

His Honour Judge Anthony Leonard KC
At the Central Criminal Court
R v ABDULLAH BIN YASIR – Sentencing Remarks
3 July 2026

1. I make orders for the forfeiture and destruction of the mobile phones seized, BMH/02 and KRH/01.
2. You are now 23 years old and were 21 and just 22 at the time of your offending. You were of good character. You pleaded guilty to three counts of collection of information of a kind likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism pursuant to s.58 of the Terrorism Act 2000.
3. As a result of your early pleas of guilty you are entitled to a reduction of 25% in your sentence.
4. On 7th June 2025, you were searched when you entered through Gatwick Airport on your return from Pakistan and devices, including your iPhone were seized. That iPhone contained seven instructional guides on how to make explosives such as Semtex, C4 and HMTD, and six of the seven had been created by the Al-Saqri Foundation for Military Sciences, an Islamic State-aligned organisation.
5. The documents contained detailed instructions on preparation, ingredients, safety tips and advice on not being detected by authorities in the accumulation of required chemicals. Three of the documents, which are the documents to which you have pleaded

guilty, have been assessed by the Forensic Explosives Laboratory as containing viable instructions for preparing explosive substances.

6. One of the substances, HTMD, is described as a very sensitive primary high explosive which is too sensitive to have any commercial uses. There was some lack of clarity in the ingredients list which would make its successful manufacture more challenging. The document contains no instructions on how to incorporate the product into an improvised detonator.
7. Another document provided viable instructions on the creation of explosive Mercury Fulminate although sourcing the ingredients, which are regulated in this country, could be challenging.
8. The third document dealt with the creation of hexamine which is a chemical fuel which can be used in the manufacture of some explosive substances and which would require additional knowledge to understand the composition of ingredients required. The required composition of one of the ingredients was incorrectly specified, and for another the concentration was not specified.
9. The documents had been on the iPhone since 1st January 2025 but had been deleted four days before the stop at Gatwick. During a WhatsApp conversation on 12th March 2025 you wrote to 'Alisha' "i do have a [bomb emoji] tutorial on my phone". There was an accompanying message asking "Which one do u wanna see".
10. The day before your stop you wrote on WhatsApp to 'Alisha', "if they arrest you they do it before anyone leaves the plane. i don't want

intelligence on my ass” which indicates to me that you knew the risks you were taking having the documents in your possession.

11. An officer identified that the substantive files may have been in the iCloud storage which was associated with the device, something you would have had to do manually to save the documents to both the device and iCloud.
12. When your phone was downloaded the police found an instructional attack video which rates methods of attack advising which is easiest for a mass casualty attack, an infographic named ‘Types of FPV Drones Used for Various Missions’ which included an image of ‘Bomber’ drones, screenshots of various weapons, and a short video sent to ‘Aisha’ about the size of knives, and showing a hand holding a large combat-style knife.
13. On 5th January 2025 you messaged to the effect that you needed an honorific name before you hit the land of jihad. Two days later you messaged “jihad is beautiful and that’s the only plan I have apart from marriage”. The videos included training videos.
14. On 12th March 2025 you messaged “as we are ordered in the quran to wage jihad till there is no more fitna. they will say in tryna radicalise u and make u my jihadi wife or something”
15. On your laptop was found a substantial quantity of extremist Islamic material and extremist Islamic propaganda media, many items of which were produced by IS or affiliated organisations. There were videos glorifying martyrdom and a compilation of ‘Jihadi John’/Muhammed Emwazi clips.

16. You sent a message that read “I want to do an attack” and were told by the recipient not to go into details. In another message you said that spilling blood was permissible. There is evidence that you tried to influence a 13 year old. I agree with the prosecution that this all shows more than a passing interest in Islamic extremism.
17. When you were interviewed you accepted ownership of the iPhone and indicated you had not read the bomb manuals and had not tried to make a bomb.
18. I turn to the Sentencing Council’s Definitive Guidelines on collection of terrorist Information. Your offending falls into Culpability B based on the messages you sent and your possession of a substantial quantity of extremist Islamic material of the type which I have already summarised and I take account of the fact that you shared a thumbnail of at least one of the items with someone else, there was a document that had information on how to contact the Al-Saqri foundation, the contents of the communications with Alisha, and that you deleted the items from the device a few days before travelling.
19. As to Harm, and relying on the guidance in Niinemae, you fall into Category 3 providing a starting point of 3 years and a range of 2-5 years.
20. Your counsel urged me in writing to go down from that starting point to reflect the nature of your terrorist connections or motivations on the basis that this is a borderline Category C case. I agree that a small downward adjustment should be made but I do not accept that this is a borderline case.

21. There are no aggravating features of your offending and the mitigating features include that you have no previous convictions although as is pointed out in the pre-sentence report it is not possible to look at your offending as an isolated event because of the material that was found on your electronic devices. I take account of the fact that, at the age of 21 and 22, you may not be considered to be a fully mature adult.
22. I remind myself that the guidelines are for a single offence and that I am sentencing you for three separate offences of an identical nature.
23. I have read the character references and which point to a different side to your character, to your contribution to the community, and a desire on your part to remain out of trouble in the future.
24. I share the concerns of the writer of the pre-sentence report as to what your intentions were and in respect of the material which may support self radicalisation. Even if you have now come to understand that what you were doing goes against your beliefs as a follower of Islam – and your family has assisted with that – it was not your position at the time that you collected the material.
25. I have read the psychiatric report prepared by Dr Qadri. In respect of those who come before the courts to be sentenced for terrorism offences, your psychiatric history is straightforward. Dr Qadri found evidence that over the last two years, and the more so at the time of your arrest, you have been suffering from significant anxiety and depressive symptoms. He considers that these disorders plausibly affected your thinking, decision making, and coping mechanisms

which may explain your reliance on substance abuse and online content related to conflict. He considers that your account emphasised curiosity and panic rather than an intention to act.

26. I have taken account of all that is contained in the pre-sentence report. In that regard I have had to consider whether you fall to be dealt with under the dangerousness provisions. I have weighed what is set out in the report together with the submissions made on your behalf and the nature of the sentence I will pass in any event. I am just persuaded that you do not fall to be dealt with under those provisions but what is contained in the report about the danger you pose will be reflected in the sentence I pass.

27. I have taken account of all that your counsel has said and in particular:
 - (a) The contribution of isolation during COVID on your behaviour;
 - (b) The supportive nature of your family;
 - (c) Your lack of maturity;

28. I am required to impose a sentence for offenders of particular concern. You will serve two-thirds of your custodial term in custody before your case is referred to the Parole Board for consideration of whether and on what terms it is safe for you to be released. You may be released at the direction of the Parole Board at some point not later than the end of the custodial term. You will then serve the remainder of the custodial term (if any) and an additional 12 months in the community on conditional licence and subject to supervision. You must abide by the conditions of your release, or you will be liable to serve the remainder of the sentence in custody.

29. You will on release be subject to notification requirements as set out in Part 4 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 and you will need to find out what those requirements are before you are released
30. The offence is so serious that only a custodial sentence can be justified and the least possible sentence I can impose having regard to the aggravating and mitigating factors of the case which I have set out together with everything that your counsel has said on your behalf is as follows:-
31. On counts 1 to 3 you will go to prison for 2 years and 6 months on each count to run concurrently with each other making a total sentence of 2 years and 6 months.
32. The days which you have spent on remand in custody will automatically count towards your sentence.