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IN THE COURT MARTIAL

held at

MILITARY COURT CENTRE, CATTERICK

on the

18th day of September 2026

in the case of

REX

V

30316328 Lance Corporal Cameron James WALSH,

21 Multi-Role Medical Regiment

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Judge Mitchell

Assistant Judge Advocate General

SENTENCING REMARKS

JUDGE ADVOCATE: We have considered the sentencing guideline relating to the offence of sexual assault, version 7 of the Judge Advocate General's sentencing guidance, and the overall sentencing guideline relating to the imposition of custodial sentences and all relevant statutory provisions. We have also considered the character references and the pre-sentence report.

Lance Corporal Cameron James Walsh, you have been in His Majesty's Service for seven years and 144 days. You are 26 years old and aside from your conviction for the offences for which you are to be sentenced you have no previous convictions or entries on your disciplinary record. You have been convicted at trial by Court Martial of two offences of sexual assault and so are entitled to no credit for

plea. For the sake of adhering to the principle of totality we take these offences together and will pass concurrent sentences on the two charges.

The facts are that on 6th September 2024 you groped [Name Redacted] breast and tried to kiss her when she was affected by alcohol and with you in the back of a taxi. She did not want any of that, she was vulnerable and that is an aggravating feature, as is the fact that you were in drink when you did this in the presence of a driver. That latter fact no doubt made this demeaning. We have listened with care to what is said in the victim personal statement. Put very simply, since this incident happened [Name Redacted] has struggled with her emotions. This overall has affected her confidence both personally and professionally and we all hope that she can overcome this experience and move on in her career.

In reality this is more a civilian case than it is a service one, but it does have service element to it. As such the civilian sentencing guidelines are to be followed. On that guidance your actions fall into category B2 of those guidelines. The harm is category 2 because you directly touched her breast. There are mitigating factors. You have used the intervening two years to fair effect. Since 4th August you have managed to get yourself into new employment and that would no doubt be gone in the event of immediate custody or service detention. Your offending is probably well out of character and was not pre-meditated but nonetheless it was bad moment and the result of drink. We also 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.”

This type of offence represents the sort of behaviour that makes women hesitant to serve in the Armed Forces. Let me make it clear without them there is no Army, there is no Navy and there is no Air Force. They are invaluable, they are indispensable and will do all that we can to ensure that their service is protected.

In this case dismissal is conceded but, in any event, we accept that it is proportionate and necessary given all that we know about you and the facts of this case. We also recognise that as a matter of law dismissal is a form of punishment in itself. Your career will therefore end today. Taking all factors into account, this case still well crosses the custody threshold. Given your conviction after trial the

sentence is 12 months' worth of imprisonment and in that event the law presumes that that sentence will be suspended on terms save in exceptional circumstances that do not apply in this case. Therefore, the sentence of 12 months' imprisonment will be suspended, and it will be suspended for a period of two years. What that means is this. That if you commit any further offence punishable by imprisonment within the next two years, the sentence will start at 12 months and to that will be added whatever else you are due for anything else that you do. There are also terms to this suspension. Within the next 12 months you will complete 240 hours of unpaid work, and you will carry out up to 20 days' worth of rehabilitation activity over that suspended period. If you fail to carry out those requirements you can be breached, brought back to court and the suspended sentence will be activated.

Bearing in mind what you have been convicted of and bearing in mind the length of the sentence albeit that it is suspended what that means is that you are now hereafter subject to notification requirements. You will be subject to notification, commonly known as being on the register, for a period of ten years. The effect of that will be made clear to you by written notice shortly. In the event that you change your name or your address you will be effectively obliged to tell the police of any changes of those details within 72 hours. If you do not you will commit an offence and if you commit that offence, you can be liable to arrest and prosecution and imprisonment for a period of up to five years.

In this case we decline to award compensation. For the reasons that we have already set out that would not be appropriate. The restraining order sought we do not consider now to be necessary particularly given the requirement for notification. Mr President would you please announce the sentence.

SENTENCE

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD: Lance Corporal Cameron Walsh, on each charge of sexual assault the sentence is a sentence of 12 months' imprisonment. These sentences will be suspended for two years and they will run concurrently. You will complete 240 hours of unpaid work and up to 20 RAR days. You are reduced to the ranks and dismissed from His Majesty's Service.