

Offences of dangerous driving; being speed dangerous and manner dangerous.

[2022]GRC036

**ROYAL COURT  
FULL COURT**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

**Before: John Russell Finch, Esq., O.B.E., Lieutenant Bailiff and Jurats:  
Stephen Murray Jones OBE, Claire Helen Le Pelley,  
Jonathan Grenfell Hooley, Steven John Morris, David James Mortimer,  
Joanne Marie Wyatt, David John Robilliard, Marilyn Jasmine King, Tina Jane Le Poidevin.**

**THE LAW OFFICERS OF THE CROWN**

- v -

**REECE LEE BLONDEL**

**Advocate M Davies appeared for the Crown  
Advocate S Mallett appeared for the Defendant**

**LIEUTENANT BAILIFF:**

**Background**

You appear here today for sentence on an Indictment containing two Counts, each of dangerous driving. The first speed dangerous and the second manner dangerous. The maximum penalty on each is 2 years' imprisonment. You are a local person aged 22 years. You have previous convictions for speeding, no insurance, no 'L' plates and unsupervised driving.

On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021, for common assault, you received 4 months' Youth Detention. You hold a provisional licence for riding a motorcycle.

Early guilty pleas were indicated and you have been on conditional bail throughout; the delay is not blamed on you.

The first offence on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021, only came to Police attention when the second offence of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 was under investigation. Evidence was found on your mobile phone, but we will approach the charges in date order. Early on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021, you filmed yourself on your mobile phone, getting on to your Suzuki GSXR 600 and placed the phone so as to record your path and the control. You said, "*Let's rock 'n' roll motherfuckers*" and pointed the camera at the speedometer stating, "*can you see that clearly*". It was dark, your front light was on. You went up to 50 mph, slowed for a series of corners, accelerated to 120 mph, which is shocking in Guernsey, then 70 mph and then back up to 95 and 105 mph. At one point you rode only on the rear wheel; conditions were dry and at the time traffic free, but you passed a States Works vehicle shortly into your ride, slowing down from 70 mph to around 50 mph. Thereafter you accelerated to 80 mph, 90 mph and 104 mph. On completing your journey you said, "*best idea I've ever fucking had*". We have seen the footage which speaks for itself. The excessive speed was for 3 minutes 20 seconds, obviously entirely pre-meditated and shocking to watch.

In relation to Count 2, you were riding with a friend. The two motorcycles climbed Rectory Hill. Both motorcycles were “*shifting*” or “*booting it*” and displayed “*complete lunacy*” according to the eye-witnesses. You were in the lead and followed by friends in a car behind you both. As you approached the left bend, a bus was coming down Rectory Hill at a very slow speed, being driven perfectly properly. The driver saw you come around the bend speeding and he braked. You nearly lost your balance and sped off. Your friend came around the corner, lost control, skidded and crashed into the front underside of the bus; he was killed. Your speed at the location was 56 – 62 mph; the limit is 35 mph. We have seen the footage from the bus.

In the investigation you produced a short, prepared statement and in other interviews exercised your right to silence.

### **Sentencing Considerations**

We stressed that Count 2 is dangerous driving and we sentence of course on that offence only. These were repeat offences, showing a total, selfish disregard for innocent road-users. You are no stranger to road traffic offences. We regard the shockingly excessive speeds in Count 1 to be an aggravating factor and note, as just stated, that you committed a repeat offence on Count 2, which involved the dangerous practice of racing, resulted in death and would, as anyone could reasonably conclude, have been a most distressing event for the bus driver, who acted properly throughout. There was a very real danger to others. The speeding in both cases was dangerous in the extreme.

This is an offence where each case depends on its own individual factors. It was prolonged bad driving involving complete disregard for the safety of others. We sentence consecutively for the two offences on different days.

Our starting-points are:

- 6 months on Count 1; and
- in respect of the repeat offence, Count 2 – 9 months.
- A combined starting-point of 15 months.

We repeat that the second offence is an aggravating factor.

### **Mitigation**

We are bound to give you credit for your timely guilty pleas, but note that the evidence on each Count could hardly have been stronger. However, we note your remorse, we have listened to what your Advocate has said and considered the letter and the Probation Report – hopefully not over optimistic for the future. You can’t say that you have got an unblemished record on traffic matters and you recently served a custodial sentence for assault, the circumstances of which we note.

Erring on the side of leniency and noting your comparative youth, we afford a discount of one-third. We take account of the commendable views of the deceased’s family, but it is for the Court to sentence on all the facts before it. As other courts have said, “*sentences cannot depend on the wishes of those affected by the crime, but we do recognize the profound effect on you of your friend’s death*”.

### **Sentence**

We must, above all, protect other road users on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, car, bus or truck. You used your motorcycle and your speeds on both Counts demonstrating your level of dangerousness. Put plainly, this was deeply shocking and lethal behaviour. Racing, as this case shows, bears its own serious risks.

We cannot either, as we have just mentioned, ignore the likely effect on the bus driver, simply doing his job. Sentences that send out a message about this moronic activity need to be passed in the interests of road safety. Your own interests come a long way behind these considerations and an ample period of disqualification is also called for to protect the public for a substantial time, noting your bail conditions on riding, as your counsel has pointed out.

- In respect of Count 1 the sentence is 4 months' imprisonment with disqualification from now of 6 years in all categories.
- In respect of Count 2, the sentence is 6 months' imprisonment consecutive, plus a disqualification which has to be concurrent of 6 years in all categories.
- **Total – 10 months' imprisonment from today and off the road for 6 years in all categories.**

Please go down with the Officer.

**J R Finch, O.B.E.**  
**Lieutenant Bailiff**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**