

REX- V- PATRICIA HEWITT

SENTENCING REMARKS

1. Patricia Hewitt, you are 42 years old, with previous convictions, including for weapons and violence, and fall to be sentenced having pleaded guilty to a single offence of the manslaughter of Angela Lloyd. Your plea to that offence was tendered at the first opportunity after the assessment of your fitness to plead had been completed and the plea was entered on the basis of your diminished responsibility. The prosecution, having very carefully considered the psychiatric evidence in this case have accepted your plea on that basis.
2. Angela Lloyd was 56 y.o. at the time of her death on 13 August 2025. She was a vulnerable woman, suffering from a muscle wasting condition along with other additional illnesses and challenges, dependant on a wheelchair and with very limited mobility. Despite that she managed to live independently in her own single story sheltered accommodation. Ms Lloyd, despite her health challenges lived life to the full. She was a religious woman and dedicated her time to local charities, contributing as best she could to her local community, with friends and family that loved and cared for her and whose lives were enriched by Angela's life.
3. VPS: I have read and considered the careful, considered and moving statements from Ms Lloyd's brothers Patrick and Joseph. Angela was a deeply loved and cherished member of a caring and loving family. Both Patrick and Joseph feel her loss deeply and the pain, which though may become less harsh and raw over time, will live with them both for the remainder of their days. I give my condolences to both and to the remainder of Ms Lloyd's family.
4. On 12 August 2025, you had assaulted a woman in Chester-le-Street without provocation. You were arrested, put before the Magistrates in Newton Aycliffe on 13 August, pleaded guilty without representation and were sentenced to a suspended sentence and released. It seems likely that you were in a state of psychosis even then.
5. You went to your sister's home. You were displaying signs of your psychosis in that your sister describes you as speaking in riddles, appearing flustered, were behaving oddly and asking for help. Your sister formed the view that you needed sectioning. You did not remain at your sisters. Throughout the remainder of the day various people at various locations encountered you behaving oddly. You had also acquired alcohol and added intoxication into the mix. It appears that you may have consumed up to two bottles of wine. At one stage police were called and two Police Community Support officers attended and spoke to you, offering you some assistance which you declined.

6. Angela Lloyd lived a short distance from where you had encountered the PCSOs. On hot days, and this day was such a day, Ms Lloyd would leave her back door open to allow air into her home. At 6:31pm, Ms Lloyd rang Care Connect, the care providers for her accommodation on the first of four times, over approximately a 10-minute period. Though the message was unclear, later analysis by the police reveals that these were calls for help, with Ms Lloyd saying there was an intruder in the house and that she (Ms Lloyd) was being stabbed to death. You can also be heard, shouting, being abusive and also saying irrational things. Within about 45 minutes, a Responder dispatched by Care Connect arrived, along with Ms Lloyd's usual daily carer. It was immediately apparent to both that a serious incident had happened. Police and Ambulance were called. The carers entered the property to find Ms Lloyd unresponsive on the kitchen floor with extensive blood loss. By the time paramedics arrived, Ms Lloyd was in cardiac arrest and despite extensive medical efforts, by 20:13, tragically, Ms Lloyd had died. Medical evidence establishes that Ms Lloyd suffered a minimum of 47 separate stabbing actions had inflicted numerous wounds. Ms Lloyd died from the consequential blood loss from those wounds.
7. By this time, others had seen you nearby. You were wearing only your underwear. You were covered in blood. You appeared intoxicated and you were mumbling and incoherent and trying to enter other residential properties. Ultimately, you returned to your sister's home, suggesting that you had been attacked. Your explanation for the blood upon you was immediately discounted by your sister as she knew on what you were saying that it simply could not be true. You continued to be agitated, rambling and incoherent. Police attended and you were arrested and taken into custody.

Psychiatric evidence

8. There are 6 psychiatric reports upon you prepared by 3 psychiatrist. In addition, today, I have heard from Dr Stoddart on affirmation and Dr Corey, instructed by the prosecution.
9. The psychiatrists all conclude that at the time of committing this offence you were in a state of psychosis and in all probability suffering from schizophrenia. An important element to assess in your case is the extent to which any psychosis that you were suffering from may have been at least in part self-induced by your abuse of drugs and alcohol. It is an important finding of the psychiatrists that your schizophrenia and your psychosis were not drug and alcohol induced. At the time of your killing of Ms Lloyd, you were suffering from schizophrenia, and experiencing psychotic symptoms, including paranoia, auditory hallucinations and persecutory delusions which would have substantially impaired your ability to form a rational judgement and understand the nature of your conduct.

10. I must assess the culpability and harm of your conduct. The harm is of the utmost severity and that it relates to the loss of life. In assessing the extent to which you are culpable, it is acknowledged that you retain a degree of understanding of right and wrong and that your conduct was wrong. However, the medical evidence establishes that your conduct was primarily the result of your psychosis and your profound mental ill health arising from a recognised psychiatric illness. Though you have for many years abused drugs and alcohol, on the facts of this case and specifically in relation to this incident the psychiatrists have concluded that your state of intoxication has had little, if any, direct impact on your psychosis and so I conclude that you have not aggravated your illness by your own conduct. Though you retain culpability your degree of retained responsibility is low.
11. Since your arrest and detention you have been treated in a secure hospital. You remained in a state of psychosis for an extended period. With the benefit of treatment you have become fit to plead and have entered your guilty plea. The psychiatrists unanimously conclude that the most appropriate disposal in your case is a Hospital Order under s37 MHA '83 with a Restriction Order under s41.
12. I am satisfied that you:
- a. are suffering from mental disorder; and
 - b. that the mental disorder is of a nature or degree which makes it appropriate for you to be detained in hospital for medical treatment and treatment is available;
 - c. that, having regard to all the circumstances (including the nature of the offence, your character and antecedents and the other ways of dealing with you), an order under s.37 is the most suitable outcome.
 - d. And that arrangements have been made for your admission to a specified hospital within 28 days of the date of the making of this order.
13. I have carefully considered all the available ways of dealing with you including whether you ought to be sentenced under a s45A MHA order (hybrid order, part prison and part hospital). For the reasons given by the psychiatrists I conclude that this is not appropriate in your case and that in fact, public safety will be better managed in due course by the s41 Restrictions order to help manage, control and minimise any future risk that you may present. The length of your detention and any release decision in due course will be determined by the Mental Health Tribunal having regard to the state of your mental health and the assessments of the doctors treating you. You may of course never be released.
14. I therefore make an order that you will be re-admitted to and detained at Rampton Hospital. I am satisfied that arrangements have been made for you to be re-admitted within 28 days to this hospital where you have already been for many months.

HHJ Jonathan Carroll
Teesside Crown Court.

5 August 2026