


**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS**
**SC/CRIM/01/26**
**6th November 2026**

**Before**

**HIS HONOUR JUDGE MALCOLM SIMMONS**

**BETWEEN:**

**REX**

**V**

**TYLER RICHARD HOBMAN**

MR. STUART WALKER, Senior Crown Counsel, appeared for the Prosecution
MR. PHILLIP AXON appeared for the defendant

**Reporting restriction under section 465 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Ordinance 2014**

# SENTENCING REMARKS

1. You appear today for sentencing having been convicted on 9th October 2026 on one count, that between the 30th day of November 2025 and the 5th day of February 2026, you penetrated the vagina of AB, a child then under the age of 13 years, with your penis, an offence under section 207(1) of the Crimes Ordinance 2014.

*Maximum Sentences*

2. The maximum sentence for an offence under section 207 (1) of the Crimes Ordinance 2014 is imprisonment for life.

*Sentencing Guidelines*

3. The relevant guidelines are the offence-specific England & Wales 'Rape of a child under 13' guidelines and the Overarching Sentencing Guidelines.

4. Mr. Axon has referred me to the England & Wales guidelines for 'Sentencing Offenders with mental disorders, developmental disorders or neurological impairments'. I have considered those guidelines carefully.

5. I have read two reports of a consultant forensic psychologist, Dr. C.M. Green, dated September 2024. I have also had the benefit of reading two very detailed reports of highly experienced Probation Officers who have spent some time talking with you. I am satisfied that you are not, nor do you appear to be suffering from a mental disorder or impairment such that the Court should obtain and consider a medical report before sentencing. It is not suggested by Mr. Axon that I obtain such a report.

*Offending*

6. Your offending took place between November 2025 and February 2026. It began with online communication between you and your victim. After an exchange of communication, she visited you at your home in Stanley. She was accompanied by a friend from school. At that time you were living alone.

7. A photograph was taken of you sitting on the sofa, cuddling with your victim. It was the subsequent disclosure of that photo that resulted in your offending coming to the attention of authorities.

8. Your victim was a schoolgirl [REDACTED]. I am sure that you knew she was only [age] years of age. You were 22 years of age. You knew that she was too young to consent to sexual activity. You knew that having sexual intercourse with a child of that age was a serious criminal offence.

9. It appears your first meeting was relatively short. However, she would subsequently return and it was then that you raped her by penetrating her vagina with your penis. You did not use a condom. You did not ejaculate.

*Victim Impact*

10. I have received victim impact statements from your victim and her mother. They make for disturbing reading.

11. Your victim describes the impact that your offending has had on her. She is clearly struggling to process the complex emotional impact of your offending – offending that has affected other aspect of her life and intruded upon the wellbeing of those close to her.

12. Your victims mother described the stress and anxiety that she has suffered as a direct result of your offending. She believes that, following your offending, her daughter's relationships with male members of the family has also changed and expressed concern that your victim may have lost trust in men.

13. It is well-recognised that offending such as yours can have a significant longer-term impact on victims, including mental health issues that can endure into adulthood, often affecting future relationships.

14. I have considered and taken each of those statements into account in sentencing.

*Sentencing*

15. In terms of harm, I have carefully read your victims ABE interview and her victim statement. It is clear that she has suffered – and continues to suffer – some psychological harm as a direct result of your offending. However, on my assessment, while significant, that harm does not reach the level of 'severe'. I find none of the Category 1 or 2 factors present. Therefore, this case falls into Category 3.

16. Turning to culpability, You committed this offence during the period 30th November 2025 to 5th February 2026. I am in no doubt that, over a period of several months, you groomed your victim. Data recovered from your mobile telephone revealed messages that you had exchanged with your victim. In those messages you describe her as your "princess, who's perfect" while also professing your love for her. Using an AI app, you created fictional stories that you sent to her that depicted a future life together. The characters that you created were called "Tyler" and [REDACTED] who lived together in a loving relationship with their children. You even gave names to each of their fictional children. This was sophisticated grooming. You manipulated your victim who believed that she was in a loving adult relationship with you. Of those facts I am sure. This was classic grooming behaviour that allowed you to commit this offence.

17. Category 3A offending has a starting point of 10 years custody with a category range of 8 to 13 years custody.

18. In terms of statutory aggravating factors, you were convicted on 25th September 2024 on two counts of sexual activity with a child under the age of 16 years and sentenced to a term of immediate custody of 9 months. That offending took place between October 2023 and April 2024 and were committed against a 15-year-old female child. I have considered the nature of that relationship and the ingredients of your offending. You cultivated a relationship with the child that facilitated your committing the offences. The first count involved kissing and love bites. In relation to the second count, you had vaginal sexual intercourse with her. In respect of that offending, it is of concern that you were released from custody less than 6 months before the current offending.

19. Another aggravating factor is your attempts to conceal evidence. You deleted from your mobile telephone communications that you had with your victim. In fact, it appears that only part of the material that you had deleted could be recovered. I am in no doubt that your deleting those communications was because you knew that they would reveal your grooming behaviour and the nature of your relationship. Indeed, you knew that being in an intimate relationship with a [age] year old girl was a serious criminal offence.

20. Before consideration of your mitigation, having regard to culpability and harm, together with the aggravating factors, the appropriate starting point for your offending would be 11 years imprisonment.

*Pre-Sentence Report*

21. I have read a pre-sentence report dated 21st October 2024. In addition, I have received an addendum to that report dated 30th October 2026, for which I thank the Probation Officer.

22. Mr. Hobman, you were born on 12th April 2003. You were 22 years of age at the time of your offending.

23. You grew up on the family farm on West Falkland and spent much of your time there – apart from when you boarded at Stanley House to attend the secondary school in Stanley. I am in no doubt that growing-up on West Falkland would have resulted in your experiencing a degree of social isolation – particularly with children of your own age.

24. It appears that you left school at the age of 15 years with no formal qualifications.

25. You left the family home at the age of nineteen and moved to Stanley. Living in Stanley is quite different to living on a remote farm in West Falkland. You have described feeling socially isolated before coming to Stanley. Dr. Green reported that since childhood you had tended to lead an isolated lifestyle and had difficulty dealing with social situations. He concluded that you presented as someone of "low intelligence" who had difficulty dealing with social situations. While Dr. Green described your having some autistic personality traits, he was not satisfied that your history or presentation would amount to a formal diagnosis of an autistic spectrum disorder**.** I have taken all of that into account in sentencing.

26. You are now 23 years of age. While it is suggested that you lack maturity, I recognise that you have lived independently, managed your own financial affairs as well as having obtained and held down employment. Those are characteristics that would suggest a degree of maturity. Although you were not a mature adult at the time of your offending, on my assessment you were not markedly immature for your years. Nevertheless, your youth is something for which I have given you credit in sentencing.

27. You have limited experience of being in an adult relationship. Given your age, that may be of little concern. However, what is concerning is your preferring to develop what the Probation Officer has described as an "*emotional congruence with children*" rather than seeking a relationship with someone within your peer group.

28. You have expressed no remorse or regret. Not only do you attempt to minimise your conduct, you even attempt to portray yourself as the victim. You accept no responsibility for your actions and appear indifferent to the harm that you have caused.

29. You are assessed as posing a high risk of further offending. You are assessed as posing a high risk of harm to female children, the nature of that risk being sexual contact, including penetrative sex. There is no doubt that the public – particularly young females - need to be protected from you.

*Reduction in Sentence for Guilty Plea*

30. The first hearing of this matter was on 1st June 2026. At that hearing you entered a 'Not Guilty' plea to Count 1. The trial was due to commence on 19th October 2026. At a pre-trial review on 9th October 2026 you requested that you be re-arraigned at which point you entered a guilty plea to count 1.

31. Although a guilty person is entitled not to admit the offence and to put the prosecution to proof of its case, an acceptance of guilt normally reduces the impact of the crime upon victims; it saves victims and witnesses from having to testify; and is in the public interest in that it saves public time and money on investigations and trials.

32. Where a guilty plea is indicated at the first stage of proceedings a reduction of one-third should be made. You did not enter a guilty plea at that stage. That is your right but it does have consequences.

33. After the first stage of the proceedings, the maximum level of reduction is one-quarter. The reduction should be decreased from one-quarter to a maximum of one-tenth on the first day of trial having regard to the time when the guilty plea is first indicated to the court relative to the progress of the case and the trial date.

34. You entered a guilty plea on 9th October, ten days before the expected start of trial.

35. In my view, there were no particular circumstances that significantly reduced your ability to understand what was alleged or otherwise made it unreasonable to expect you to indicate a guilty plea sooner.

36. While your guilty plea saved your victim and other child witnesses having to testify, the fact it happened so close to trial, is likely to have increased their anxiety at the prospect of having to give evidence. In addition, having maintained a not guilty plea, further investigations were required at not inconsiderable cost to the public purse.

37. On my assessment, a discount of 15% is appropriate.

*Sentencing*

38. I have had the benefit of sentencing notes from Mr. Walker and Mr. Axon. I have listened very carefully to their submissions. I have taken into account everything said on your behalf by Mr. Axon. I have also considered carefully the Pre-Sentence Report.

39. This was a serious sexual offence, committed against a child. You groomed her and took advantage of her youth and immaturity for your own perverted sexual gratification. It is very clear to me that you have a sexual interest in young girls.

40. It is common ground that your offending crosses the custody threshold. Indeed, the offence of which you stand convicted is so serious that only immediate custody is appropriate.

41. I have given a 15% reduction in sentence for your guilty plea. I have taken into account everything that your counsel has said on your behalf. Having regard to harm and culpability, taking into account the aggravating and mitigating factors of this case which I have set out, the least possible sentence that I can impose is as follows:

**SENTENCE**

42. Mr. Hobman, you will serve a term of imprisonment of 8 years and 3 months.

43. In accordance with section 563 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Ordinance 2014 you will receive credit for time served since you were arrested on 1st May 2026. The calculation will be done administratively.

44. I am not making a compensation order in this case.

45. Pursuant to section 321 of the Crimes Ordinance 2014, I am making a Sexual Harm Prevention Order in the terms sought by the Prosecution.

46. Because of the custodial sentence I am not making an order that you pay prosecution costs.

47. Following your conviction, in accordance with section 296 and Schedule 3 of the Crimes Ordinance 2014, you will be subject to notification requirements for an indefinite period.