. She told police in her interview that she felt like she had lost control of her body, and she could not open her eyes. She was lying flat on her back, and she could feel that you were trying to move her onto her side.
16. She thinks that you became aware that she was conscious of what you were doing and so you left and told her that you would come back with some water.
17. You returned and brought her something to drink but it wasn't water. Miss AB describes it as being extremely sweet. She told the police that she wondered if you had used something sweet to cover up the taste of whatever you had put into the drink. You then manoeuvred her so that she was more upright and you used a dropper to feed the drink to her. She tried to spit some of it out.
18. You then tried to push up her dress at another point. Miss AB also remembers your hand underneath her bra and you grabbing her breasts with some force so that it was painful for her.
19. She tried to open her eyes, but it was a struggle. She managed to open them and could see that you were standing at the foot of the bed, holding a mobile telephone towards her, and that you were pushing up her dress. She explained to the police in her interview that she suspected that you had taken photographs or videos of her. She cannot remember what happened after this.

20. When she woke up the next day, Miss AB was struggling to open her eyes and felt like she had little strength in her muscles. She thought that the full extent of the sexual assault was the penetration of her vagina and anus by your fingers, although she could feel pain and discomfort in her vagina. Her greatest worry was whether you had photographed or recorded her in some way. She found Miss CD, [redacted] asleep on the sofa and she told her what had happened. By this time, it was around 1pm. The two of them went to you to confront you about what had happened. They asked you whether you had touched Miss AB and whether you had recorded her in some way. You responded that you had had too much to drink and that you were not sure if you had touched her, but that you might have. You said the same thing in response to whether you had taken any photographs or videos. They then asked if they could look at your phone so that they could delete anything on there, but you refused. Miss CD suggested that she could look at it alone, but you again refused. Miss CD even called your girlfriend to try and get her to convince you to delete the photographs, but you still refused. It was at this point that they then told you that if you did not hand over your phone, they would call the police. You still refused and so they called the police.
21. In due course, officers arrived at your address. During this time, Miss AB was still feeling sleepy, and Miss CD went to get her some water. Miss AB says that whilst this was happening you may have deleted things from your phone.
22. Shortly before 3pm, you were arrested on suspicion of assault by penetration, and your mobile telephone was seized. You were later further arrested on suspicion of rape and spiking Miss AB's drink. You responded that "wine is in the kitchen". You were then taken to Lewisham Police Station.
23. The police officers tried to obtain an account from Miss AB and noticed that she was drowsy and seemed to have little energy. Nevertheless, she provided them with her account of what had happened.
24. After doing so, she fell asleep whilst officers were waiting for an ambulance to arrive to assess her. Upon the arrival of the paramedics, Miss AB was assessed as having low blood pressure and being severely dehydrated. She was then taken to Lewisham Hospital where urine samples were taken from her. They were later analysed by a

forensic scientist. Traces of Scopolamine and low traces of GHB were found. Scopolamine is a muscle relaxant, which has known side effects such as drowsiness, dizziness and dry mouth. It should not be consumed with alcohol. GHB is commonly known as a “date rape” drug. It is a sedative and sleep-inducing agent which is known to cause drowsiness, dizziness, sedation, confusion, amnesia and disorientation. It is that evidence which gives rise to count 13- administering a substance with intent.

25. It was as a result of the examination of your mobile telephone that the extent of your criminality came to light. As far as the offending against Miss AB is concerned, there were 93 photographs and 30 videos that you had recorded on 1 June 2025. The first video was recorded at 1:55am on 1 June and you appear to have continued making the videos until around 6:30am. In all the images (both still and moving), Miss AB is unconscious and does not respond in any way to what is being done to her by you.
26. One of the videos is 7 seconds long and shows your exposed penis. You pull up both of Miss AB’s legs, revealing that both her underwear and tights are pulled down. You then penetrate her vagina with your penis. It is this which gives rise to count 1- rape.
27. Another video lasts 28 seconds and shows you holding Miss AB in a similar position with her tights and underwear pulled down. Again, you penetrate her vagina with your penis. It is this which gives rise to count 2- rape.
28. Other videos showing you raping Miss AB were also located, one of which was 34 seconds long and the other 47 seconds long. Both are similar in nature to the other videos I have mentioned and give rise to counts 3 and 4 on the indictment- again both offences of rape.
29. Another video shows Miss AB lying on her back with her vagina exposed due to her knickers and tights having been pulled down. You use your hand to pull her vagina open and then you insert your fingers. This gives rise to count 5- assault by penetration.
30. In a further video, you pull down Miss AB’s underwear and tights so that her vagina is exposed. You use your hand to pull her vagina open and then penetrate it with your

fingers. This gives rise to count 6- assault by penetration. There are other videos of a similar nature.

31. A different video, which lasts for 15 seconds, shows Miss AB lying face down on the bed with her tights and knickers pulled down to show her buttocks. The camera zooms in on her, and you then use your fingers to penetrate her anus. This gives rise to count 7- assault by penetration. Another video shows similar activity which gives rise to count 8- again an offence of assault by penetration.
32. In two of the videos, you place your hands between Miss AB's buttocks and use your fingers to part them and pull down her tights and underwear and use your hand to open her vagina and also touch her nipple and breasts. This offending gives rise to counts 9 and 10- sexual assault.
33. In one of three other videos you pull aside Miss AB's clothing so that her breast is revealed and you then twist her nipple. In another, you behave similarly and also touch her vagina over her clothing and in the third, you pull up her clothing to expose her breast and vagina. This behaviour gives rise to count 11- multiple instances of sexual assault.

The Search of the Defendant's Flat

34. On 5 and 6 June 2025, your flat was searched by police officers. In your bedroom, the following items were seized:
 - (a) Several bottles of EFbricant (exhibits SER/01 and SER/02)
 - (b) A covert camera disguised as an air freshener (exhibit SER/06)
 - (c) A TAPO camera (exhibit SER/10)
 - (d) A plastic syringe without a needle or cap present (exhibit CEL/04). Traces of Medetomidine (not a controlled drug) were found.
 - (e) An open box of plastic disposable syringes (exhibit SER/22)

- (f) A covert camera disguised as a digital clock (exhibit SER/48)
- (g) A USB camera, placed on some shelving in the bedroom (exhibit SER/49)
- (h) A packet of sanitary pads (exhibit SER/50), which upon later examination was found to contain a concealed camera
- (i) A clear, plastic dropper bottle which held a viscous oily orange liquid (did not contain any drugs) (exhibit SER/55).

35. From the bathroom, police seized a covert camera which had been disguised as a speaker (exhibit SER/09).

36. It is the positioning of the covert cameras which gives rise to count 12- voyeurism.

Additional Offending

37. Horrendous though the totality of your offending against Miss AB undoubtedly is, that is nowhere near the extent of your criminality. Videos were found on your mobile telephone which covered a period of just over three years (from February 2022, through to June 2025). These videos revealed the sexual abuse of at least 13 additional women- two who are known to the police and 11 who remain unknown. The offences committed against these women include assault by penetration of both the vagina and anus, sexual assault, voyeurism as well as the offence commonly known as “upskirting”. The offending occurred at your own flat, your place of work and at train stations.

38. One of the known women was [redacted] Miss CD. Police recovered 40 videos and 76 images of Miss CD all relating to 13 October 2024. She appears to be unconscious in all of the images. The images begin with her dressed in her pyjamas. They then show your hand pulling aside her pyjama bottoms so that her vagina is shown. She is wearing a sanitary pad. The images then show you using your hands to pull apart her vagina and take a close-up image of it. A video then shows you penetrating Miss CD’s vagina with your finger. This offending gives rise to count 14- assault by penetration.

39. A video then shows you moving her pyjama bottoms to the side and parting her buttocks. You then penetrate her anus with your fingers- this gives rise to count 15- assault by penetration.
40. Another of the videos shows Miss CD dressed in stockings indicating that you had dressed her up for the images.
41. In her interview with the police, Miss CD said that the last time she had had some of a special cocktail that you would often make was in October 2024. She had been out with you and two others, and you had all gone to a Chinese restaurant together and then all headed back to the flat. [redacted]. You all played board games, and it was at this point that she had some of the special drink that you had prepared. She told police that after drinking this she had little memory of what happened including going to bed but recalls that she slept for a long time. The next morning, she felt very dizzy and couldn't move properly. This continued for almost all the following day and into the day after, to the extent that she took that day off work. You had told her that you had looked after her and fed her with a lot of water. It is the Crown's case that, in fact, you took this opportunity to spike Miss CD's drink which then enabled you to sexually assault her whilst simultaneously recording what you were doing. It is this which gives rise to count 16- administering a substance with intent.
42. The other known woman is Miss EF. On your phone police found footage, lasting just over 26 minutes, that appears to have been recorded on a camera concealed in the bathroom and pointed in the direction of the shower cubicle. It captures Miss EF removing her clothes and taking a shower. It is this which gives rise to count 17- voyeurism.
43. Insofar as the unknown women are concerned, 37 still images and 2 videos were found by police relating to 13 February 2022. This is the first offence, chronologically, which police have evidence of. These photographs and videos show the woman lying down and unconscious. In the images, she is wearing a pair of knickers and a T-shirt which is arranged so that her left breast is revealed. The images show you pulling down her knickers and one of the video recordings shows you penetrating her vagina with your finger many times and also peeling off a latex nipple cover from her breast which can

be seen. It is apparent from the photographs that you move her around as some of the images show the woman lying face down, with her knickers having been pulled down and you pulling apart her anus to take photographs of it. In some of these photographs, the woman is wearing a sanitary pad and is menstruating. In some of the photographs, blood can be seen around your fingernails. It is this which gives rise to count 19- assault by penetration.

44. 53 videos and 141 images of another unknown woman relate to 15 February 2022. They appear to have been taken at a previous flat of yours. Again, the woman is unconscious and is lying down on a bed. She is initially fully clothed but there are a series of images where her clothing has been moved to reveal her vagina and anus. Your hands can be seen in some of the images parting her vagina and anus so that you can photograph them more closely. There are images which show you penetrating her vagina with your fingers. This gives rise to count 20- assault by penetration.
45. Police also recovered three videos which were clearly recorded on a camera concealed in the bathroom at your previous address during the period 23 April 2023 – 4 November 2023. They showed three different women urinating and using the shower. This gives rise to count 24- voyeurism.
46. An additional three recordings from a camera concealed within your bathroom, this time at the Greenwich flat during the period 7 July 2024 – 28 January 2025, showed another three women urinating and using the shower. This gives rise to count 23- voyeurism.
47. Police found 7 videos and 14 images of another unknown woman relating to 27 October 2024. In the images, this woman is lying on a bed, wearing only knickers. In some of the images, she is wearing a sanitary pad. You are shown to move the woman's knickers so that the top of her vagina is shown. This gives rise to count 22- sexual assault.
48. Finally, police recovered a total of 24 videos which were taken at your office and at London Bridge Underground Station. One of the videos recorded at your office involves you sitting opposite a female at work and placing your mobile telephone underneath the desk so that you can film up her skirt and between her legs. This gives rise to count 25- operating equipment beneath the clothing of another without consent.

49. Another video, recorded at London Bridge Underground Station, involves you loitering on the station concourse, waiting to identify a woman. You then follow a female onto an escalator and place the camera of your telephone, so it goes underneath the skirt of the female in front of you. The recording captures her underwear and buttocks. This gives rise to count 26- again, operating equipment beneath the clothing of another without consent.

Defendant's Interviews

50. You were interviewed by the police, in the presence of an interpreter and a solicitor, on 1 June 2025. You declined to answer questions but did provide a prepared statement in which you denied the allegations made by Miss AB.

Victim Personal Statements

51. Miss AB, Miss CD and Miss EF have all provided Victim Personal Statements which were read out in full during the hearing. In summary, Miss AB says that she does not think she will ever be the same person again as a result of what you have done to her. She is afraid that she will never be able to forget what you did to her and how you stole the person she was. She says that she is horrified as a result of what you did to her. She trusted you as a fellow countryman from China and thought that you were trying to help and advise her. She explains how she also carries the burden of having introduced you to other women who you may have assaulted. She says that she has not been able to share details of what you did to her with family members as she is fearful of the stigma which may attach to her. She experiences anxiety, regular headaches and sleeplessness. She has had to see a doctor and is on medication. She says that every day is a struggle. She feels miserable and hopeless. She is scared to go to events and is fearful that the videos you took of her may one day surface online. She has fears about whether she will be able to have a proper relationship in the future given the anxiety she now lives with.

52. In her victim personal statement Miss CD says that, following your arrest, she was initially incredibly fearful of repercussions but is now emotionally numb. Her emotions, she says, have ranged from fear and anxiety to periods of emptiness and helplessness. [redacted] but sometimes she wakes having had nightmares and feelings of being unsafe. She has distanced herself from people who remind her of you, including her own friends. She has found it hard to concentrate at work which has resulted in difficulties between her and her employer.

53. Miss EF says that when she first learned about what you had done, she felt shocked and terrified. She was unable to work and felt constantly anxious and scared. She could not sleep at night and says that she has been left with a lasting fear. She has found it difficult to trust people, particularly men. She describes being overwhelmed with pain and nausea. She remains very afraid of you and says that you have become a shadow in her heart.

Approach to Sentencing

54. In sentencing you I have had regard to the relevant offence specific guidelines as well as the guidelines on the imposition of community and custodial sentences, credit for guilty pleas, and totality. Given the nature and extent of your offending, the principle of totality is particularly important in your case. I must arrive at an overall sentence which is just and proportionate and which reflects all of the offending behaviour with reference to overall harm and culpability, together with the aggravating and mitigating factors relating to the offences as well as those personal to you.

55. In order to keep the sentencing exercise as simple as possible and easy to understand, I intend to sentence principally by reference to count 1 on the indictment but in so doing I will take into account the totality of your offending.

56. Count 1 is an offence of rape committed against Miss AB on 1 June 2025. The maximum sentence for rape is life imprisonment. As the guideline makes clear, offences

may be of such severity, for example involving a campaign of rape, that sentences of 20 years and above may be appropriate.

57. Insofar as harm is concerned, I find that this falls into category 2. It is clear from the victim personal statement of Miss AB that she has suffered severe psychological harm as a result of what you did to her. Moreover, she was particularly vulnerable given that she was unconscious at the time of the rape. Culpability falls into category A. That is because there was evidently a significant degree of planning in what you did, alcohol and drugs were used in order to commit the offence, and you recorded it.
58. A single 2A offence has a starting point of 10 years' custody with a range of 9 – 13 years' custody. Of course, you have committed multiple offences against Miss AB. Albeit in the course of one day, you raped her four times and penetrated both her vagina and her anus with your fingers on multiple occasions. You also touched her vagina and her breasts. You filmed all of this and, for the most part, Miss AB was unconscious although she was aware of some of what you were doing to her as I have already explained. The multiple offending against Miss AB severely aggravates the seriousness of it.
59. That of course is not the end of the matter as Miss AB was only one of a number of victims. There is next the offending against Miss CD to consider. The most serious offences are reflected by counts 14 and 15- assault by penetration. Again, the maximum sentence for these offences is life imprisonment. I find that harm falls into category 2. Like Miss AB, Miss CD was particularly vulnerable in light of the fact that she was unconscious whilst you assaulted her. I find that your culpability falls into category A as, again, there was evidently a significant degree of planning, alcohol and drugs were used to facilitate the offence, and there was recording of it.
60. A single 2A offence has a starting point of 8 years' custody with a range of 5 – 13 years' custody. Two serious assaults were carried out against Miss CD, one involving penetration of her vagina, the other involving penetration of her anus, both committed whilst she was unconscious and both of which were recorded.
61. Insofar as the offending against Miss EF is concerned, the offence of voyeurism has a maximum sentence of 2 years' custody. Raised harm is present [redacted]. Raised

culpability is present because there was a significant degree of planning and there was the recording of images. The starting point is 26 weeks' custody with a range of 12 weeks to 18 months' custody.

62. There is then the multiple offending against the unknown women to consider. The most serious of these are counts 19 and 20 which are both offences of assault by penetration relating, as the incidents do, to two separate women. In each case harm falls into category 2 as both women were particularly vulnerable on account of being unconscious whilst you assaulted them. Culpability falls into category A as I am satisfied that there was a significant degree of planning, alcohol and/or drugs would have been used in order to facilitate the offending, and the offending was recorded. A single offence has a starting point of 8 years' custody with a range of 5 – 13 years' custody. Here there are two such offences committed against two different women. I must also, of course, take into account the fact that multiple other women were the victims of assaults and acts of voyeurism.
63. Over and above the multiple incidents of offending, no factors which aggravate the offending further have been identified that have not already been taken into account when assessing your culpability and the harm that you have caused.
64. Insofar as factors which reduce the seriousness of the offending are concerned, along with your personal mitigation, I have listened very carefully to everything that your advocate has helpfully said on your behalf today and I have read with equal care the content of the pre-sentence report helpfully prepared by the probation service. I have also read the two character references filed on your behalf as well as the letter sent to me by your parents. I take on board, in particular, the fact that you have no previous convictions and that you have expressed remorse for what you have done as well as having shown some insight into the nature and seriousness of your offending. I have noted everything that has been said about your personal circumstances and that there have been no reported incidents whilst you have been in custody. I also note how highly your friends and parents speak of you.
65. The reality, however, is that the nature and extent of your offending far outweighs what mitigation you have available to you. Had I been minded to impose a determine sentence, the global sentence that I would have imposed following a trial would have

been one of 28 years' custody. I acknowledge that such a sentence is significantly outside the category range for a single offence of rape, but it seems to me that that is perfectly justified where, as here, there are multiple victims and, in some cases, multiple serious offending committed against the same victims.

66. In fairness to you, however, you did plead guilty to all of these matters at your Plea and Trial Preparation Hearing. That has spared certainly the known victims from having to come to court to answer questions at trial. Applying the relevant guideline, you are entitled to a 25% reduction which reduces the period of 28 years to 21 years.

67. That is not the end of the matter as I am required to go on to consider the issue of dangerousness. In considering that issue, I have taken into account, in particular, all that I have heard and read about the nature and circumstances of your offending, as well as everything that I have heard and read about you which, as I have indicated, includes the fact that you have not been convicted of any criminal offences before now. I have noted the observations of the probation service in relation to the risk you are said to pose towards women.

68. Mr Xu, I have reached what I consider to be the inevitable conclusion that you are an incredibly dangerous man. Over a period of three years, you committed serious sexual offences against more than a dozen different women. Your behaviour was calculated and planned, evidenced by the covert recording systems you had set up in your flats and the fact that you would incapacitate a number of your victims by drugging them. You betrayed the trust of a number of women whom you befriended in the most appalling ways imaginable. The fact that you recorded and retained the rapes and sexual assaults of women on your mobile phone further demonstrates the danger you pose. I am driven to the conclusion that you took great enjoyment out of what you did to these victims. What your offending behaviour demonstrates is that you are a sexual predator who will gain the trust and confidence of women before raping and sexually abusing them. I have no doubt at all that you pose a high risk of sexual and psychological harm to any woman who is unfortunate enough to be in your company.

69. So serious is this offending that, for the reasons I have just set out, I am not satisfied that the risk you pose can be met either by a determinate sentence or an extended determinate sentence. Accordingly, as I am satisfied that there is a significant risk to

members of the public of serious harm occasioned by the commission by you of further specified offences and I am satisfied that your offending is so serious that a sentence of life imprisonment is required, that is the sentence which I impose.

70. As to the minimum term which you must serve, if I had been sentencing you to a determinate sentence, for the reasons I have already given, and taking into account credit for your pleas of guilty, the overall sentence that I would have passed would have been one of 21 years' custody. Because you would have served up to two-thirds of that sentence in custody, I fix the minimum term which you will serve at two-thirds of 21 years: that is 14 years. Finally, I reduce that minimum term of 14 years by the number of days which you have spent on remand in custody, namely 165 days. This means that the minimum term which you will serve before the Parole Board may consider your possible release is one of 13 years and 200 days.

71. It is very important that you and everyone concerned with this case should understand what this means. The minimum term is not a fixed term after which you will automatically be released but is the term that must be served before the Parole Board can undertake their first review of the case. They will review the risk that you then present and will consider whether you can properly be released from custody subject to licence at that stage and, if so, on what terms.

72. If and when you are released, you will be subject to licence, and this will remain the case for the rest of your life. If, for any reason, your licence is revoked, you will be recalled to prison to continue to serve your life sentence in custody. It follows that, unless and until the Parole Board consider that your release is appropriate, you will remain in custody.

73. Accordingly, the sentence is as follows:

Count 1- rape- life imprisonment with a minimum term of 13 years and 200 days.

I impose like sentences, to run concurrently, on counts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 19 and 20 which are all offences of either rape or assault by penetration.

On counts 13 and 16 (offences of administering a substance with intent) I impose concurrent sentences of 4 years' custody.

On counts 9, 10, 11 and 22 (offences of sexual assault) I impose concurrent sentences of 3 years' custody.

On counts 12, 17, 23, 24, 25 and 26 (offences of voyeurism and operating equipment beneath the clothing of another without consent) I impose concurrent sentences of 6 months' custody.

I order counts 18 and 21 to lie on the court file with a direction that they are not to be proceed with without the leave of this court or the Court of Appeal.

Ancillary Matters

Liability to Deportation

74. Mr Xu because you are a foreign national, and since I have imposed a qualifying sentence, if, at some point after you have served the minimum term I have imposed, you are released into the community, you will be liable in principle to automatic deportation to your country of origin which is China. Ultimately, matters relating to deportation will be for the Home Office to consider in due course and I say no more about it.

Statutory Notification

75. I am required to certify, and do, that because of the sexual offences of which you have been convicted and sentenced you must, for the rest of your life, keep the police informed at all times of your personal particulars, the address at which you are living and any alteration in the name you are using. You will be given full details of these requirements on a form in due course.

Sexual Harm Prevention Order

76. In light of the sentence I have imposed, I am not satisfied that it is necessary to impose a Sexual Harm Prevention Order in this case and so I decline to do so.

Forfeiture

77. I order forfeiture of the items seized by the police as part of their investigation. A list of those items has been provided by the Crown. I do not order destruction at this stage because I am told that the police investigation into the scope of your offending continues.

Statutory Surcharge

78. Finally, I impose the statutory surcharge in the sum of £228.

HHJ Grout
14 November 2025