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JUDICIARY OF ENGLAND AND WALES

IN THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

THE KING

-v-

DIHAN RAHMAN

SENTENCING REMARKS OF HHJ SIMON MAYO KC

6 May 2026

Introduction

1. Dihan Rahman, you are now 19 years old. Much of the offending for which I am sentencing you today occurred when you were 17. The law recognises that children and young people do not think, make decisions, or regulate their emotions in the same way as fully mature adults. I am therefore required to sentence you by reference to your age and level of maturity at the time of the offences, giving proper weight to rehabilitation and personal development, and to whether there is a realistic prospect that you can change.
2. You have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. I also take into account evidence of emotional immaturity, social isolation, and difficulties in forming and maintaining appropriate relationships. These factors help explain how some of your behaviour developed. They do not, however, excuse what you did.
3. This is not a case of a single lapse or a moment of poor judgment. You are before the court for repeated offending across several serious categories, some of which

became more serious over time. Much of the behaviour was planned, concealed, and persistent. It occurred over a prolonged period and, significantly, it continued even after the police became involved and you were subject to bail conditions.

4. Your age and neurodevelopmental condition are central considerations throughout these remarks. They require me to look not only at what you have done, but at what you might realistically become, while ensuring that the seriousness of this offending, the fear it caused, and the risks it presents are properly marked by punishment, deterrence and public protection.
5. Despite your age and neurodivergence, the seriousness of the offending means that only immediate custodial sentences can properly reflect overall criminality. I will explain the sentences imposed for each offence later in these remarks.
6. The sentence I impose today will mean that you will remain in custody for some time to come and that when you are released you will remain under supervision and licence for a number of years.

How Age and Neurodevelopment Affect This Sentence

7. In sentencing you I have had careful regard to the Sentencing Council guideline *Sentencing Children and Young People*. That guideline requires sentence to be driven by age at the time of offending and recognises that children and young people are generally less culpable than adults, even for serious offences, because of developmental immaturity, susceptibility to influence and reduced ability to foresee consequences.
8. I have also considered and applied the guideline *Sentencing Offenders with Mental Disorders, Developmental Disorders, or Neurological Impairments*.
9. I have therefore taken an individualised approach, assessing culpability and sentence length by reference to your age, maturity, and neurodevelopmental condition, while ensuring that the seriousness of this offending is properly marked.
10. Before turning to the individual offences, I should explain clearly how your age and autism spectrum disorder operate in this sentencing exercise.

11. Those factors affect sentence in three distinct ways:

- a. First, they may be relevant to culpability, because developmental immaturity and neurodivergence can, in some cases, impair judgment, foresight, emotional regulation, and appreciation of consequences.
- b. Secondly, they have relevance at the totality stage, when the court must stand back and consider the overall length and structure of the sentence, and whether it is proportionate and no longer than necessary, having regard to realistic prospects of change.
- c. Thirdly, they are relevant to the purposes of sentence, requiring greater emphasis on rehabilitation where it is realistically achievable, even in serious cases.

12. I will apply this approach consistently throughout the remainder of these remarks and will not repeat it within each offence category.

Overview of offences

13. You appear today to be sentenced for three distinct groups of offences, namely:

- a. three terrorism offences;
- b. three offences of stalking causing serious alarm or distress; and
- c. three offences of making indecent images of children.

14. Each of those groups of offences engages a different sentencing guideline and raises distinct considerations. I address each in turn before standing back to consider totality.

Mindset and ideological material

15. Before turning to the individual offence groups, I must address the ideological and mindset material found in your possession, because it provides important context

relevant to culpability, motivation, and future risk across more than one category of offending.

16. In assessing culpability and risk, I take into account the significant volume and nature of mindset material found on your devices. This included right-wing extremist material, material supportive of ISIS and other Islamist extremist groups, and incel-related misogynistic material advocating or glorifying extreme violence against women.

17. Although these ideologies differ in origin, they share common features including grievance-based hostility, dehumanisation of others, and endorsement of violence as justified or necessary. They therefore provide relevant contextual background to your offending.

18. Your engagement with extremist ideology was not merely passive. You held a trusted administrative role within an encrypted Telegram group known as the Sturmjäger Division, a right-wing extremist network. That role evidences sustained engagement and responsibility rather than fleeting curiosity.

19. The misogynistic and incel-related material is of particular relevance to the stalking offences. It included graphic depictions of violence against women and content relating to real-world killings by stalkers. That material assists in explaining the persistent, retaliatory, and controlling nature of your conduct when attention was not welcome or reciprocated.

20. I emphasise that I do not sentence you for your beliefs or thoughts. I rely on this material for three limited purposes only:

- a. to illuminate culpability where it demonstrates persistence or planning;
- b. to explain motivation and the impact on victims; and,
- c. to inform the assessment of future risk and public protection.

21. I take full account of your youth and autism spectrum disorder when assessing how such beliefs developed. Those matters explain to an extent your vulnerability to extreme material.

Terrorism offences

Counts 10, 11 and 12 – possession of documents or records for terrorist purposes.

22. On 15 March 2024 you were in possession of three extremist publications.
23. Count 10 concerns a video entitled "*PVC Pipebomb Tutorial*". Although crudely presented, the expert evidence establishes that the instructions were capable of being followed to produce a functional incendiary device, with an obvious risk of serious damage to property and injury to others.
24. Count 11 concerns a 14-minute video entitled "*How to make a bomb in your mum's kitchen*", demonstrating the manufacture of triacetone triperoxide ("TATP") using household items. TATP is an extremely volatile and sensitive primary high explosive. Anyone attempting to follow those instructions would face an inherently high risk of serious injury or death.
25. Count 12 concerns a document entitled "*The Terrorist's Handbook*", a substantial manual containing detailed instructions for manufacturing explosives, detonators and improvised explosive devices. It has no realistic benign use.
26. You were also in possession of three additional terrorist publications (those reflected in Counts 13, 14, and 15). When you entered guilty pleas to the three offences in Counts 10 to 12, it was on the basis that possession of those additional terrorist publications in Counts 13 to 15 would be treated by the court as part of the factual background relevant to the assessment of the extent of your terrorism related offending.
27. The materials in Counts 10 to 15 were not encountered accidentally or fleetingly. They were deliberately downloaded, saved to removable storage, encrypted using specialist software, and later deleted using secure deletion techniques. That behaviour evidences technical competence, planning and conscious concealment.
28. At the same time, you were an administrator of an encrypted Telegram group known as the *Sturmjäger Division*, a right-wing extremist organisation. Your role included

vetting and admitting new members, placing you in a position of trust within that extremist group.

29. Applying the guideline, I assess culpability as **Category B**. The materials you possessed were of a kind likely to be useful for terrorist purposes, and you had relevant terrorist connections. In line with the decision of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division in *R v Niinemae* [2025] EWCA Crim 984, although close temporal proximity is not a requirement, in your case the possession of the materials and your extremist involvement occurred at the same time.
30. I assess harm as **Category 2**. The materials provided instruction for specific terrorist activity and carried an obvious risk of very serious harm if followed. I do not sentence based on Category 1 harm because there was no evidence of imminence or operational planning beyond possession. The seriousness nonetheless remains substantial. I therefore sentence based on **Category 2B**, with a starting point of 4 years' custody and a category range between 3 and 5 years' custody.
31. Aggravating features include prolonged possession, sophisticated concealment, and the existence of other terrorist material beyond that which you are to be sentenced for today. These features should be marked by an upward adjustment from the starting point.
32. Mitigation includes your youth, your lack of previous convictions and your diagnosed neurodivergence. You are also entitled to credit, albeit limited in extent, for your guilty pleas which were entered after the trial had started.
33. Based on everything that I have read, including the PSR and the psychological assessment report of Dr Sara Northey (updated on 1 May 2026), your neurodivergence does not substantially reduce culpability for these offences. Their structured, deliberate and concealed nature is inconsistent with impulsivity or momentary dysregulation.
34. Although I have concluded that autism spectrum disorder does not substantially reduce culpability for the purposes of guideline categorisation, it remains relevant when I consider totality and proportionality.

Stalking offences

Counts 2, 3 and 4 – stalking causing serious alarm or distress.

35. Between December 2023 and November 2024, you engaged in a sustained and escalating campaign of stalking against two teenage young women known to you through school and the Army Cadets, and later against their teacher, who intervened appropriately to safeguard them. To respect her wishes for privacy I shall refer to their teacher simply as “Ms A” in these sentencing remarks.
36. Your conduct was persistent, calculated and highly intrusive. It included repeated unwanted and aggressive messaging; the use of multiple online accounts to evade blocking and breach of bail conditions; impersonation to deceive one victim into renewed contact; obtaining information about victims through cadets; covert photography at school; threats to disrupt a school prom; and deliberate breaches of an exclusion zone while on bail.
37. Your devices also contained imagery of you in military clothing making a Nazi salute, holding a noose and displaying extremist, misogynistic and violent symbols. Those images materially increased the fear caused.
38. When Ms A intervened to protect her pupils, you redirected your conduct towards her. You sent baseless complaints to schools, made malicious professional complaints, and published detailed “doxing” material online containing personal data relating to her and the young women. This was a deliberate attempt to intimidate and undermine a teacher for doing her job in seeking to protect those in her care.
39. The impact of your stalking was severe and enduring. The two young women lived in constant fear, altered daily routines, withdrew socially and restricted online activity. Their education suffered; a school prom was relocated twice with additional security, and one of the young women ultimately changed colleges. Both continue to experience anxiety and loss of confidence.
40. No sentence I can pass will remove the anxiety, fear, and psychological harm which you caused your victims.

41. Ms A experienced a different but equally serious form of harm. For a period, she could not move freely in the course of her professional duties. She suffered ongoing stress due to the professional complaints made about her both to her professional body and other schools in the area and the publication of personal details online in the United States (and therefore outside the jurisdiction of UK authorities).

Stalking Guideline Categorisation

42. Under the stalking guideline, culpability is **high** and harm is **Category 1**. Each offence falls within **Category 1B**, with a starting point of two years and six months and a category range between one and four years' custody. Aggravating features include the persistence of the offending, breach of bail, victim vulnerability, online dissemination of personal data and the extremist symbolism deployed.

43. These factors justify a significant uplift to the top of the category range before reduction to reflect your lack of previous convictions and limited credit for your guilty pleas entered shortly before trial. I then make a separate reduction to reflect your age, developmental immaturity and neurodivergence.

Indecent images of children

Counts 7, 8 and 9 – making indecent images of children.

44. You had in your possession seven Category A images, two Category B images and twenty-four Category C images. The starting point for Category A images is one year's custody.

45. These offences are serious in their own right but they sit alongside, rather than separate from, the other offending for which you are to be sentenced today. Considering totality, I will impose a concurrent term of detention in respect of Count 7 and impose no separate penalty in respect of Counts 8 and 9.

Mitigation

46. I have considered the mitigation advanced on your behalf. I have already referred to a number of the mitigating features in the course of these remarks. You have no previous convictions, but you do have a youth conditional caution for serious offences against women, which reduces the mitigating weight I can attach to your lack of convictions. Furthermore, the weight I attach must necessarily be assessed in the context of the seriousness, breadth and persistence of the offending I am required to sentence you for today.

Pre-Sentence Report and Psychological Assessment Report

47. I have considered the Pre-Sentence Report prepared by Saphira Kyeremeh, which is based on a detailed assessment and drawing on probation tools. The report assesses you as posing a high risk of serious harm, with concerns arising from persistent stalking behaviour, ongoing sexual risk, and entrenched extremist thinking.

48. The stalking is assessed as resentful in nature, with a risk of persistence and escalation where grievances remain unresolved, and the sexual risk extends to both children and adult women. The report also identifies continuing concern about your ideological rigidity, notwithstanding earlier Prevent and Channel involvement.

49. While your youth and neurodevelopmental condition are recognised, the report concludes that these factors do not, without sustained specialist intervention, significantly reduce the level of risk identified.

50. In her addendum report dated 1 May 2026 Dr Sara Northey, a forensic psychologist, expresses the opinion that autism did not “cause” your offending, but the way your autism presents impaired your judgment and behavioural control at the time of the offences. She concludes that your autistic traits reduced your ability to understand the real and potential harm of your actions, to empathise with your victims, and to moderate extreme responses to rejection and humiliation.

51. It is for me to assess the extent to which these matters reduce culpability and affect risk. I have made that assessment having carefully considered all the available evidence.
52. As to risk, Dr Northey concludes that your autism-related traits, combined with persistent extremist and misogynistic fixations, mean that you currently pose a significant and enduring risk, requiring strict supervision, robust safeguards, and long-term risk management to protect the public.
53. I recognise that Dr Northey's report does not purport to be a formal risk assessment. I do not treat it as such. I rely upon it instead for its explanation of the psychological mechanisms through which risk arises in your case, and the factors likely to sustain or reduce that risk over time. My conclusion on dangerousness is grounded primarily in the nature and pattern of your offending and the assessment contained in the Pre-Sentence Report, informed and illuminated by Dr Northey's expert evidence.

Dangerousness

54. I must decide whether you present a significant risk to the public of serious harm through the commission of further specified offences.
55. I am acutely conscious of the tension that arises when considering dangerousness in the case of an offender of your age. Youth ordinarily points towards rehabilitation and restraint in the use of extended sentences. However, youth does not preclude a finding of dangerousness where the present risk is both serious and ongoing.
56. The question I must answer is not what you may become in time, but whether the risk you presently pose can be safely managed without an extended sentence. For the reasons that follow, I am satisfied that it cannot.
57. The Pre-Sentence Report identifies serious and continuing concerns, including persistent stalking behaviour, ongoing sexual risk, and entrenched extremist thinking that has not been resolved by earlier intervention. This is a case which gives rise to real concern and requires close management.

58. The statutory test is a demanding one, but the risk factors are numerous and diverse; your insight is limited, your thinking is entrenched, and the potential for harm is very substantial.
59. Notwithstanding your age and the potential for change as you get older and mature, my assessment is that the dangerousness test is met in your case and that you are likely to continue to pose a risk to the public until there is a significant change in your thinking and mindset.
60. Based on everything that I have read, bringing about that change will require substantial intervention and support, and a willingness on your part to recognise your issues, and to accept help to address them.
61. Although the court should pause long for thought before concluding that an extended sentence is required in the case of someone of your age, I have concluded that only an extended determinate sentence will provide adequate protection to the public.
62. I make that assessment notwithstanding the protection afforded by the Sexual Harm Prevention Order and the Stalking Protection Order made in the Magistrates' Court on 25 November 2025.

Sentence

63. When I stand back and consider your offending as a whole, I have decided that I should treat **Count 12** as the **lead offence**, reflecting your overall criminality in the sentence I impose for that offence. In keeping with the principles of totality and applying the sentencing guideline, all other sentences will be concurrent.
64. Reflecting the totality of offending, I assess the least notional determinate period of custody for an adult would be seven years and three months before reduction to reflect mitigation and credit for guilty plea. Applying a principled reduction to reflect your age, maturity, and neurodevelopmental condition, results in a notional determinate term of **4 years and six months' custody**.

65. Although sentences for the other offences will be concurrent, their seriousness is not disregarded; it is reflected in the higher notional sentence for the lead offence before mitigation is applied.

66. I therefore impose **an extended determinate sentence of detention** on Count 12, with a **custodial term of 4 years and six months and an extended licence period of 3 years, making 7 years and 6 months in total.**

67. By the end of that period you will be 27 years of age. I recognise that much can change in that time, but positive change in your thinking and attitude will require willingness on your part to engage with the supervision and guidance that will be offered to you whilst in custody and upon your release.

68. I have applied the same structured approach across all other counts, ensuring that the sentences are fair, proportionate, and properly reflect the relevant aggravating and mitigating factors which are present. I have afforded greater credit for plea in respect of the offences of possession of indecent images to reflect the earlier stage at which you entered those pleas.

69. The sentence of the court in respect of the other offences is therefore as follows:

On **Counts 10 and 11, two years and 6 months' detention** on each, concurrent.

On **Counts 2, 3 and 4, two years and 4 months' detention** on each, concurrent.

On **Count 7, nine months' detention**, concurrent.

On **Counts 8 and 9, I impose no separate penalty.**

70. In arriving at these sentences I have considered all relevant statutory provisions, sentencing guidelines and authorities. I assessed the seriousness of the offending by reference to the facts and guidelines before making a distinct and principled adjustment for your age, maturity and neurodevelopmental condition. I am satisfied that the sentence imposed is proportionate, no longer than necessary, properly reflects seriousness and harm, affords appropriate protection to the public, and gives appropriate weight to the need for rehabilitation.

71. I recognise that, at present, your insight is limited and your thinking remains entrenched. Rehabilitation is therefore not a description of your current position, but a future objective. The sentence I impose is intended to create the conditions in which meaningful change is possible, while ensuring that the public is protected until such change occurs.

Ancillary Orders

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

73. I make a deprivation order in respect of the devices that were seized from you upon arrest (as detailed in the list of items provided by the prosecution).

Effect of Sentence

74. Because I have sentenced you to an extended determinate sentence, you will not be eligible for automatic release at the halfway point. Instead, you may be considered for release by the Parole Board after you have served two-thirds of the custodial term.

75. Your release at that stage will not be automatic but will depend upon a direction of the Parole Board. If no such direction is made, you will be released at the end of the custodial term. The time that you have spent in custody up to this point will automatically be taken into account in calculating the earliest point at which you will be eligible for consideration for release by the Parole Board.

76. Whenever you are released, you will be on licence and subject to licence conditions until the end of the period of 7 years and 6 months. If you fail to comply with those conditions or commit any further offence you will be liable to be recalled to prison.

77. Because you have been convicted of a terrorist offence listed in Schedule 13 to the Sentencing Act 2020, the sentence I have imposed is a sentence for an offender of particular concern.

78. As a consequence of your convictions for terrorist offences, you will be subject to the terrorism notification requirements imposed by law. In addition, because you have been convicted of sexual offences, you will also be subject to the sexual offence notification requirements. Those notification obligations arise automatically and will apply for the periods prescribed by statute. You will be required to comply fully with both regimes, and any failure to do so will constitute a further criminal offence.

79. I direct that a copy of my sentencing remarks should be kept on your prison file so that they will be available to the Parole Board when they come to consider whether it is safe to release you and upon what licence conditions.

HHJ Simon Mayo KC

Central Criminal Court

6 May 2026