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

24th day of August 2026

in the case of

REX

V

B8507692 Chief Technician Damian Jame Parr

Royal Air Force Station Cosford

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Judge Legard

Assistant Judge Advocate General

SENTENCING REMARKS

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Thank you. Please take a seat everyone. Please keep headdress on. Chief Technician Parr, you fall to be sentenced today having been convicted after trial of a single count of rape. You are 41 years of age, you are a Chief Technician serving with the Royal Air Force and you have over 23 years' service behind you and that includes an operational tour of Afghanistan. You are of hitherto good character.

The facts have been well ventilated during the course of the trial last week. I will briefly summarise them so far as they are relevant as follows. In November last year you were coming to the end of your tour on [Redacted] Island and the victim in this case, [name redacted], she was a 21 year old woman who had only that very morning arrived on the island to take up her post as a [Redacted]. For her a new and exciting adventure lay ahead, a dream that now lies shattered but she found herself in an unfamiliar environment without any family support network, she had not even had time to create proper friendships let alone acquire an understanding of the geography of the island.

After a leaving party for both yourself and another [Redacted], a number of you, which included [name redacted], went to the [Redacted] Club and it is quite clear to the Board that despite your contentions to the contrary [name redacted] became progressively more intoxicated as the evening wore on. She effectively became separated from her two colleagues, those who had travelled out with her. She missed the bus back to [Redacted]and you did take advantage of her intoxication and naivety, her lack of knowledge and experience of the island and her overall situation. You took her back to your transit accommodation on [Redacted]and by then she had no real option but to accompany you to your room. She was clearly by this stage heavily intoxicated, she was violently ill in both your wardrobe and sink and at some point, she fell asleep on your bed.

She was on her period, a matter about which you were only too well aware, and whilst she was asleep and heavily intoxicated you anally penetrated her from behind. [name redacted] tried to push you away, but you continued regardless. And although her memory was unsurprisingly sketchy given the amount she had had to drink she nevertheless had a clear recollection of the hair around your lower stomach as she attempted to protect herself. You made no attempt to ascertain whether she was or would have been a willing participant and the Board accepted her evidence that under no circumstances would she ever have consented to anal sex.

Now, the following morning you told JT, a senior NCO friend of yours, and later others in the mess that you had been forced to clean up [name redaction] vomit from your wardrobe and you also made it clear that [name redacted], in your words, was wasted but despite that you had had sex with her. When interviewed you essentially admitted that you had had anal penetrative sex with [name redaction] although you suggested that it had taken place during the course of consensual sex at the time when [name redaction] was fully conscious and sober, that it had not lasted particularly long because you had found it uncomfortable and that you had returned to vaginal intercourse. You conceded that you had not asked [name redacted] whether she was willing to engage in anal sex prior to doing so but maintained that she was essentially “fine with it”. In evidence before this Court, you maintained that any anal sex was accidental, momentary and something from which you immediately

desisted. Well, the Board unequivocally rejected those contentions. You deliberately anally penetrated [name redacted] from behind whilst she was asleep and intoxicated. That is the clear finding of the Board, and it is on that basis that you fall to be sentenced. What you did that night was unconscionable, it was unforgivable. You took advantage of her at a time when she was at her most vulnerable and your actions that night have had and will continue to have for some time profound consequences for her. And if anyone needed any reminder as to how devasting a crime rape is then they need look no further than this case.

[Name redacted] came to court this morning and read out her victim statement, her impact statement. First there is the physical pain as she said just a few moments ago, "I was in pain for days after, it hurt to sit, it hurt to go to the toilet, it hurt to walk". She was lost and confused. Secondly, and arguably worse is the emotional trauma and the psychological fallout. Your actions led to her to suffer a breakdown, sleep disruption, she stopped eating, she became largely incapable of catering for her own basic needs, that was something to which (indistinct name) attested to at trial. She suffered and still suffers flashbacks, panic attacks and self-harm. She was forced to leave [Redacted] Island and with it the promise of an exciting internship at a time when she was right at the start of her career. She suffered the humiliation of having to confide in her parents what had caused her to leave the island and her trust in men has all but evaporated. Now, the Board sincerely hopes 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. And the Board also wish to commend you, [name redacted], for the courage that you have shown in coming to court and delivering your statement in person today.

The impact of your offending, Chief Tech Parr, also extends to you and your family and specifically we have regard to the effect that your impending incarceration will have upon the lives of your two young daughters, your inability to parent them for some years. They are wholly innocent parties, their lives now blighted and unfortunately all actions have consequences, and it is often a sad aspect of a case such as this that those least culpable often suffer the most.

Now, the Judge Advocate General's guidelines are of no assistance in a serious case such as this and in order to determine an appropriate sentence in your case we turn instead to the relevant guidelines published by the Sentencing Council. Now, having done so the Board takes the view that this offence of rape can fairly be categorised as category 2 harm and culpability B. Category 2 harm it being abundantly clear that [name redacted] was by virtue of being asleep and intoxicated when she was raped in a state of acute vulnerability. She has also suffered significant psychological harm albeit not such as to meet the severe threshold. And in arriving at that view we have taken into account the fact

that a high degree of psychological harm is inherent in the offence itself. Category B culpability on account of the fact that there are no specific factors be they service or otherwise that would justify elevation into a higher category.

A category 2B placement provides for a start point of eight years' custody with a range of seven to nine years. Now, we have already accounted for [name redacted] vulnerability when determining the appropriate category for harm so whilst the Board has found that the victim was particularly vulnerable when assaulted justifying placement in category 2, we do not accept the Crown's contention that she was specifically targeted in a predatory fashion and accordingly in the Board's view that aggravating factor is not present. And whilst it could be said that the offence was committed under the influence of alcohol the Board does not consider that to materially impact sentence. However, in the service context the fact that you were at the time a senior NCO, you had experience of working with young people, you had 23 years behind you those are aggravating factors. Having said that this is not a case where you used or abused rank in order to commit the offence. [Name redacted] was after all a civilian. We note that you maintain your denials.

We cannot of course give you any credit for pleading guilty, but we have however taken into account everything that has been very able expressed on your behalf by Mr Johashen and you have much to thank him for. We note the fact of your previous and positive good character, your long service to Queen, King and country, your lack of any previous convictions. We have taken into account numerous references that have been placed before us from friends, work colleagues and your chain of command all of whom clearly hold you in high regard. We take account of your wider family circumstances, the bereavement you suffered last year and, as I have already referenced, the fact that you are a father of two young daughters, that is not lost upon us. Overall, the Board's view is that this offence was out of character and that mitigation overall outweighs aggravation on the facts of this particular and somewhat tragic case.

Chief Tech Parr, would you now please stand? We have therefore concluded that this offence is so serious that only an immediate custodial sentence can be justified and we have determined that the shortest possible sentence commensurate with the seriousness of this offence is one of seven years' imprisonment. Now, as stated, we took as our start point eight years but that was adjusted back to seven when allowing for mitigation. It also includes a modest discount to reflect current prison conditions specifically overcrowding. That is the shortest possible sentence as I said commensurate with the seriousness of this offence and is significantly less than that which many of us originally had in mind. And because you have been convicted of a schedule 18 offence we are required to consider the issue of dangerousness, that is whether there are or is a significant risk of you committing further

specified offences and if so whether there is a significant risk of your causing serious harm, having done so we are not persuaded that you meet the dangerousness threshold in this case and in any event we are satisfied as the standard determinate sentence provides the public with adequate protection. Clearly this offence is incompatible with continued service within His Majesty's Armed Forces and you will therefore be dismissed and be reduced to the ranks.

So, your total sentence will therefore be one of seven years. Now, you will serve up to two thirds of your seven year sentence in custody less any days spent on remand, they will automatically count towards that sentence, and you will serve the remainder on licence. You must keep to the terms of your licence, commit no further offence or you will be liable to be recalled, and you may then serve the rest of your sentence in custody. And I certify that you have been convicted of a sexual offence, you will be subject to the notification requirements on an indefinite basis and you will be informed of those notification requirements in a certificate which you will be handed after this hearing and you may also be placed on the relevant barred lists.

Madam President, will you please pass sentence?

SENTENCE

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD: Chief Technician Parr, you are sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and dismissed from His Majesty's Armed Forces.