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IN THE COURT MARTIAL

held at

MILITARY COURT CENTRE, CATTERICK

on the

28th May 2026

in the case of

REX

V

XRV

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Judge Legard

Assistant Judge Advocate General

SENTENCING REMARKS

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Please keep your headress on throughout the course of these proceedings. I will deliver the sentencing remarks, at the end of which I will invite the President of the Board to formally pass sentence. As you are appearing over a live link you can remain seated throughout these proceedings and remarks.

Now, following your conviction, after trial, you fall to be sentenced in respect of ten separate charges. It is the eldest of your three children, [name redacted] aged between 9 and 14 years at the time of your offending who is the victim of this profoundly disturbing case.

Charges 1, 2 and 3 relate to when the family were living in [redacted] during which time you repeatedly raped and sexual assaulted [name redacted] and forced her to lick your penis. That is Charge 4. Charges 5 and 6 refer to [name redacted] being repeatedly raped by you when you were living and based in the [redacted]. Charges 7 and 8 are like offences relating to your time in [redacted].

You also fall to be sentenced for an offence of engaging in sexual communication with [name redacted], that is Charge 9. Finally, you have been convicted of unreasonably refusing to provide the password to your mobile phone, despite a lawful notice requiring you to do so, that is Charge 10.

Now, three of those Charges are what we call multiple incident charges, that is Charges 2, 6 and 8. Two relate to a time when [name redacted] was under 13 years of age; charges 1 and 2, both charges of rape.

I will deal briefly with the facts. [n

[Name redacted] was born on [redacted]. The evidence suggests that you are her biological, as opposed to her stepfather. In reality little turns on the point because you were, throughout her life, her de facto parent. In summary, you began by grooming [name redacted] initially by forcing her, then a young child, to show you her body, often over a video call, specifically her breasts and vagina, in order to monitor her development and puberty.

When you were away from home and the family left in [redacted], each time [name redacted] needed help or parental assistance she had to pay for it. Being forced to touch herself and then send you the video of her having done so. You demanded sexual favours from her, in exchange for example for the promise of a new mobile phone. You took advantage of her whenever her mother was out of the house. For example, when in [redacted] her mother was working a nightshift in the hospital, you would make [name redacted] lie on the bed; you would proceed to rape her.

She would cry and plead with you not to enter her but those tears, those pleas, fell on deaf ears. You would force her to intimately touch herself and suck your penis, on at least one occasion ejaculating inside her mouth. On other occasions you would lick her vagina.

Her childlike understanding at the time was that she was helping you in some strange way. That was as a consequence of your emotional blackmail, referring to her as your favourite. Crying in her presence. Telling her that you were dying or that your heart was breaking to the extent that [name redacted] took pity on you and succumbed to your physical sexual demands. In short, you subjected

[name redacted] to repeated acts of rape and sexual abuse from when she was 9 years of age until such time as she became pregnant by you when in [redacted]. Following which you encouraged and facilitated an abortion. At that time, she was aged 14.

After [name redacted] suspected she was pregnant, you offered her a terminatory pill or drug, but you told her that in order for it to work you would have to insert your penis fully inside her with the pill inside a condom. That was another lie and another warped excuse for raping her. You then accompanied her to the abortion clinic, you paid for the operation and that was because you knew that you were at risk of being exposed as the father of that unborn baby.

Now, your story, namely that you had a perfectly normal, albeit relatively strict, father/daughter relationship with [name redacted], throughout the period in question; that were you not responsible for making her pregnant and that [name redacted] had essentially concocted all of these allegations out of thin air. Well, that story was, in the face of compelling evidence to the contrary, unsurprisingly and comprehensively rejected by the Board.

What you did over the course of those five to six years was unconscionable and unforgiveable. The most important thing a child should receive is a sense of security and unconditional love from her parents, and a home environment in which they can feel safe. By your actions you effectively robbed [name redacted] of her childhood, her virginity, a chance for her to develop relationships with others of her own age, at a time of her choosing and on her own terms.

You were the one person whom she ought to have been able to trust implicitly and yet you abused that trust in the most grotesque way imaginable. You took advantage of a young girl, your own biological daughter, someone who had every right to feel safe and secure in her home let alone her own bedroom.

Your actions over that period have had and will continue to have, for some time, profound consequences for [name redacted]. We note that, on at least one occasion, [name redacted] contemplated suicide. If anyone needed any reminder as to how devastating a crime child rape is, then they need look no further than this case.

The contents of her impact statement speak for themselves. It is a very moving and maturely written impact statement. In keeping with the way in which [name redacted] gave evidence. She is currently [redacted] years old and in the middle of her studies. Those studies have inevitably been impacted, and she worries about her ability to fulfil her ambition to become a cardiologist in the fullness of time.

She experiences recurring flashbacks and nightmares that disrupt her sleep. She records the emotional trauma that she has and continues to suffer but, despite everything, she bears no ill feeling towards you. A testament to her Christian faith perhaps. She speaks of the sense of shame, hurt and embarrassment with which her whole family will be inevitably and forever associated as a result of your actions.

We sincerely hope that these proceedings today may provide a degree of closure for [name redacted], or, if not, at least help her begin what will inevitably be a long road to recovery. The Court wishes to commend [name redacted] for the courage that she has shown and the manner in which she gave her evidence.

I turn now to the Sentencing Guidelines. The Judge Advocate General's Guidelines are of no assistance in a serious case such as this. I turn instead to the relevant guidance or guidelines published by the Sentencing Council.

Having regard to the principle of totality, we have decided to pass a sentence on Charge 2, a multiple incident charge of rape, when [name redacted] was approximately 9 years old, which reflects the total offending. Before doing so, we will indicate what the sentence on Charge 2 would have been in isolation. We will pass concurrent sentences for all other offences. We note that the guidelines state that offences may be of such severity, for example, involving a campaign of rape, that sentences of 20 years and above may be appropriate.

We have read with interest the case of *R v GT* in which the Court of Appeal made clear that the term, “campaign of rape” can be equally applicable to multiple rapes on the same victim. We do regard this as a campaign of rape. [Name redacted] was raped multiple times over a period of almost six years. Even if we had not regarded this as a campaign of rape, the overall offending, which includes six separate charges of rape, including three multiple charges, requires a total sentence well outside the sentencing range for a single offence of rape of a child under 13.

Charges 1, 2, 5 to 8 inclusive, carry a maximum sentence of life. Charges 3 and 4 a maximum sentence of 14 years. Charge 9 a maximum of 2 years. Charge 10 a maximum of 5 years.

Counts 1 to 9 are all culpability A offences because of the breach of trust and on account of your grooming behaviour. The most important role of any parent is to protect their child. There can be no greater abuse of trust than a father preying upon his own young biological daughter.

In each case, with the exception of Charge 9, however, we have determined that harm falls within category 2. To that extent we disagree with counsel for the Crown. [Name redacted] was particularly vulnerable due to both her age and her personal circumstances, for example, being isolated from her mother. We have set those out above. Furthermore she was, albeit towards the end of her ordeal, made pregnant by you. We do not find that this has met the level of severe psychological harm, however, and we considered whether there were other factors justifying elevation into category 1 harm. Having given the matter careful thought, we concluded that there were not.

For Charges 1 and 2, rape of a child under 13, a category 2A offence has a start point of 13 years with a range of 11 to 17 years. That, of course, is for a single offence of rape of a child under 13 and you fall to be sentenced for multiple charges of rape as well as other offences.

For the offence of a sexual assault of a child under 13. Again harm category 2. [Name redacted] was particularly vulnerable due to her circumstances. There was the touching of naked genitalia. We regard the licking of her vagina as a particularly serious offence of sexual assault. A 2A offence has a start point of 4 years, a range of 3 to 7.

The charge of engaging in sexual activity with a child under 13, again we find harm 2, given her vulnerability and penile penetration of her mouth. The start point therefore is one of 8 years with a range of 5 to 10 years imprisonment.

In relation to the charge of sexual communication with a child, Charge 9, in that case we are satisfied that it falls within category 1 harm. It clearly involved the sending of sexual images or videos and the like from [name redacted] to you in exchange for favours or on demand. A category 1A placement provides for a start point of 18 months with a range of between 9 months and 2 years. Finally in connection with the RIPA offence, Charge 10, there are no guidelines as such we accept the Crown's submission that it carries a five-year maximum.

Now, the following aggravating features serve to increase any sentence beyond those notional start points and they apply to each offence, save, of course, for Charge 10. One is the specific targeting of [name redacted] who was, on any objective view, particularly vulnerable. It is the specific targeting as opposed to her vulnerability that falls to be considered at this stage, because her particular vulnerability is already accounted for within the harm categorisation.

The location and the timing of the offending, often in her own bed, certainly in her own home, the one place where she ought to have felt safe and often at a time when most children are preparing

themselves for sleep before the beginning of another school day. The emotional pressure that you brought to bear upon [name redacted]. The steps that you took to prevent [name redacted] from either reporting or obtaining assistance, or put another way, concealing evidence by forcing or encouraging her to undergo an abortion. Also, the fact that you repeatedly ejaculated inside her.

I turn to mitigation. You are [redacted] years of age, you are of hitherto good character and we have taken into account all that has been very ably expressed on your behalf by Ms Edington. You have much to thank her for. Although we have taken certain matters into account in your favour, given the seriousness of these offences, the weight that we can attach to these matters is and must be limited. We do however take account of, and we recognise that life will be far from easy for you in prison but overall however we are of the view that the aggravating features of this case substantially outweigh any mitigation.

On the last occasion, we adjourned sentence in order for a pre-sentence report to be commissioned in order best to assess the risk of further offending and whether you should be considered dangerous on the basis that you pose a significant risk of serious harm to others through the commission of further specified offences.

We have now read, with interest, what is a detailed pre-sentence report the contents of which we found extremely helpful and I thank the author, Ms Hards, for it. I quote directly from it as follows:

“XRV is assessed as posing a high risk of serious harm to children. His abuse against his daughter/stepdaughter was chronic. His sexual offending is potentially specific to his family dynamics, but neither is this to say that propensity could not be present in respect of other children.”

We do pass an extended sentence on Counts or Charges 1 to 8 inclusive. Charges 9 and 10 will be determinate concurrent sentences.

I now turn to sentence.

First of all, dismissal. Clearly these offences are serious enough to warrant dismissal and you will therefore be dismissed from His Majesty's Armed Forces.

Next sentence.

Having considered the matter with care, we have concluded that these offences are each so serious that only an immediate custodial sentence can be justified. The shortest possible sentences commensurate with the seriousness of these offences are as follows:

On Charge 1 the sentence is one of 14 years plus an extended licence of 4 years.

On Charge 2 the sentence is one of 21 years plus an extended licence of 4 years. This would have been 16 years plus 4 years extension, had it been viewed in isolation.

On Count 3, 5 years plus 4 years' extended licence.

On Charge 4, 7 years plus an extended licence of 4 years.

On Charge 5, 11 years plus an extended licence of 4 years.

On Charge 6, 12 years plus an extended licence of 4 years.

On Charge 7, 11 years plus an extended licence of 4 years.

On Charge 8, 12 years plus an extended licence of 4 years.

On Charge 9, 18 months.

On Charge 10, 24 months.

For the avoidance of doubt, the sentences on Charges 1 and 3 to 10 inclusive will run concurrently to that imposed in respect of Charge 2.

We cannot of course give you any credit for pleading guilty.

Let me briefly explain why we have also passed an extended licence period on Charges 1 to 8. We are required to consider the issue of dangerousness. That is whether there is a significant risk of you committing further specified offences, and if so whether there is a significant risk of you causing serious harm thereby. Having regard to both the nature of these offences and the contents of the pre-sentence report we are satisfied that you do present such a risk. You pose a high risk of committing rape and other serious sexual offences.

We make that judgement based mainly on the facts of these offences. Anyone who is capable of raping their own daughter, when she is 9 years of age, has such depraved thinking that they are bound to remain a risk. A lot of work will be required to address your highly distorted thinking. The author of the pre-sentence report appears to have formed the same view about risk. You continue to deny all the offences and your denials will make it more difficult, but not impossible, to address your offending.

We therefore considered whether a standard determinate sentence was appropriate. If imposing such a sentence the least period of imprisonment, we could have imposed in all the circumstances would have been one of 21 years. Such a sentence would not fully address the risk you represent, and we do consider it necessary therefore to impose an extended sentence in order to protect the public in the future. The extended sentence is made up of two parts. A custodial period which will be no longer than the 21-year period I mentioned and an extended licence period of 4 years, making an extended sentence of 25 years duration in total.

Pursuant to Section 130 of the 2022 Act, you will serve up to two thirds of your sentence in custody. You will be able to apply for parole after you have served two thirds of 21 years. In other words, 14 years. Time on remand will count towards that two thirds. You were remanded in custody on 22nd July 2025, so you have been in custody for a total of 311 days. That means you will be able to apply for parole, by my calculation, on 21st July 2039. The parole board will consider whether your current high risk has reduced sufficiently to release you.

Ordinarily and subject to those extended sentence provisions, you would then be released into the community on licence until the end of your sentence. In your case, since you are a foreign national, you are liable in principle to automatic deportation to your country, namely [redacted]. The earliest point at which you may be deported will be on the completion of the custodial part of this sentence and before you are released on licence. However, there may be a delay in your case in the operation of the automatic deportation provisions, or there may be a particular reason in your case why the provisions do not apply to you at all. In which case you will be released into the community on licence. In that event you must comply with all conditions on your licence until the end of this sentence or your deportation, whichever comes first, failing which you may be recalled to custody. As we have passed an extended sentence the offender of particular concern provisions, which may have otherwise applied, do not apply. We also certify that you have been convicted of specified sexual offences. You will be therefore subject to notification requirements on an indefinite basis. You will

be informed of those requirements in a certificate which you will be handed shortly after this hearing. You will also be placed on the relevant barred lists.

Now, before I invite the President to formally pass sentence are there any other matters that I have left unsaid or undone Ms Edington?

MS EDINGTON: I do apologise but could you please give me the sentence for Charge 4. Is it 7 years plus 4?

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Yes.

MS EDINGTON: Thank you. Thank you very much, no.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Anything from you, Mr Gregory?

MR GREGORY. Nothing from me, thank you, your Honour.

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Mr President, please.

SENTENCE

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD: XRV, you are sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment. The custodial part of this sentence is 21 years. You are also dismissed from His Majesty's Forces.