



IN THE CROWN COURT AT NORTHAMPTON

R -v- SAMUEL FIELD

SENTENCING REMARKS

The Honourable Mr Justice Eyre

29th May 2026.

Preamble.

1. You may remain seated until I tell you to stand up.
2. In the printed version of these sentencing remarks there will be headings for ease of reference.
3. These sentencing remarks will be made available to you, the prosecution, the press, and the public a short while after the end of this hearing.
4. I also direct that the printed version of these remarks be placed within the relevant section of the Digital Case System. These sentencing remarks will also be placed upon the Judiciary website for the public to read.

Martin Glynn

5. On 19th September 2024 Martin Glynn was aged 93. He was elderly and was beginning to become frail but he was living independently; doing his own shopping; and going to church each Sunday. He had to use a walker frame for walking but he could and did get about using that.

6. Martin Glynn was liked and respected by his neighbours and loved by his family. They have explained that he was a gentle, soft-spoken man who was independent and private. He lived a quiet, simple life. His faith was important to him and as his niece said he was “very caring, totally inoffensive, and an absolute gentleman”.
7. You had known Martin Glynn since 2007 when you lived next door to him. Martin Glynn was a caring and generous man and he had befriended you. What is more he had stood by you after you went to prison in 2009. He visited you in prison and when you were released from prison on licence in April 2021 Martin Glynn allowed you to live with him for a time. After that he remained your friend. He visited you most weeks; you spoke on the phone; and he gave you money on a regular basis. He stood by you when others, wisely, had kept their distance.

The Defendant’s Background.

8. You dispensed with the services of your legal team part way through the trial and chose to represent yourself as you were entitled to do. You did not give evidence and you did not make a closing speech to the jury. Because you were representing yourself and because it is clear that you have had some mental health difficulties I directed that the probation service provide a report on you. I have considered that. I have also reflected on the points which you have made today and those which might have been made on your behalf if you had been represented.
9. You are now aged 40.
10. You have previous convictions for offences of violence.
11. In August 2007 you struck the head and legs of a 3 year old girl who was the daughter of your then partner.
12. On 22nd February 2008 you punched the head of a 1 year old baby when he was in his cot. That baby boy was the son of your new partner. He had been left in your care and you chose to punch him to the head causing bleeding to

the retinas of both eyes and extensive bruising to his ear. You eventually pleaded guilty in respect of that offence admitting that you had caused those injuries and that you had done so intending to cause that 1 year old child serious bodily harm.

13. It is not clear why you committed those offences. It is possible that you did so in anger and frustration at something you believed those defenceless children had done or not done. Even more disturbing is the concern expressed in the Pre-Sentence Report that it was because you believed that your former partners had been unfaithful and had betrayed you. The author of the report indicates that it is possible that you caused that harm deliberately as a way of getting revenge on your partners by injuring their children.
14. Whatever the true explanation is: there is no doubt that those offences show that you are prepared to use violence towards those who are vulnerable and at your mercy. You are prepared to do so deliberately and with the intention to cause serious harm. As I will explain shortly that is what you did to Martin Glynn.
15. You received a sentence of imprisonment for public protection for those offences. You were released on licence on 17th December 2019 but you were recalled on 25th March 2020. That was because you had breached the conditions of your licence by not informing your probation officer of a relationship you had formed. You were released again on 12th April 2021 and remained at liberty on licence until your attack on Martin Glynn.
16. In the period leading up to 19th September 2024 you became increasingly paranoid and angry. It seems that this behaviour may have begun after the breakdown in April 2024 or thereabouts of a relationship. It is significant that you were functioning and behaving normally until then.
17. I accept that you do have mental health difficulties and that they were aggravated by the breakdown of your relationship. You had difficulties in your childhood. You have difficulty in controlling your moods. You have a tendency to dwell upon actual or perceived wrongs or betrayals and to become paranoid. I do not disregard the difficulties you faced: but very many people have to cope

with and face up to difficulties of that kind and far worse. In your case help was available to you. You had the help of Marie Pratt, your probation officer and of Denise Garrett, your personal wellbeing adviser. They both did what they could to help you. In addition, you had been prescribed medication to assist with your difficulties. Instead of engaging fully with the help being offered you chose to indulge in your anger and self-pity and to consume cannabis. That cannabis consumption affected your mood and your mental health.

18. You knew that you had the difficulties which I have outlined. What is more, you knew that you were capable of being violent when you were angry. You must have known that by turning away from help and by taking cannabis you were making yourself worse. You must have known you were getting into a state where you were a danger to others. You chose to continue taking cannabis and to spurn the offers of help rather than to face up to your difficulties; to stop taking cannabis; and to accept the help you could have had.
19. The effect of this was that by 19th September 2024 you were angry and paranoid. You had come to believe that Martin Glynn had in some way betrayed you by giving your house key to other people. There was no substance in that belief. I repeat that you had got yourself into that state by your own actions and your own self-indulgence.
20. You could have contacted Martin Glynn before 19th September and told him not to come over because you were in a bad state and it was not safe for him to be around you. Instead, you allowed him to come to visit you as normal and I am satisfied that you knew before he arrived what you intended to do. That is shown by the fact that your attack on him started the moment he arrived at your flat.
21. Although you were angry and paranoid you knew what you were doing. This was demonstrated by your actions on 19th and 20th September 2024 as I will now explain.

The Circumstances of the Offence.

22. At 11.24am on 19th September 2024 Martin Glynn arrived at your flat. He had travelled for 2 hours to get there.
23. As soon as Martin Glynn arrived at your flat you launched a sustained attack on that 93 year old man. You punched him to the head and face; you knocked him to the ground; when he was on the ground you repeatedly kicked or stamped on his head; and you also throttled him with sufficient force to break his hyoid bone on both sides of his neck. It goes without saying that Martin Glynn was in no position to put up any resistance to this attack. You knew he was at your mercy but that did not stop you.
24. Your violence to Martin Glynn did not end with your initial attack. For the next day and a half Martin Glynn lay helpless and at your mercy. You were attacking him in anger and also because you wanted him to admit to giving your keys away. He had not done that and so he could not admit having done so but that did not stop you interrogating him and using violence to do so.
25. You later told police officers that it had taken 10 hours for you to “get the truth out” of Martin Glynn – in reality your interrogation of him went on for rather longer than that. It is apparent that you continued to hit him and to threaten to hit him when he did not give you the answers you wanted – answers he could not give because there was no truth in your allegations.
26. It was only after 9.00pm on the next day, 20th September 2024, that you summoned the ambulance service. For most of the time until then Martin Glynn had been lying helpless and injured on the floor of your sitting room. He must have been terrified during your beating and interrogation of him. As you were throttling Martin Glynn you said that you were out to kill him and he believed that he was going to die. It appears that by some stage the effect of your beating was such that Martin Glynn no longer knew where he was or what was happening. At some point you moved him into the shower in your flat. You did that in an attempt to cover up your actions and to set up a false defence that his injuries had been caused by him falling in the shower. You also tried to clear up the blood in your flat and you moved the camera which had been recording events in the flat. It was only after you had done all those things that

you had the courage to call the ambulance service. You had made a couple of earlier calls to that service but it seems that those were part of your attempt to cover up what had been happening. In any event it was only in the calls on the evening of 20th September 2024 that you provided the information which actually led to the police and ambulance service coming to your flat.

27. Your attempts to cover up your actions show that you knew full well what you had done and had the sense to attempt to cover it up. You had the sense to do that but you did not have the courage to summon help for the 93 year old man lying helpless and badly injured on the floor of your flat. You only summoned help when it suited you to do so after you had tried to clear up what you had done.
28. I accept that you did not in fact intend to kill Martin Glynn. Instead, you intended to punish him for what you saw as his betrayal of you and you intended to beat him and to terrify him into admitting to the betrayal which only existed in your mind. As part of that exercise you repeatedly struck, kicked, and throttled him intending to cause him serious harm. You told Martin Glynn that you intended to kill him and I have concluded that this was part of your attempt to terrify him when he was at your mercy. Although you did not intend to kill Martin Glynn, you did intend to cause him serious harm. You knew that the injuries you were inflicting on a defenceless 93 year old man would be life-threatening and at best life-changing.
29. You have now come to your senses to some extent. I accept that you genuinely regret the death of Martin Glynn. Even now, however, you have not had the courage to accept that it was your actions which caused his death.

The Effect on Martin Glynn.

30. You succeeded in causing Martin Glynn serious harm and that harm brought about his death.
31. Your beating of Martin Glynn caused a number of brain injuries. Before 19th September 2024 Mr Glynn had been elderly but independent and mobile. After your attack he was on the inexorable downward path which led to his death. He

rapidly became immobile and very soon he was bed-bound; he had increasing difficulties swallowing and could only eat pureed food; he became confused and more drowsy; and he lost the ability to care for himself.

32. Martin Glynn died of pneumonia on 26th December 2024. As the jury found the injuries you had caused brought about his death. Your attack on Martin Glynn meant that he died before his time and that he was deprived of his dignity in the last months of his life.

The Application of Schedule 21 to the Sentencing Act 2020.

33. By law, the only sentence for murder is a life sentence.

34. Schedule 21 to the Sentencing Act 2020, requires me to consider the length of the minimum term you must serve before you can be considered for release.

35. It is important that you and the public understand that the minimum term which I am about to impose is just that. It is a minimum period which cannot be reduced in any way. It is the minimum period which you must serve in prison before you are entitled to apply for parole. It is, therefore, the least time which you will serve in prison. There is no guarantee that you will be released at the end of that minimum period or at all. If and when you are ever released will be decided by the Parole Board. You will only be released when the Parole Board is satisfied that you do not pose a risk to the public. If and when you are released, you will be subject to licence conditions. Those conditions will be set rules which you will have to obey for the rest of your life. If you breach those conditions, you may be recalled to prison. It is in this way that a life sentence protects the public.

36. This case falls within paragraph 5 of Schedule 21 and the starting point for the minimum term is 15 years.

37. There are a number of matters which I must take into account and which aggravate the seriousness of your conduct:

- a. Martin Glynn was elderly and vulnerable and he was completely at your mercy.

- b. You subjected him to prolonged and repeated beatings over a period of many hours. Your initial savage attack on Martin Glynn was followed by repeated beatings and threats of beatings.
- c. For a day and a half Martin Glynn was lying defenceless on the floor of your flat.
- d. You only chose to summon help after you had taken steps to try to cover up what you had done and to provide the basis for a false story.
- e. You have previous convictions for violent offending. It is significant that in your previous offending you attacked someone who was helpless and vulnerable (in the case of that offending a young child and a one year old baby) and did so intending to cause them serious harm.
- f. You were on licence at the time of this offence. You had been given a chance to show that you were no longer a danger to others and that you could live responsibly in the community. Help was available to assist you in doing that but you did not take advantage of that help and instead you demonstrated that you were willing to inflict serious injury on those who were at your mercy.

38. There is little that can be regarded as mitigation of the severity of your conduct but I do take account of the following matters:

- a. I accept that you did not intend to kill Martin Glynn and I take that into account. However, you did intend to cause him serious harm and you had that intention in mind before he arrived at your flat. As I have already pointed out you must have realised that the injuries you were inflicting on a 93 year old man would be life-changing and potentially life-threatening.
- b. I also accept that you have mental health difficulties. However, they cannot be seen as significantly reducing your responsibility in this case. There are two reasons for that. The first is that you were fully aware of what you were doing and you were acting deliberately. The second is

that to the extent that you had become paranoid and angry that was in large part the consequence of your own actions in turning to the use of cannabis and in failing to accept the help which was on hand for you.

39. You did not spend any time on remand because you had already been recalled by the time of the first hearing in the Magistrates Court.

40. The court will draw up a victim surcharge in the required amount.

41. You will now stand up.

The Sentence to be passed.

42. Samuel Field, the aggravating factors which I have listed mean that there must be a significant increase in the minimum term from the starting point of 15 years. I have taken account of the limited mitigation which there is on your behalf and have kept that increase as low as possible. There must, nonetheless, be an increase. For the murder of Martin Glynn there will be a life sentence with a minimum term of 22 years.