

**WARNING:** reporting restrictions apply to the contents transcribed in this document, because the case concerned is a sexual offence. Reporting restrictions prohibit the publication of the applicable information to the public or any section of the public, in writing, in a broadcast or by means of the internet, including social media. Anyone who receives a copy of this transcript is responsible in law for making sure that applicable restrictions are not breached. A person who breaches a reporting restriction is liable to a fine and/or imprisonment. For guidance on whether reporting restrictions apply, and to what information, ask at the court office or take legal advice.

This Transcript is Crown Copyright. It may not be reproduced in whole or in part other than in accordance with relevant licence or with the express consent of the Authority. All rights are reserved.



**IN THE COURT MARTIAL**

held at

**MILITARY COURT CENTRE, CATTERICK**

on the

**25<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

in the case of

**REX**

V

**30431639 Able Rate Curt McVeigh**

**Royal Navy Submarine Training Centre**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE**

Judge Mitchell

Assistant Judge Advocate General

**SENTENCING REMARKS**

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Yes, thank you, please sit. Service personnel retain service headdress. Yes, would the defendant please stand. To be clear we have considered the sentencing guideline relating to the offence of sexual assault. We have also considered Version VII of the Judge Advocate General's Sentencing Guidance, the character references and the pre-sentence report.

Engineering Technician Curt McVeigh, you have been in His Majesty's service for 1 year and 325 days. You are 23 years old and aside from your conviction for the offences for which you are to be

sentenced, you previously no disciplinary entries on your JPA record and no convictions on your PNC record, save for a caution for fraud in 2023 that did not stop you then joining the Royal Navy.

You have been convicted after trial before the Court Martial of two offences of sexual assault. In the early hours of 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024, now getting on for two years ago, after a night out you groped your colleague and friend's girlfriend the complainant [name redacted], when she was sat on a couch in your home after a night out. You squeezed her thigh, that is count 1.

A short while later after she had drifted off to sleep, she awoke to find you moving your hand down at the waistband of her pyjama bottoms and underneath her underwear. Touching her in the groin area. Those of the facts of Charge 2.

The victim personal statement in this case has been read out to us, and it is clear that the overall effect of this has been to leave her very wary of men and alcohol in combination. She is not enjoying life anywhere near as much as she used to. We sincerely hope that that changes for her in the near future.

For the sake of totality, we take the offences together. The lead offence is the most serious one that is Charge 2 and Charge 1 is an aggravating context factor of that Charge. Accordingly, concurrent sentences will be passed on each Charge.

First, we turn to dismissal. We remind ourselves of the words of the Judge Advocate General:

“Service personnel have little choice where and with whom they serve. They may live in close confines with only a curtain or, if on operations, nothing separating them from others. They may share facilities including ablutions and social spaces. They work, eat and socialise together. Sexual offending undermines the bond of trust which must exist between those who serve together, affects morale and ultimately operational effectiveness.”

As is rightly conceded there is no place for you, given your convictions in His Majesty's Armed Forces, given that you have been convicted of sexually assaulting a fellow Service person and so you will be dismissed.

In forming this opinion, we have taken into account all the information available to us about the circumstances of these offences including the aggravating and mitigating factors and what we understand to be the inevitable financial effect on your livelihood and any pension you have accrued.

On the Sentencing Council's guidance relating to the offences of sexual assault, we find that this is a case of lower blame worthiness that is category B. You were 21 at the time, not long into service. [Name redacted] was sat to you on a sofa, you grabbed her leg, she said nothing, so you moved your hand towards her groin. She objected and you stopped there.

As to harm there is clear evidence that you touched [name redacted] to her pubic area for about 10 seconds inside the waistband of her underwear. No clear evidence that you went further or directly touched her naked genitalia. We therefore find that this is a B3 rather than a B2 case. Therefore, applying the sentencing guideline properly the indicative sentence after trial in all the circumstances would be a high-level community order.

The fact that you are to be dismissed makes such an order possible. The facts of the case make that order appropriate. The aggravating factor of you being under the influence of alcohol is more than balanced out by the mitigating factors of your age and lack of relevant previous convictions. We also weigh in the balance the fact that as we say dismissal from His Majesty's service is, in itself, a punishment.

We are therefore satisfied that in all the circumstances albeit that we accept that you have caused [name redacted] harm and we acknowledge that you were convicted after a trial, we do not think that the custodial threshold has been crossed, particularly given that you did this when you were 21 and are still now only 23.

That is also true given the efforts that you have made to rehabilitate yourself of late, even if you cannot bring yourself, even now, to admit these offences.

We therefore propose to sentence you concurrently on each Charge to a 12-month community order. You will complete 120 hours of unpaid work together with 20 days of rehabilitation activity requirements. We do not think that imposing an alcohol abstinence requirement is necessary and, in the circumstances, bearing in mind what you have been convicted of, we make no order for compensation.

So that will be it aside from one other matter. You will be subject to notification requirements in this case for five years. The effect of that will be made clear to you by written notice shortly. In short, it means that you have to tell the police where you live within 72 hours of moving house. Or if you change your name or some other relevant feature. You will have to do that for five years. If you

breach those requirements, you will be liable to arrest, prosecution and imprisonment for a term of up to five years.

Mr President would you please be so kind as to announce the sentence.

### **SENTENCE**

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD: Engineering Technician Curt McVeigh, on each Charge you are sentenced to a 12-month community order. You will complete 120 hours of unpaid work and 20 rehabilitation activity requirement days. These sentences are to be served concurrently.

Further you are dismissed from His Majesty's Service, march out.