

Sentence

- 1) After a trial in April , the jury found you guilty of the count against you of Collecting Information , contrary to Section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000. When your home was searched in November of 2019 you were found to be in possession of the Anarchist Cookbook , a book which contained instruction for the manufacture of explosives and devices and other weapons . It is clearly a volume of use to a person preparing or committing an act of terrorism. You knew the nature of the book – as evidenced by what you said to the police when it was seized , and you had been warned about such material by PC Penegar .
- 2) You put forward the defence of “reasonable excuse” by way of academic research , or legitimate intellectual interest , which defence was rejected by the jury. You did not give evidence , either to support your defence , or to support your contention to the author of the Pre Sentence Report that your political views have been mischaracterised by the prosecution , and that you are more moderate than has been presented . You could have sought to explain that in Court , but chose not to .
- 3) A great deal of evidence showed your extreme right wing mindset , in terms of your communications and alliances with others of similar mind. Your pronouncements were abhorrent to all right-thinking people , as were the vile images that you kept on your mobile telephone , a device that you did not want the police to have and deceitfully attempted to conceal .
- 4) I emphasise that I am not punishing you for your political views , which , however repellent, were views that you are entitled to hold , provided that the line into criminality is not crossed . I observe , however , that it is profoundly dispiriting to see a young man such as yourself , blessed with high intelligence , whose heart is filled with so much hatred for all manner of people who have done you no harm and who pose no threat to you . Many of the postings are truly hateful and worrying .The

relevance of the evidence of your views and the expression of those views is that they are pertinent to your possession of the book the subject of the Indictment .

- 5) In 2016 you were diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and a number of allowances have been made for you since then in respect of that .I have considered the evidence in respect of your condition .Sadly , I have formed the view that that diagnosis is something upon which you play when it suits you. From what I have seen of you during the trial , in pre-trial hearings , and on the evidence in this case , you are a highly manipulative person .Although I have considered your mental disorder as required by the Definitive Guideline , I do not find in this case that it has any material effect on sentencing .
- 6) At the beginning of the trial you refused to wear a mask as was required for those attending the building.You told Security Staff that it was your human right not to wear a mask . You then changed your reason and claimed through your counsel that wearing a mask close to your skin adversely affected your health in terms of your Asperger's .You refused to wear a mask to come into Court.However it was clear from the evidence available , firstly that you exploit your medical condition- with references to you needing to act "legit autistic" when attending an assessment (line 1086 SOE) , and even more significantly , photographs recovered from your phone which showed you wearing a Nazi type mask quite happily -line 494 SOE . Ultimately, when I stated that I was considering revoking your bail if you did not comply with Court requirements , you wore a mask and continued to wear it throughout the trial, without any ill effect.
- 7) All of this shows that you are an arrogant young man , who was trying to assert his authority on the Court and believes that he is superior to others. Your perception of yourself as being superior to others was apparent from your demeanour through the lengthy video recorded interviews under caution which were played in full to the Court , and therefore , although you chose not to give evidence , I have had considerable opportunities to observe you during the trial Sadly ,the signs do not bode well at the moment for your rehabilitation .
- 8) Among the matters of particular concern in your case are firstly that you were not frank with PC Penegar , the Prevent officer , who dealt with you with courtesy and tact in trying to talk you away from extremism . You did not tell him of your

involvement with the Iron March forum .Secondly of concern is your fascination with weapons , including your attempting to import pepper spray . Thirdly , your expressed desires to go "ER" – a reference to Eliot Rogers , a killer , and to "going on a spree" .and fourthly, your contact with people of concern such as Ethan Stables , Alex Davies , Garron Helm and others .

- 9) The real worry in your case was that your conduct might have the effect of encouraging others of extreme mindset to take an extreme course . The author of the PSR is concerned that you appear to have a complete lack of understanding of the seriousness of your actions or the risks posed by your ongoing association with extremism . you are therefore assessed in the Report as posing a high risk of serious harm to the public.
- 10) In respect of the Definitive Guideline-I have considered the helpful joint sentencing note. In terms of Culpability I accept that this is a Category C case . In terms of harm , I accept the Prosecution submission that this case straddles Categories 1 and 2 . the book provides instruction for specific terrorist activity endangering life and that some of the techniques described in the book, taken in isolation, would be very likely to cause harm, which would indicate category one. However the intention if any of the defendant to use the techniques in the book, and therefore the likelihood of harm actually being caused is uncertain. There is in fact not a great deal of difference in the starting points in the two particular categories, C 1 indicating a starting point of two years after a trial, And C2 indicating a starting point of 18 months after a trial.
- 11) I have to bear in mind was published when the maximum sentence for this offence was ten years imprisonment and that since then parliament has increased the maximum up to 15 years. Accordingly it seems to me that there must be some uplift within the category in the sentence imposed.
- 12) So far as mitigating factors are concerned I take into account Ms Bright's submissions , in particular your lack of previous convictions and your age at the time of these matters .
- 13) So far as aggravating Factors are concerned there are the ailure to heed warnings of PC Penegar coupled with the period of time over which the offence was committed- in effect the sme thging .

14) So serious only immediate custody and therefore the sentence will be one of immediate imprisonment . The PSR does not suggest that a Community Order is appropriate and I do not believe that it is.

15) I am required to deal with you in respect of this offence as an "offender of particular concern " in accordance with Schedule 13 of the Sentencing Act 2020. That means that there will be an additional licence period of 1 year at the conclusion of the determinate sentence which I impose .You will be considered for release by the Parole Board at the one-half point of your custodial term , but the Parole Board may decide that you have to remain in custody for up to the whole of the term. When you are released , you will be subject to licence requirements until the end of the additional licence period , and liable to recall should you breach any requirements

16) The sentence that I impose upon you is a total sentence of imprisonment of 3 year, comprising a custodial term of 2 years imprisonment , with an additional licence period of 1 year .Allowance – curfew and time i/c-182 days on curfew – means that 91 days will count towards your sentence – as will time you have spent i/c.

17) Ancillary Orders – Notification under Counter Terrorism Act for 10 years .
Forfeiture/Destruction of Anarchist Cookbook.Surcharge/Collection Order.

18) Commend PC Penegar and D I Oglen – who carried out their duties in a thorough and professional manner .