



JUDICIARY OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES

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**Jamie Boulton**

**Winchester Crown Court**

**2 July 2013**

**Sentencing remarks of Mr Justice Bean**

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Jamie Boulton, this is a shocking case. On 18 August last year you walked into the home of an 85 year old lady, Delia Hughes, and battered her to death with a heavy lump hammer which you had brought to the scene from your home more than two miles away. Her death is a terrible loss to her daughter Beryl Catterall and to all her family and friends. The jury this morning convicted you of murder.

The sentence for murder is, as it must be, imprisonment for life. I turn to consider, as I am required to do by Schedule 21 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003, the minimum period which you must serve in prison.

The starting point in an ordinary case of murder with a weapon taken to the scene is a minimum term of 25 years. But in this case your victim was vulnerable and defenceless. I accept that you did not target her because of her age, and that the

killing was random in the sense that you walked in through the open patio doors and killed the occupier who happened to be Mrs Hughes. Nevertheless the fact that she was an 85 year old lady killed in her own home in the course of a burglary makes this a particularly serious case. I have decided, therefore, that the starting point in this case before taking account of mitigating factors is a minimum term of 30 years.

I turn to mitigating factors. I take into account your previous good character; and that you handed yourself in to the police at a time when they had no evidence against you. I also accept that you were suffering from a persistent and chronic social anxiety disorder, a recognised medical condition which in the view of both expert witnesses gave rise to some abnormality of your mental functioning. For the purposes of paragraph 11 of Schedule 21 that lowers the degree of culpability in this case, at least to some extent.

I consider that the appropriate minimum term is 25 years. You are entitled to credit for the 288 days you have already spent on remand in custody: the formal order of the court will therefore specify a period of 24 years and 27 days from today.

There will be concurrent sentences of 9 years' imprisonment for the aggravated burglary of which the jury have convicted you and of 2 years' imprisonment on the count of theft to which you have pleaded guilty. These will not affect the minimum period which you will spend in custody. By virtue of section 267 of the 2003 Act I have taken them into account in assessing the minimum term to be served on count 1, but set alongside the brutal murder of Delia Hughes the aggravated burglary only

affects the minimum term very marginally and the theft count not at all. The axe and hammer are to be forfeited and destroyed.

I emphasise that the 25 year term is the minimum that you will serve. I am not ordering that you are to be released at the end of it. That will be a matter for the Parole Board and only in the year 2037 will they be entitled for the first time to decide whether it is safe to release you. Until and unless the Board is satisfied that you are no longer a danger to the public you will remain in custody. It is quite possible that it will never be safe to release you. If the Board does ever release you, you will remain on licence and liable to recall for the rest of your life.