

Sentencing Remarks in case of R v Callum Powell (47CC1322325)

Brighton Magistrates Court

17th July 2026

Before District Judge (Magistrates' Court) Amanda Kelly

Introduction:

Mr Powell, you fall to be sentence for 3 offences relating to your possession of indecent images of children, as well as one offence of possession of an extreme pornographic image and one offence of possession of a prohibited image of a child.

The charges reflect almost 3000 images of children found on devices that were seized following a police search of your bedroom on 6th June 2025. The search took place because the police had received information that a Google account linked to yourself had uploaded indecent images of children to the internet. The images were found on an iPhone; an external hard drive, and two other storage devices.

Indecent images of children are classified into three categories according to their gravity. Category A is reserved for the most serious material, including the penetrative sexual abuse of children. Categories B and C involve less serious forms of indecent imagery, although each category represents the sexual exploitation of children and is a serious criminal offence. A prohibited image of a child is a pornographic image depicting a child in circumstances defined by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. Unlike the offence of possessing indecent photographs of children, it commonly concerns non-photographic or artificially created images.

A total of 178 Category A images were recovered from your devices, as well as 105 Category B images; 2649 Category C images; 3 extreme pornographic images and one prohibited image of a child.

When you were arrested and interviewed by the police you initially denied knowingly seeking out these sorts of images for your own sexual gratification and suggested that you may have inadvertently received these images on your devices because you had used an Artificial Intelligence software programme that removes clothes from images you have downloaded from Instagram. However, you soon went on to admit that you had obtained sexual gratification from images of children, and you pleaded guilty to all offences, thereby avoiding the need for a trial.

You are 34 years of age and a person who has achieved prominence internationally due to your participation in the urban sporting activity known as Parkour. I am told that

you had 11 million YouTube followers and that your Parkour videos have been viewed billions of times across the globe.

Brief summary of proceedings:

You first appeared before the Court on 7th May 2026 when you pleaded guilty to all offences and sentence was adjourned so that the probation service could prepare a report about you. I have received that report and I know that your solicitor has been through it with you. I have also reminded myself of the contents of a report prepared by the mental health social worker when you appeared before the court on 7th May 2026. I have also read a reference prepared by your father, Anthony Powell.

Deciding appropriate court for sentence:

The first sentencing decision I have taken in your case is to decide whether it is proper for me to sentence you in this court, which is a magistrates' court, or whether I should commit you to the Crown Court to be sentenced. If this were a case where a sentence of more than 12 months was justified, then I would have to commit you to the Crown Court to be sentenced because the maximum sentencing powers of a magistrates' court is one year's imprisonment.

In order to decide the appropriate length of sentence, I must consider the relevant Sentencing Guidelines.

Section 59 of the Sentencing Act 2020 states that the courts **must follow** any relevant sentencing guidelines, unless it is contrary to the interests of justice to do so.

In this case, the primary Sentencing Guideline that applies to your case is the Sentencing Council's guidelines that relate to the Possession of Indecent Photographs of a Child.

I start by considering the most serious of the offences to which you have been convicted which is the offence that reflects your possession of Category A images.

I will treat the Category A offence as the lead offence as it is the most serious offence and adjust the appropriate sentence for that offence upwards to reflect the fact that a large number of other images were also found in your possession.

Category A offence:

You have pleaded guilty to possessing a total of 178 Category A images. According to the forensic report prepared in this case, these include images of the utmost gravity. For example, two of the images show the anal penetration of a 4 to 6 year old girl with an object.

The Sentencing Guidelines state that the Starting Point for possession of a Category A image is 1 year's imprisonment with a Sentencing Range of 26 weeks up to 3 years' imprisonment.

Statutory Aggravating Features:

None of the statutory aggravating features apply to your case

Other Aggravating Features:

The following other aggravating features are present in this case:

- **Age and/or vulnerability of the child depicted.** In this respect, the guidelines state as follows: *"the age and/or vulnerability of the child should be given significant weight."* As I have stated, some of the children in the images that you possessed were as young as six years of age, although most of the images relate to older girls.
- **Period over which images were possessed, distributed or produced.** Although the precise dates on which you came into possession of the images is not known, it appears to have been over a relatively long period of time, namely between 2022 and 2024.
- **High volume of images possessed, distributed or produced.** I have specified the large number of images recovered from the four devices.
- **Large number of different victims.** Given the large number of images of children of different ages, I infer that this aggravating factor also applies.

Mitigating Features:

- **Previous good character.** You have no previous convictions, cautions, warnings or reprimands recorded against you.
- **Remorse.** I accept that you are genuinely sorry for the harm caused to the children in the images you have looked at.
- **Demonstration of steps taken to address offending behaviour.** I am told that you are already engaging in paid therapy sessions to better understand and address the reasons that led you to commit these offences.

- **Difficult personal circumstances.** The pre-sentence report and your father's reference refer to certain adverse childhood experiences that you suffered and which may have impacted upon your development. The pre-sentence report also details the devastating impact upon your career and your life that has resulted from these convictions. You are no longer a member of the well-known Parkour group with whom you built your successful international career, and many former friends and associates have disowned you.

Adjusted Starting Point:

Having considered the aggravating and mitigating features in your case, I find that there should be a significant upward adjustment to the starting point in your case. This is primarily due to the large number of images; the particularly young age of some of the children pictured in the images, and the length of time over which these offences took place. In my judgement, a revised Starting Point of 18 months' imprisonment is appropriate.

Reduction from Guilty Plea:

I must then go on to apply a reduction to reflect the fact that you pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity. This is in accordance with the Sentencing Council's Reduction in Sentence for a Guilty Plea guidelines which is effective from 1st June 2017. That guideline states that where a defendant pleads guilty at the earliest opportunity - as you did - they are entitled to a reduction of a third. This therefore reduces the sentence to one year's imprisonment.

Retaining jurisdiction in the Magistrates Court:

A sentence of one year's imprisonment falls within the jurisdiction of the magistrates' court and I have therefore decided that it is appropriate for me to sentence you in this court and not to commit you to the Crown Court to be sentenced.

I have gone on to consider the overarching guideline on the imposition of community and custodial sentences. I remind myself that a custodial sentence must not be imposed unless the offence is so serious that neither a fine alone nor a community sentence can be justified. I have given careful consideration to this issue but in my judgement the circumstances of this case are so serious that only a custodial sentence can be justified. This is because the possession and viewing of indecent images of children contributes to the abuse and exploitation of real children.

I conclude that the shortest sentence that is commensurate with the seriousness of the offence is one of 12 months' imprisonment.

Should the sentence of imprisonment be suspended?

You were convicted of the offence after 22nd March 2026 which is when substantial changes to the sentencing regime in the magistrates' court came into force. Section 277A of the Sentencing Code applies (which was inserted by the Sentencing Act 2026). None of the exemptions in that provision apply and so there is a presumption that the court will suspend a custodial sentence of 12 months or less, unless it is of the opinion that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the offence or to you which justify not making the order.

The Court of Appeal has very recently handed down the judgement in the case of *R v Corey Morgan* [2026] EWCA Crim 886. The court did not purport to give detailed guidance on what might constitute "exceptional circumstances". However, the court expressed the view that it is unlikely that the seriousness of the offence, on its own, could amount to an exceptional circumstance such that an immediate custodial sentence could properly be imposed. The court underlined the word "exceptional" as a strong word chosen by Parliament, and it said that, whatever such circumstances might be in any given case, they are obviously not circumstances (related to the offence) which are commonly encountered.

I am satisfied that the circumstances of this case are not exceptional in the context of offences of this nature. Offences involving indecent images of children are always truly abhorrent. This is particularly so where those images involve very young children being horrifically violated by penetrative sexual activity. Such images are not merely indecent. They constitute a permanent record of the sexual abuse of children and of the exploitation, degradation and suffering inflicted upon them. Every viewing of such material perpetuates the market for that abuse and contributes to the continuing harm suffered by the children depicted.

Sadly, it is not exceptional for a person to appear before the court having possessed images of this nature for their own sexual gratification. Nor, applying the Sentencing Guidelines, is this case exceptional in terms of culpability or harm when compared with other offenders sentenced for such offences.

The Sentencing Guidelines, which I am required to follow, indicate that a custodial sentence of one year or less is appropriate in this case. Some may find it difficult to understand why offending of such a repugnant nature does not result in immediate imprisonment. However, judges do not sentence according to personal opinion, public

pressure or public outrage. They sentence according to the law enacted by Parliament and the Sentencing Guidelines issued by the Sentencing Council. Applying those principles faithfully to the facts of this case, I am satisfied that the custodial term of one year should be suspended for a period of 12 months, as recommended by the pre-sentence report.

I will also require you to undertake **15 rehabilitation activity requirement days** with the probation service to tackle many of the issues that have likely contributed to the commission of these offences.

Mr Powell, as I'm sure has been explained to you by your legal team, a suspended sentence means that if you were to commit any further offences in the next year then that 12 month sentence will very likely be activated. The same outcome is likely to result if you fail to attend your appointments with probation.

Concurrent sentences for other offences:

I will pass concurrent sentences for all of the five offences having treated the Category A offence as the lead offence.

I move on to consider other ancillary matters.

Sexual Harm Prevention Order:

The prosecution seek a Sexual Harm Prevention Order pursuant to 103A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

I am satisfied that the statutory test for making that order is met and that a Sexual Harm Prevention Order is necessary for the purpose of protecting the public, or particular members of the public, from sexual harm by you. This is because you have demonstrated a sexual interest in children spanning a significant period of time. I am satisfied that an order is necessary to protect children who may be exploited in order to obtain the sort of images that you, and others, have chosen to view.

In my judgement, the SHPO should last for **5 years** and will include the prohibitions put forward by the prosecution which I consider to be necessary and proportionate, and which have not been opposed on your behalf.

The order prohibits you from the following:

(1) Using any computer or device capable of accessing the internet unless:

a) You have notified the Police ViSOR team or equivalent within 3 days of the acquisition of any such device and any subsequent proposed disposal of any such device before it can be examined.

b) It has the capacity to retain and display the history of internet use, and you do not delete such history.

c) You make the device immediately available on request for inspection by a police officer, or police staff employee, and you allow such person to install risk management monitoring software if they so choose. (This prohibition shall not apply to a computer at your agreed place of work, when within 3 days of you commencing use of such a computer, you notify the police ViSOR team of this use.)

2) Interfering with or bypassing the normal running of any such computer monitoring software.

3) Using or activating any function of any software which prevents a computer or device from retaining and/or displaying the history of the internet use, for example using 'incognito' mode or private browsing.

4). Using any 'cloud' or similar remote storage media capable of storing digital images (other than that which is intrinsic to the operation of the device) unless, within 3 days of the creation of an account for such storage, you notify the police of that activity, and provide access to such storage on request for inspection by a police officer or police staff employee

5) Possessing any device capable of storing digital images (moving or still) unless you provide access to such storage on request for inspection by police officer or Police staff employee.

(6). Installing any encryption or wiping software on any device other than which is intrinsic to the operation of the device

(7) You shall not install or use, on any internet enabled device, any type of VPN service or Proxy service, that has the ability to anonymise the Internet protocol (IP) address of the user; examples being 'hidemyass.com, ipvanish.com, ExpressVPN.com; unless for the purposes of relevant employment and then only with the written permission of your supervising officer

(8) You shall not access any social network or peer to peer or chat sites without agreement (in writing) of the supervising officer and then only if you provide details of the password and account details to the supervising officer (For example but not limited to Telegram, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Facebook, KIK etc.).

Sex Offenders Register:

You will also be subject to the notification requirements of the Sex Offenders Register for a period of 10 years. This is in accordance with **Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003**.

Costs and Statutory Surcharge:

I am ordering you to pay prosecution costs of £85 and the statutory surcharge of £187. This is a total of £272. This must be paid within 28 days.

Forfeiture and Deprivation:

I am also ordering the forfeiture and deprivation of the devices upon which the indecent images were found.