



HUDDERSFIELD

GROOMING GANG TRANSCRIPT

2018



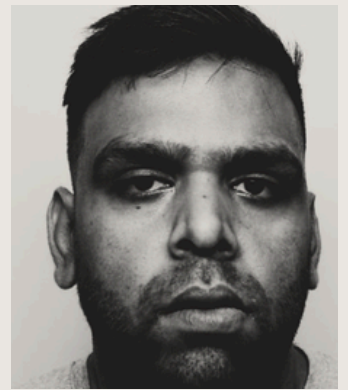
Niaz Ahmed



Mohammed Akram



Mohammed Imran
Ibrar



Asif Bashir



The sentencing remarks of Niaz Ahmed, Mohammed Akram, Mohammed Imran Ibrar, and Asif Bashir.

Active from 2004-2011

PUBLISHED OCT 26

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About this case

These remarks concern four defendants, sentenced for historic child sex abuse following the investigations of Operation Tendersea. This was an inquiry launched by West Yorkshire Police in late 2013. The defendants here were part of a larger group active in and around Huddersfield between 2004 and 2011.

The case consists of three victims, with the abuse starting at age 13 for at least one of them. Presiding over the case, HHJ Simon Phillips KC asserted that the ordeal “defies understanding,” involving persistent cruelty, intimidation, and violence.

Niaz Ahmed was sentenced to 5 years for inciting a child to commit sexual activity, and sexual assault.

Mohammed Akram was sentenced to 17 years for multiple offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation, and multiple offences of rape.

Asif Bashir was sentenced to 11 years for rape and attempted rape.

Mohammed Ibrar was sentenced to 3 years for trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Each of the victims was in some way vulnerable, and all were plied with alcohol and drugs in order to better facilitate their abuse. This led to, in the judge’s words, an “existence of misery, suffering and despair.” One victim described the experience as having “basically ruined most of my life.” The effect of their ordeals on the victims’ respective friends and family was also significant in its disruption and immiseration.



IN LEEDS CROWN COURT

Case No: T20177359

Courtroom No. 12

The Courthouse
1 Oxford Row
LEEDS
LS1 3BQ

2.17pm – 3.24pm
Thursday, 1st November 2018

Before:
HIS HONOUR JUDGE PHILLIPS QC

R E G I N A

-v-

AKRAM & ORS

MR R WRIGHT & MS K BATTY (Solicitor) appeared on behalf of the PROSECUTION
MS COLLEY appeared on behalf of the DEFENDANTS

SENTENCE

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SENTENCE

A JUDGE PHILLIPS: The defendants may remain seated for the present.

B During the course of this trial, a period of some 15 Court days, the jury and I watched DVDs made by three young women. Victims who had been abused by a grooming gang in Huddersfield. This has been the third trial and in all the cases have thus far involved some 28 defendants appearing for trial or being listed for trial at this Crown Court. The previous trials were conducted by His Honour Judge Marsden, Queens Counsel.

C In order to give consideration where appropriate to the context of your offending, I have had regard to information relating to these same three victims that was referenced in those earlier trials. In this respect I have been assisted by the fact that the sentencing remarks of His Honour Judge Marsden, Queens Counsel in those earlier trials have been previously uploaded on to the Digital Case System. At the conclusion of the trial before me on 8 October, I directed that presentence reports should be prepared on each of you. With specific reference to an assessment of the risk of sexual offending that you present now and going forward.

The Jury heard evidence that Person 1 was born in 1991. Her mother describes her as a happy child who got on well with family members and had her own circle of friends. She was well behaved at junior and infant school. Things changed when she was 13. At that age, unbeknown to her parents at the time she began to fall under the influence of older Asian men who befriended her and then groomed her for sex. She was young, impressionable and the victim of bullying. And these men gave her attention and cigarettes. In that way they gained her trust and having done so she was used as a commodity. Plied with drink and drugs, taken to houses or driven around in cars and used by multiple older men for sexual purposes. She described how she felt sick and dirty the first time she was forced to perform oral sex. She was regularly truanting from school. And she became conditioned and immersed in this depraved lifestyle. To the extent that superficially she may have presented to some as being a willing participant in some of the sexual and other activities of the men who were exploiting her. The reality of the situation was that she was a young, extremely vulnerable and utterly corrupted child. And the men who had sex with her were well aware of her predicament. If she tried to refuse their demands, she was threatened and therefore she submitted. In her words, 'Once you were with them you could not get out of it.' She has said 'I was constantly getting raped, beaten up, getting my phone stolen off me. Stuff were constantly going missing out of my mum and dad's house.' She described being passed around amongst them and that more and more men would come on the scene, a lot older. Some from Pakistan and did not speak English. It was insidious, she said. 'It just kept getting more common, it was happening more often, and then with different people. You would just get told to do it and in the end, you just feel like you had to do it.'

3

A

She would be drinking constantly and taking drugs. The fact that she was wearing school uniform was no deterrent to these men. She states that the first time she was raped she felt dirty, annoyed, mad and scared. When asked why she did not complain to the police, her response provides some insight into her isolation and sense of inadequacy. 'I was scared, I did not know how to say it or what to say. And I just did not feel as if I could talk to them.'

B

Her fear can be readily understood. A neighbour describes cars pulling up outside Person 1A's house and hearing Person 1A cry and sounding really scared by these men, who were men shouting that they were going to kill Person 1A and a window being smashed. She became pregnant and had a termination. She was not able to say with any certainty who the father was. Her mother describes Person 1A as being 'off the rails' at that time.

C

She stated that aged 16 to 17 in her words 'you get branded as used goods, then you are too old.' The realisation with some increased maturity on her part and responsibility as a young single parent herself, that there was an alternative to subsisting in this tide of depravity and exploitation, meant that ultimately, she was able to make a complaint. She states that when she later found out she was pregnant she was blessed. These men would leave her alone. When she was 19 Person 1A was sentenced to a four-and-a-half-year sentence of detention for offences of robbery to which she had pleaded guilty. It is one of the paradoxes of this troubling case that being sent to prison was for her something of a watershed event in her young life. Whilst in prison she suffered nightmares and flashbacks in relation to the offending against her. However, she also discovered respite from the cycle of being sexually abused and manipulated. And when her child was born, she learned life changing parenting skills and started rebuilding her own family ties.

The jury heard evidence that through her association with Person 1, Person 2 was drawn into the existence of misery, suffering and despair that was inflicted on young girls by this group of older Asian men. She was inexperienced. She had not seen any of this type of lifestyle previously. She was someone who had been bullied at school and was vulnerable, to the extent that she stopped going to school. She was, she started experimenting with drugs. And

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these men were giving her free drugs and free alcohol. And in her words 'expecting things in return.' And were, in her words 'getting nasty if they did not get what they wanted.' She describes them as 'just awful people. They would buy pizza and stuff for you to do stuff. They drugged you up. They would give me something I had never had before.'

B

She in common with other girls was threatened, assaulted and used sexually. She describes being beaten up, threatened, having people come around to her house with knives and being in car crashes. She states that she has as a result been in in her words 'Some nearly bad states, I have nearly died before, because I have taken stuff.' And she states that she has tried to kill herself many times. As is apparent from the victim personal statements, which are by request not being read out in Court, sadly she was not unique in terms of these three complainants in taking an overdose. It has she says 'Basically ruined most of my life.' She says 'I was angry. I was not me. I did not want to do anything. I was high all the time. I would go out at 11 in the day and not come back until 11 the next day. Drinking. We was just disgusting.' She states 'Basically every time I went out something bad happened. And I risked my life every time I went out. I was a mess.'

C

Her brother describes Person 2A as being a danger to herself and he recounts a time when she jumped 15 feet off a balcony of the house to get away. Her opportunity finally to escape from the malevolent clutches of these men arose in bizarre circumstances. When under the influence of drugs, she unintentionally caused a fire at her family home. And she and her family had to be rehoused away from the area, in consequence of the damage caused to their property. With poignant directness she says 'The best thing I ever did and that is bad saying that burning your house down is the best thing you ever did. But it was.' Her parents have associated themselves with those sentiments. Her father explaining 'In some ways it was the best thing that could have happened. Because it got Person 2A away from that group.'

The jury heard that Person 3 was a young girl whose life went off the rails at a time when her father became seriously unwell. Through Person 1 she was introduced to this group of older Asian men. She too was plied with drink and drugs. And she too came to the misguided and illusory belief that these men cared for her and were seeking a genuine relationship with her. She too with increased maturity came to realise the extent of the sexual exploitation which has robbed her of her youth and potential [inaudible] fulfilment. She came to realise that she had been used by these men and that in her words 'It got to the point where they were saying that they knew that they were just violating me.'

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The picture that emerges in this trial just as it did in the earlier trials, is that when the abuse began the complainants were children. And they were vulnerable because of family and other circumstances. Each of these girls has given complainant evidence in one or both of the earlier trials. As the grooming began and developed in the insidious and persistent way in which it did, their behaviour began to deteriorate and families were torn apart.

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But for the scale of the offending, you four defendants would have been tried alongside others who have been tried earlier. In these circumstances the overall situation in which these offences were occurring is relevant in terms of context. These three complainants, together with other children who were socially isolated and not well supported by family and friends, were selected and deliberately targeted. In their youth and naivety, they thought that they were made to feel special by flattery. Going to what were described as parties. Having rides in cars. Being plied with alcohol and drugs and being given presents. For some it was a more exciting way of life. They saw it as being more adult. Doing things which other girls of their age were not doing. They thought that these men were showing them genuine affection. But what in fact was happening, was a relationship of trust was created. Albeit it that it was entirely false and had been deliberately created to enable predatory men such as you and all your associates, to perpetrate or to attempt to perpetrate gross sexual abuse for your or for their own perverted gratification.

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Girls were also told how attractive they were and how special. Then things changed for these girls and the abuse began. The details were chilling, it was persistent and prolonged. Having been plied with alcohol and drugs some girls were raped orally and vaginally. They were trafficked to isolated areas or to houses for the purpose of sexual abuse by those who took them, or by others. And taken to isolated places such as the moors or a reservoir. If they did not comply on occasions they were beaten. They were told they would be left to make their own way back. Children on their own late at night in isolated areas. They were taken to so called parties at houses where there would be older Asian men. Again, they were plied with alcohol and drugs. On occasion drinks were spiked. And many times, these girls were rendered senseless. They would then be taken to a room where men would go and abuse these girls sexually. Sometimes no contraception was used. Sometimes plastic bags were used as condoms. It was disgusting and degrading. Girls would wake up naked or partially clothed not knowing what had happened to them. Sexual acts done would sometimes take

A place in the presence of other Asian men and other young girls. If they did not comply, they were either threatened or beaten. They were raped and sexually abused in cars, carparks, houses, snooker centre, a take away, in a park and other places. In the case of the oral rapes there was ejaculation usually into the girl's mouth. And in the case of some of the vaginal rapes there was ejaculation and a lack of contraception. It is clear that once the will of these girls had been overborne, they continued to be plied with alcohol and drugs and they were controlled by violence and or the threat of violence. Either to them personally or to their families. During the course of the interviews with the police, the girls were asked why they had not complained or why they kept going back.

B
C Person 1 became involved in criminality and states that she was forced to commit and serve substantial custodial sentences for it. Girls repeatedly went back knowing that they would be abused, because they were too frightened for themselves and for their families not to. These girls changed beyond recognition. Nothing parents did succeeded in keeping these girls at home. Families became very hurtful because these men knew where they lived. And parents spoke of being followed home and constant phone calls to the house and to their mobiles. Person 1 became involved in criminality and states that she was forced to commit and serve substantial custodial sentences for it. Girls repeatedly went back knowing that they would be abused, because they were too frightened for themselves and for their families not to. These girls changed beyond recognition. Nothing parents did succeeded in keeping these girls at home. Families became very hurtful because these men knew where they lived. And parents spoke of being followed home and constant phone calls to the house and to their mobiles. Person 1's mother describes Person 1A aged 13 being hysterical over the phone. And later seeing her, her nose broken. She had a footmark on her face. She describes random Asian men coming to their house. She states that property including high value items went missing from the house. At least one girl attempted suicide. The anxiety and distress to which their families were subjected was a foreseeable consequential feature of the harm that was being perpetrated towards their daughters. These girls were regularly reported by their parents to the police as missing. Person 3's mother provides some insight into the worry that was experienced. Person 3A continued to go missing. 'I would be calling the police two to three times a week. I would lay awake on a night worried if she was dead. I did not have a clue where she was. When Person 3A finally came home, she would look a mess. She would always come home looking like she was on drugs. Her behaviour would sometimes be violent, she did not care about anything.'

A Their families felt powerless. Person 3A's mother for example, describes writing to Social Services and speaking to them directly to seek help. And when none was forthcoming, she says that she even wrote to the Prime Minister.

B Sometimes, as the jury heard in the evidence in this trial, harm was directed at the families of these girls. House windows were smashed. Threats were made to cause physical harm to members of the girls' families. Threats were made and damage was done to cars and wheel nuts loosened causing serious danger. Person 2 told the police, 'They used to ring my family all the time and say that they would stab us and kill us or set our house on fire.' She described the group generally as all carrying knuckledusters and being nasty people, they are belittling, they have no respect.' Sometimes the threats took on a sinister aspect as when a wreath was left on Person 1's doorstep.

C Detective Constable Hill noted that Person 1 explained to her that she feared that her family would come to harm if she did not perform sexual acts on the group's friends from Pakistan. And that in her words 'She then began to commit theft offences for these males. Again only committing the offences through fear of what the males would do if she did not.' She was in fear they would cause harm to her family. Person 2's parents describe these times as being a really hard time for the whole family.

Amongst the aggravating factors are that these girls were young when the abuse started. They were targeted because of their extreme vulnerability. They were threatened and intimidated and plied with drink and drugs. Often to insensibility and often in order to facilitate sexual abuse. Person 3 describes how it was that she came to think that these men were drugging her by spiking her drinks. These were planned offences by a large group of Asian men. There was ejaculation during oral sex and often ejaculation and no contraception during vaginal sex. Violence was used as a means of controlling these girls and the abuse persisted over a significant period of time. One girl became pregnant and had a termination, although it is right to say that it cannot be said with certainty which man was responsible for that.

I have had regard where applicable, to the Sentencing Guidelines and in particular the sexual offences guideline. And in respect of one count the assault offences guideline. I want to make it clear that I have taken care to avoid any double counting when considering the category in the guidelines that these offences fall into. Additionally, I wish to emphasize that

A while I refer to a range of matters by way background and context where relevant, I am sentencing you exclusively in respect of those matters that arise from the jury's verdicts. I am assisted by the Crown's sentencing note and the table of counts for sentence. And by the sentencing notes submitted on behalf of each of the defendants. You 'Akram' 'Ahmed' 'Ibrar' and 'Bashir'. I have also considered those reported cases that have been invited to my attention. Including the decisions of the Court of Appeal criminal division in the case of The Crown and Khan 2015 EWCA CRIM 831. And the Attorney Generals reference number 126 of 2014, 2015 EWCA CRIM 128. At paragraph eight of the Crown's note reference is made to a number of the principle aggravating factors that apply across the case generally. And I take these into account where applicable, in relation to some, but by no means all of the offences. Namely, the age of the victims. Their extreme vulnerability. The specific targeting of that vulnerability. The use of drink and drugs upon the victims. The use of threats and intimidation upon them and or against their families. The level of planning involved. The group nature of the offending. The use of alcohol and drugs yourselves when committing the offences. The fact that ejaculation and the absence of use of condoms in some instances. The use of violence as a means of control and subjugation. And in some instances, the persistence and extent of the conduct involved over a significant period of time. At paragraphs 13 to 15 inclusive of the Crown's note reference is made to the position of other defendants sentenced in previous trials. I confirm that I have had those and other points of distinction in mind when addressing sentence in the present case. It is likely that all of these girls will never recover from the abuse they suffered. I have seen them in their DVDs and in the witness box and it is clear all have been and remain profoundly affected by the abuse which ended some years ago. Their families have been and remain profoundly affected. I have read the victim personal statements, they make harrowing reading. The way you treated these girls defies understanding. This abuse was vile and wicked. These cases of sexual abuse with which the Courts have to deal, some aspects of this case come towards the top of the scale. None of you has expressed any remorse for what you did. On the other hand, these girls display great courage by eventually making their complaints to the police and going through this agonising Court process. Their ordeal in this respect is only added to the misery that you caused them during this period of sexual abuse. I do not add to your sentences, because there has been a trial and these girls have had to give evidence. But it means that I cannot give you the substantial credit to which a guilty plea would have entitled you.

A

The victim personal statements set out far more eloquently the suffering to which they have been subjected and the long-term effects which this abuse has had and will continue to have. In that respect I confirm that I have read the victim personal statement of Person 2 dated 27 March this year, and that of her mother dated 29 March. And the victim personal statement of Person 1 dated 19 March and that of her mother dated 4 March. And the victim personal statement of Person 3 dated 8 March.

B

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Having outlined the history of this offending, you should all understand that you will be sentenced for what you did as individuals. But set against what must have been your state of knowledge as to the background of grooming of these girls and their abuse by a large number of Asian men. The sentences I pass on you are severe and are intended to be so. They are intended to deter others from behaving in this way. People must understand that those who behave in the way you behaved must expect no sympathy from Courts. The Courts have to do what they can to protect young girls from abuse. I propose to aggravate the sentences to reflect the totality of your offending and to pass concurrent sentences. Where for example I have passed a sentence beyond the starting point and towards an upper region of the range, that is because I have taken into account a number of factors. Including the commission of another or other offences. And also, the balance to be struck when assessing overall criminality. In conjunction with the imposition of concurrent terms, which but for considerations of totality might otherwise be consecutive.

In all of your cases I make it clear that I have borne in mind everything which has been said and supplied in writing on your behalf. And I have regard to the principle of totality, the passage of time and the various mitigating factors. I have had full regard to the Sentencing Guidelines in relation to the offences to which they apply.

I have considered the dangerousness provisions in conjunction with the contents of the presentence reports. And I conclude that the provisions do not apply in relation to the defendants in this case in respect of these offences at the present time.

Turning to sexual harm prevention orders. I am satisfied that in each of your cases, that pursuant to Section 104 of the sexual offences Act 2003, it is necessary to make such an order. To prevent each of you from causing the respective complainants and any further potential victim, sexual harm by further offences being committed by you. The terms of the orders are as set out in the draft orders that have been circulated as amended. And these

A should be uploaded onto the Digital Case System. The person or persons named at section one of the orders are as follows. In the case of ‘Akram’ Person 1 and Person 2. In the case of ‘Ahmed’ Person 1 and Person 2. In the case of ‘Ibrar’ Person 3. In the case of ‘Bashir’ Person 1.

B Section one, two and five of the draft orders which will be redrafted and upload as section one, two and three will apply in the case of each defendant until further order. The prohibitions therefore include in relation to section one having any contact either directly or indirectly with the person who I have named. In relation to section two, the prohibition relates to having any unsupervised contact either directly or indirectly with any female child under the age of 18. Save for A, that which is inadvertent and not reasonably avoidable in the course of normal daily life. B, with the express approval of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians of a female child who has a full knowledge of his identity, convictions and the terms of this order. And with the express written permission of the Social Services Department for the area in which the female child resides. Save for visits by his own children, if taking place within a custodial institution. Or C by order of a Judge or Magistrate of the Family Court. The third section includes a prohibition as follows. Seeking or undertaking any employment including voluntary work, whether for payment or otherwise which is likely at some time to allow unsupervised access to a female child under the age of 18 years.

C As with your sexual offender’s notification requirements where applicable, those sexual harm prevention orders will run indefinitely. In the case of the defendant ‘Ibrar’ there can be no sexual offender’s notification requirement. And the reason that no sexual offender’s notification requirement applies in the case of ‘Ibrar’, is the statutory reason of the offence of trafficking for sexual exploitation does not constitute an offence that qualifies for a notification requirement.

Time served on remand in custody will count towards the sentences imposed.
Turning now to each of you individually.

A Mohammed Akram. You are now 33 years old. You were known amongst the group and by the complainants as 'Hib'[?]. You have previous convictions between 2005 and 2011 for offences of possession of cannabis, offences of driving whilst over the prescribed limit. Dangerous driving and offences of driving whilst disqualified. The Crown's note states that you have not previously served a custodial sentence. However, the antecedent history and the presentence report both indicate that a three-month term of imprisonment was activated and served in 2011. You have no previous convictions for offences of a sexual nature.

B

You were convicted by the jury of count one, a trafficking or sexual exploitation offence involving Person 1. Count six, a specimen offence of vaginal rape of Person 2. Count seven, a further specimen offence of rape of Person 2. And count eight, a further trafficking offence for sexual exploitation offence, this involving Person 2.

C I have to deal with you for offences on two separate girls. You must I find, have had at least some knowledge of the way these girls had been groomed. And the way they were being treated by others. You were prepared to abuse them and or facilitate them being used for your own or for another person's sexual gratification. You demonstrated a complete disregard for the safety of these girls. On one occasion drunk, you crashed a car into a Mosque wall and abandoned Person 2 and Person 1 at the scene, both in need of urgent medical attention. Whilst you fled the scene in an attempt to avoid lawful apprehension. Count one relates to Person 1 being taken to the Etap Hotel in Bradford by you and two others. One of whom was Mansor Akhtar[?]. Account puts her age as being between 15 and 18. On your behalf it is submitted and I accept that she must have been at least 16 years of age. It is noteworthy that the evidence received, which I also accept, is that she was emotionally immature with reference to her chronological age in any event. She was I find, deceived as to the purpose of the trip. Person 1 was taken to the hotel and after being rendered senseless through drink, she was then subjected by one of the group, she did not know whom, to sexual intercourse whilst she was unconscious.

With reference to the guidelines, this was at minimum a Category 1B offence with a starting point of six years and a range of four to eight.

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Trust was a critical feature of the grooming process as the complainant Person 1 explained. At first you would just chill and hang out with them kind of thing. And I do not know, I suppose until they thought they kind of gained your trust. Then I do not know, you might just end up with people like trying to put their hands down your top or their pants. Or then one thing would lead to another. Person 1A trusted you and you abused that trust by facilitating this course of events, deliberately I find by collecting her late at night, driving her to the hotel. Creating an illusion, she was part of the group, when in fact she was unwittingly to be the object of serious sexual abuse. Namely rape, by one or more members of the group. In these circumstances having regard to all the evidence before the jury and the information available to me, I find that this factor places this into a higher category of culpability, namely Category 1A.

B

C

I note that with reference to categorisation for this and other offences, there are overlaps between the categories in terms of the range of sentencing brackets. Some of the offences may not fit precisely into one category or another. And where this is the case, I have assessed the gravamen of the offending when assessing issues of culpability and harm in conjunction with aggravating and mitigating factors.

Count six, relates to a specimen count of vaginal rape of Person 2A, when she was aged between 15 and 18 years. Having regard to the evidence and the submissions made, I am approaching sentence on the basis that this specimen count of offending occurred over a period of months when she was at the upper end of this bracket. Namely, approximately 18 years of age. The repeated rape of Person 2A has occurred within the context of a supposed relationship between Person 2A and you. The jury heard that in reality, the notion of a relationship was in fact an abusive association. Characterised by meeting up, you at times plying her with alcohol and drugs, until she was in no fit state to consent and you then raping her. She said that you did not do anything normal together, just drink, drugs, driving around and sex. Describing the sex, she states 'I was always drunk.' And she would become in her words 'So stupid off doing weed I would not now what I was doing. I could have been in danger. I do not know when and where I was at all.' She states that she had to do it otherwise you would get violent and aggressive. She describes slitting her wrists. And her mother describes Person 2A as self-harming at quite an early age and also taking overdoses. With reference to the guidelines, the victim was at minimum particularly vulnerable. And use of alcohol and drugs to facilitate the offence together can note this was by any standard at minimum a Category 2A offence, with a starting point of 10 years and a range of nine to 13.

A

I remind myself of the evidence that the jury heard. Including that of Person 2A's mother who stated 'She has always been quite young for her age in some respects. She cannot communicate with people well. Person 2A is more vulnerable. She is very easily played. Even now I would say at 25 she is only about 15 in her way of dealing with people. And when she was 16, she was probably at around the level of a 13-year-old. She has always been vulnerable to people taking advantage of her.'

B

I conclude that having regard to all the evidence before the jury and available from my assessment, the level and nature of vulnerability of the complainant due to her personal circumstances, is such that she is more properly and most appropriately categorised as extremely vulnerable due to her personal circumstances. Thus, placing this into Category 1A, with a starting point of 15 years and a range of 13 to 19 years.

C

Count seven relates to a further specimen count of vaginal rape of Person 2A when she was aged between 15 and 18 years. Namely approximately 18 years. In like circumstances and with like categorisation. Count eight relates to Person 2A being taken by you, in company with Mansor Akhtar, to a house where there has been referred to. I will read that again. Being taken by you, in company with Mansor Akhtar, to a house that has been referred to as Imran's[?] house. Where she was then raped by a male whose identity has not been established. She describes having been really drunk and affected by cannabis. And then after she had woken up to find that she was being raped by a stranger. And when she was then outrageously and wrongly accused by others present, of being a slut, she was in her words 'Screaming to go home, in tears and crying because I was on alcohol too. I could not get home.' Describing this incident to the police she said 'I feel embarrassed, I feel dirty because someone has done that without me saying they can do that to me.' Her extreme vulnerability and naivety, is underlined by her comment to the police 'I thought that I was in the wrong because I was so drunk.'

With reference to the guidelines, the victim was taken to that address by you. And there she was detained and deceived as to the purpose of the visit and she was subjected to rape and physical violence. The offending involved another or others. And these factors together place this at minimum in Category 1B, with a starting point of six years and a range of four to eight.

A Person 2A trusted you and you abused that trust by facilitating this nightmare scenario. And
B I find by deliberately leading her to the horrific ordeal to which she was subjected at this
property, in these circumstances, having regard to all the evidence before the jury and the
information available to me, I find that this factor places this into a higher category of
culpability. Namely Category 1A. In your favour I have borne in mind everything which has
C been said on your behalf. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences. I also bear
in mind the length of time since these offences were committed and your domestic
circumstances and working history. I take into account what I have read in the presentence
report dated 24 October. Whilst at the time of offending you will have posed a significant
and high risk of harm, you are currently posing a medium risk of harm to children and the
public. A medium likelihood of committing a further sexual offence. I also take into account
the character references received this morning, which should be uploaded by your legal
representatives onto the Digital case system in due course. You have suffered considerable
family bereavement and you have shown that in different circumstances you are capable of
being a law abiding and responsible person.

Mohamed Akram, would you stand?

As with others, I aggregate the sentences to reflect the totality of your offending. Having
regard also to the principle of totality. The sentence in respect of count one is eight years.
Count six is 17 years. Count seven is 17 years. Count eight is eight years concurrently on
each.

You may sit down.

Niaz Ahmed. You are now 54 years old. You were known amongst the group and by the
complainants as 'Shack'(?). You have a number of previous convictions for offences
involving dishonesty and serious violence. In 2013 you were sentenced for a Section 18
wounding with intent and possession of an offensive weapon, for which you received an 81-
month sentence of imprisonment. You have been on licence for those matters. You were
convicted by the jury of count two, inciting a child Person 1, who engaged in sexual activity.
And count nine, a sexual assault with Person 2. I have to deal with you for offences on two
separate girls. You too must I find, have had at least some knowledge of the way these girls
had been groomed and the way they were being treated by others. You were prepared to
abuse them for your own sexual gratification.

A

Person 1 states that when she was inebriated, intoxicated on drink and drugs and feeling sick, she was raped and beaten up at your house in Balmoral Avenue. She states that you and others were present at night. She does not state that you were involved in that sexual or physical assault. She states that your house was one of the locations where she was regularly raped.

B

Person 2 states that you had parties at your house. And that with reference to what you have done, in her words 'He has locked me in his house, fixed me up, bought me alcohol, bought me cigarettes. Bought my friends alcohol and cigarettes. Basically, any young girls.' And she went on to say 'He got nasty once because he said I had grassed him into the police.'

Police Constable Hall describes being taken to your house on Manchester Road in April of 2008 by Person 2. Who referred to you as being one of the several men who had been drinking there, in relation to an enquiry when Person 1 had gone missing.

C

Count two relates to an offence committed in a car when the vehicle was parked up near to a snooker club. And you incited Person 1A a child aged 14 to masturbate you. The offence involved Person 1A being required to masturbate your penis to ejaculation. And there were three other men present at the time as you committed the offence. One who was video recording on a mobile phone what was happening and wanting her to perform oral sex upon him. And another who was groping her under her bra. She describes being terrified. And these factors, coupled with the significant disparity in age between you and this child [inaudible] this was a Category 2A offence with a starting point of three years and a range of two to six.

Count nine relates to the occasion when Person 2A was aged between 15 and 18 years, when you attempted to force your hand into her knickers. This offence involved attempting to touch her genitalia. She was extremely vulnerable and alcohol and drugs had been used to facilitate the offence. She describes you as being really nasty. Swearing at her and she felt disgusted. These factors combine to place this in Category 2A, with a starting point of two years and a range of one to four.

In your favour I have borne in mind everything which has been said on your behalf. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences. Your conviction for serious offences including significant violence, are of some relevance in the context of your capacity to instil fear and trauma upon Person 1A and Person 2A. I also bear in mind the length of time since these offences were committed.

A I take into account what I have read in the presentence report dated 31 October. Whilst at the time of offending you will have posed a high risk of serious harm to teenage females. You are currently assessed as posing a medium risk of serious harm to children and the public. And medium likelihood of committing a further sexual offence. I also take into account the information contained within the letters from your partner and from your sister. And from your younger brother. I also bear in mind the length of time since these offences were committed and your domestic circumstances and working history. The impact of you being in prison will be keenly felt by your family. In particular, in relation to those who will continue to have caring responsibilities for your children. And specifically with regard to the needs of your eight-year-old disabled son and your widowed mother.

C Niaz Ahmed, would you stand.

As with others I aggregate the sentences to reflect the totality of your offending. Having regard also to the principle of totality. The sentence in respect of count two is five years. Count nine, is two years concurrently on each. You may sit down.

Mohammed Ibrar. You are now 34 years old. You were known amongst the group and by the complainants as 'Bully'[?]. You have previous convictions for producing and possessing cannabis with intent to supply. And theft from a person in 2010, which was an offence linked to an offence of robbery committed by the complainant witness which was Person 1. Your alleged role is described in a statement by Person 1's mother dated 15 December 2014. You have not previously served a custodial sentence. You were convicted by the jury of count 10, a trafficking for sexual exploitation offence, involving Person 3. And count 11 an assault occasioning actual bodily harm involving the same complainant.

You too must I find, have at least some knowledge of the way this girl had been groomed and the way she was being treated by others. You were prepared to abuse her and strived to abuse her for your own sexual gratification. Person 3 states that she would get a range of drugs, cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, NCAT, MDMA and others from the Asian guys, including you. And you were one of the one she would meet with regularly from a young age. And that would tend to be in your car. She said that you would get anything that Person 1A wanted. She also states that after the incident at counts 10 and 11, when she subsequently saw you in town you shouted abuse at her.

A She describes your build. You were very obviously much bigger and stronger than her. She described Pretoss[?] the defendant Dalliwell[?] who has subsequently received a life sentence, as being your mate. She describes you working at several taxi companies in Huddersfield. Although I note what is stated in the presentence report regarding your difficulties in terms of employment. Person 2 describes you as being one of the group of men who used to go to Ahmed's party house when she was there. She states your physique is massive compared to her size.

B

C In contextual terms, whilst you fall to be sentenced in respect of two offences occurring on one date. I note that the jury heard considerable evidence that you can I find, rightly be deemed to have had awareness of the group activity that was occurring in relation to the grooming and cynical exploitation of these girls. Person 1 for example, stated that you were given money by Bashir so that he could take her to your premises overnight for sex. She describes them going to your house on Moorbottom Road, which she described as a 'chill out house.' She also states that you were present during the events that comprise count five. And that at first, she thought that Bashir was in her words 'Trying to beat himself up in front of you.' She states that you did not intervene to stop what was happening as Bashir attempted to rape her orally in your car. Nor when he serious assaulted her. Punching her to the face, smashing her head into the dashboard of the car and then pulled her out of the car slapping her and stamping on her stomach, before throwing her mobile phone onto a nearby factory roof. You drove off with Bashir afterwards leaving Person 1 behind injured. She was taken by the police to hospital, but you and Bashir drove to the hospital and collected her. And later you played a role in an offence of theft of a person in relation to which she was being in her words 'Battered in the car all the way to the moors, by you.' And that 'He just kept punching me and punching me every time I said no.' She states that because she refused to perform oral sex 'He battered me, took me to the moors, battered me even more and then left me.' She said that you used your fist and that it felt like her nose was broken. Police Constable Wiltshire[?] describes seeing her with bruising to her eye and to the side of her face and to her nose and above her wrist. It is common ground that the assault that you inflicted was preceded by further assaults of her by others earlier that evening. There is an issue as raised in a sentencing note submitted on your behalf, as to the different scenarios relating to the involvement of others. I approach this matter on the basis that Person 1 was present and that you as the driver of your vehicle involved her. There is evidence that she did indeed play a proactive and arguably culpable part in what took place against Person 3A. Person 3A's mother states that Person 3A's face was a mess.

A She had bruises all over and that A lost her job as a result. It is apparent from Person 3A's victim personal statement that the traumas she suffered at your hands in this ordeal has had an continues to have a devastating impact upon her. And that it remains a particular low point for her in terms of everything to which she has been subjected during the extremely unhappy period of her life. This is a Category 1 assault of its kind with a starting point of 18 months and a range of one to three years.

B In your favour, I have borne in mind everything which has been said on your behalf. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences. I note the reference at page four of the presentence report to outstanding matters, which do not in any respect influence sentence today. I also bear in mind the length of time since these offences were committed. I remind myself as I did throughout the course of the trial of the contents of the psychological and intermediaries reports. You pleaded your level of intellectual functioning and including the medical condition referenced as nephrotic syndrome. I have previously directed that these reports should accompany your paperwork in custody.

C I take into account what I have read in the presentence report dated the 25 October. You are currently assessed as posing a medium risk of harm to others and medium likelihood of committing a further sexual offence. I take into account what I have read in the letter from your mother. I also bear in mind the length of time since these offences were committed. And your domestic circumstances and personal challenges, as highlighted and explained in the letter from your mother. And the extent to which these may be compounded in a custodial environment.

Mohammed Ibrar, would you stand?

As with others I aggregate the sentences to reflect the totality of your offending. Having regard also to the principle of totality. The sentence in respect of count 10 is three years. Count 11 is 18 months concurrently on each.

You may sit down.

Asif Bashir. You are now 33 years old. You were known amongst the group and by the complaint as 'Junior.' You have a number of previous convictions including for an offence involving handling stolen goods. Offences on two separate occasions of driving whilst over the prescribed limited. And offences on two separate occasions of driving whilst disqualified

A and possession of cannabis. You have previously served short custodial sentences, the longest of which was eight months.

B You were convicted by the jury of count four, a specimen vaginal rape offence of Person 1. And count five an attempted oral rape offence of the same complainant. You too must I find have had at least some knowledge of the way this girl had been groomed and the way she was being treated by others. You were prepared on occasions to abuse her for your own sexual gratification.

C Count four is a specimen count of vaginal rape of Person 1A in relation to a period of a number of months, when she was approximately 16 years old. She was at minimum particularly vulnerable. And having regard to the violence to which she had previously been subjected to by you, culpability and harm factors combine to place this at minimum in Category 2A. With a starting point of ten years and a range of nine to 13. There are some grounds for concluding that having regard to all the evidence before the jury and available from my assessment. The level and nature of vulnerability of the complainant, due to her personal circumstances is such that she is more properly and most appropriately categorised as extremely vulnerable. Due to her personal circumstances. Thus, placing this into Category 1A with a starting point of 15 years and a range of 13 to 19 years. That said there is some force in the submission as advanced in the defence sentencing note. That distinctions can and should be drawn between the position of you and the defendant 'Bashir' in contra distinction for some of the other defendants charged with rape in this case. Person 1 was undoubtedly vulnerable within the context of her involvement with you 'Bashir.' However, there are elements to the evidential narrative that caused me to draw back from making a finding that she was extremely vulnerable vis a vis you 'Bashir' in terms of the parameters of your interaction including sexual contact with each other. Which was for certain periods of time not necessarily abusive, although it was for other periods undoubtedly abusive and very significantly so. The jury heard about incidents when you demonstrated a callous disregard for her welfare and you were sexually, physically and emotionally abusive towards her. The incident referred to at trial as the 'five pounds incident' is but one illustration of the apparent contempt you showed her at the times. And on that occasion her parents.

A Count five relates to the attempted oral rape of Person 1A when she was aged approximately 18 years of old. When you tried to force your penis into her mouth. I take into account the violence that you inflicted upon her immediately following her refusal. You punching her to the face, knocking her to the floor and kicking her in her stomach. And then leaving her there bloodied, having thrown her phone on to the roof. The police who found her that evening
B stated that her top was covered in blood and they took her to hospital. This is minimum a 2A offence with the same starting point and range, subject to downward adjustment to reflect the offence being an attempt.

C In your favour, I have borne in mind everything which has been said on your behalf. You have no previous convictions for sexual offences. I also bear in mind the length of time since these offences were committed.

I take into account what I have read in the presentence report dated 31 October. Whilst at the time of offending you will have posed a high risk of harm to teenage females, you are currently assessed as posing a medium risk of harm to children and the public. A medium likelihood of committing any further sexual offence. I also take into account the information contained within the letters from your mother and from a friend of the family. Including those letters received this morning from Person 4[?] and from Person 5[?]. Both of which should be uploaded by your legal representatives in due course onto the DCS. I also bear in mind the length of time since these offences were committed. And your domestic circumstances including the position of your children and of working history.

Asif Bashir would you stand?

As with others I aggregate the sentences to reflect the totality of your offending. Having regard also to the principle of totality. The sentence in respect of count four is 11 years. Count five is seven years concurrently on each.

That concludes the sentencing remarks.

The defendants may be taken down.

End of sentence.

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