

WARNING: reporting restrictions may apply to the contents transcribed in this document, particularly if the case concerned a sexual offence or involved a child. 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

9th day of July 2026

in the case of

REX

V

30362217 Private Oliver Michael Cook

4th Regiment The Royal Logistics Corps

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Judge Mitchell

Judge Advocate General

SENTENCING REMARKS

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Private Oliver Michael Cook you are 28 years old and you have been in service for 5 years and 69 days. You are single with no dependent children. You have no entries against your name on either JPA or the Police National Computer. You have pleaded guilty to a single offence of theft and for that plea you will receive a full third credit for plea, given that you pleaded at the earliest stage in these proceedings.

On Sunday, the 18th of January 2026, you entered the single living accommodation of [name redacted]. You made a thorough search of her cupboards and her drawers, and you stole some underwear. We have seen that because it was video recorded. She saw you doing that as you did it, in real time, using a video doorbell she had previously installed in her living accommodation.

We have no doubt that, in the absence of any other explanation, you stole her underwear for some sexual reason or thrill. Coupled with the serious breach of trust that is inherent in stealing from a fellow service person, this case bears the added weight of a male service person offending against a female service person and breaching the security of their living quarters, that they are entitled to consider as being inviolable.

We have heard that this offence has caused [name redacted] a significant degree of personal and professional difficulty. Also, she has lost confidence in the service justice system, and we are about to put that right, not just for her, but to make the point to all female service personnel that anyone who enters their living quarters uninvited can expect a significant sentence from this court.

We turn first to dismissal. Dishonesty is not consistent with service in the armed forces because it is corrosive to unit cohesiveness and morale and breaches the bond of trust which exists between service personnel. Theft involves a breach of a high degree of trust or responsibility and demonstrates high culpability. Service personnel deserve a mutual bond of trust and respect. As part of service life, they often work and live in close quarters. In accommodation blocks occupants understandably do not always lock their doors when moving around their block. Any theft from a fellow service person is to be treated as having the aggravating feature of a breach of trust. Theft from a service person's accommodation is to be treated particularly seriously.

As the Judge Advocate General's sentencing guidelines say, dismissal will be appropriate in all but the most minor cases. It is certainly appropriate in this case, given what you did and the reasons why you did it. We shall therefore dismiss you from His Majesty's service. 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 effects on your livelihood and any pension you have accrued.

Turning to the relevant sentencing guidelines, that is those within Version 7 of the Judge Advocate General's sentencing guidance and the relevant guidance from the Sentencing Council in Civilian Cases, we find that this is an A3 theft case. Culpability is A because the breach involved -- because it involved a breach of a high degree of trust and responsibility against this service person, effectively in

her own home, viewed in real time with the motive that we have already indicated. The harm is category 3. What you took may have been relatively speaking low in value, but there has been significant additional harm caused for the reasons that we have already set out.

Put very simply, this offending offended against her in a deeply personal fashion, and that increases the level of harm in this case. The starting point, therefore, in this case will be one year's worth of imprisonment, that is imprisonment in a gaol after conviction after trial. We do, however, note that you have no previous convictions and, indeed, you do have previous good character. Looking at you now, as we have, we fully accept that you have shown a fairly high degree of remorse for what it is that you have done. You are, we have to say, a sorry sight, and we have taken some note of that.

We have also read the reference that has been provided upon your behalf, which testifies that, for a time at least, you have been a good soldier, and we have also read and considered carefully the content of the pre-sentence report. The 12 months' imprisonment that we think that you would be due after a trial translates to 15 months' worth of service detention. With full credit for plea, that would amount to 10 months' worth of service detention. That is the sentence that we consider to be appropriate in this case, and of that you will serve 6 months' worth of service detention, that is two-thirds or thereabouts.

We have considered all the relevant factors when deciding whether or not to suspend this sentence but conclude overall that this case is just too serious even given what can be and has been said about you personally. You and all service personnel must know that this court will draw the line and enforce it with vigour. Those who violate the privacy of a female service person's accommodation will receive condign justice as soon as that can be arranged. Mr President, please pronounce the sentence.

SENTENCE

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD: Private Oliver Cook, for the offence of theft you are sentenced to 10 months' service detention to be served immediately. Further you are dismissed from His Majesty's service. March out.