

Sentencing Remarks - Tyler Dodd was sentenced to 3 years' immediate custody for inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent; sentence reflected aggravating factors including persistence, use of a head as a weapon, and prior convictions. The Guernsey court applied English guidance on sentencing, prioritising deterrence and public protection.

[2025]GCA079

**ROYAL COURT
FULL COURT**

5 September 2025

**Before: Catherine Maureen Fooks, Judge of the Royal Court
and Jurats: Claire Helen Le Pelley, Jonathan Grenfell Hooley,
Stuart Michael Crisp, Felicity Jane Quevâtre, Heather Reed,
Kay Parnwell and Sally-Ann David.**

THE LAW OFFICERS OF THE CROWN

- v -

TYLER PETER DODD

**Advocate J D McVeigh appeared for the Crown
Advocate S J Maindonald appeared for the Defendant**

JUDGE OF THE ROYAL COURT:

Background

Mr Dodd you are here today to be sentenced on one count of inflicting grievous bodily harm on James Hallett at the Britannia Real Ale Bar ("the Britannia") on 6 February 2025 with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. This is a common law offence with no maximum penalty.

On the evening of 6 February 2025, your victim was at the Britannia when you arrived. You are known to each other and indeed, put neutrally, there is a history of difficulty between you. The CCTV footage is clear. There are verbal exchanges between you. Your victim was seated on a bar stool at the other end of the bar. You approached him and punched him hard to the side of the face which caused him to fall off the bar stool. When he tried to stand, you pushed him to the floor. You both had to be separated. There were further verbal exchanges and, again, you deliberately went over and punched him sufficiently hard to the head that it hit the bar and he was visibly dazed and unsteady. Your victim can be seen to check his teeth at that point. It must be noted that others were intervening throughout the incident, not necessarily helpfully. You are seen to go back to the victim and punch him again. You then appeared to be leaving the bar but, again, you went back to the victim and headbutted him before you finally left.

Your victim went to hospital where he was found to have a non-displaced fracture to the left side of his jaw which required surgery in Southampton to attach two new metal plates. Your victim had four teeth removed. At interview, you exercised your right to silence. Your victim has given two Victim Impact Statements which we have read in full and extracts of which have been read out. The impact was significant, both physically in terms of the immediate pain to his jaw and side and surgery on his jaw, and the longer term effects he describes as change to his speech, trouble eating, pain, loss of state, sleep

disturbance, nerve damage and permanent loss of teeth. His jaw has still not healed and he is facing dental surgery. There has also been psychological damage where he was afraid to leave his home and has bad anxiety, as well social damage through loss of friends as he feels he cannot return to that establishment. He feels that he is no longer the same person.

You are a 27 year old local man, 26 at the time of offending. You have a young child with whom you have contact. At the time of offending, you were signed off work. You have previous convictions, including three for public order offences, the most recent for affray on 9 July, 2020 for which you received a sentence of 4 months' imprisonment, suspended for 2 years plus a 1 year Suspended Sentence Order. You have been on conditional bail throughout the proceedings. We note that you have breached your Police bail by attending at the Britannia but that you have complied with Court bail.

Sentencing Considerations

There are no Guernsey guidelines for sentencing Grievous Bodily Harm with intent. The Court looks to the English cases for guidance, especially on aggravating and mitigating factors, but we sentence on Guernsey principles. Guernsey is generally a safe place to live and long may that continue, so an element of deterrence and protection of the public are appropriate and required.

The custody threshold is clearly passed and, in view of the seriousness of the offence, the starting point will be one of 5½ years. There are aggravating factors in your case:

- this was a prolonged and persistent incident, 15 minutes in total with four separate deliberate physical attacks on the victim, in each of which when he was sitting at the bar. It is not just a loss of control;
- there was the use of your head as a weapon;
- a serious injury was inflicted with life-changing effects;
- you were under the influence of alcohol; and
- you had previous convictions for public order/violence.

We set the revised starting point before consideration of plea and personal mitigation at 6 years.

Mitigation

Plea

We afford you full credit for your guilty plea which may be generous but we consider is appropriate in the circumstances.

Personal Mitigation

The Court has considered carefully the Social Enquiry Report prepared in respect of you and we have also listened to the realistic submissions of your Advocate. We have carefully read the two letters filed on your behalf which describe a very different young man from the one on the CCTV. We take them fully into account.

We note all that has been written about you, that you have had adverse childhood experiences and the impact of those experiences on your education, development and your mental health. We note the loss of your father. You have tried to work when you have been able to do so. You do recognise that you need to deal with your trauma as, otherwise, it will continue to affect you and your behaviour and limit your life choices. You have been open with the report writer about your alcohol problem and you accept that it is time to "*sort everything out*" and you would like help from The Criminal Substance Service. This is a positive.

You have shown considerable remorse and victim awareness and not sought to minimise or excuse your actions by reference to alcohol or the historic issues between you and your victim. You have recognised that all who witnessed your violent outburst will have been affected. You have apologised to this Court and the community. All of that is to your credit.

You are not a person of previous good character but we note the five year gap since your last conviction and that you were able to respond positively to supervision. You are still a relatively young man. As a consequence of the offending, you have lost the opportunity to work and your home. You are in a stable relationship and you have a young child. Whilst it has not been argued that either of those relationships should be a significant consideration for this Court we have taken into account the impact on both of a custodial sentence and considered their Article 8 rights. In particular, we note the frequent contact with your daughter which will be impacted by an immediate custodial sentence.

The report writer is optimistic that you can stop offending if you carry through with the work and help that you need. You are assessed as having a very high likelihood of re-offending and a medium risk of causing serious harm which we must take into account. We note that no Compensation Order is sought.

Sentence

There can be no doubt that the custody threshold has been passed. In view of the seriousness of the offence and the length of the sentence, alternatives to an immediate custody cannot be considered. We have fully taken into account the mitigation and your relationships in particular with your daughter. An immediate custodial sentence is not disproportionate. We have kept the sentence to the minimum possible.

You know that you were completely in the wrong when you attacked Mr Hallett four times that evening. You know that, whatever may have gone on in the past, he was entitled to sit on a bar stool and enjoy a drink in peace, as were the other patrons. You hurt him badly. The people of Guernsey do not want this sort of violence. You say that you want help with your traumatic experiences and your alcohol problem. Help is available as set out in the Social Enquiry Report so take it and make this appearance your last, for the sake of your partner, child, this community and yourself.

Taking into account all that has been said and written and applying the appropriate discounts and principles, the sentence will be one of **3 years' immediate custody** from today.

Supervision

In accordance with section 1 of the Criminal Justice (Supervision of Offenders) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2004, upon release (or completion of any parole period if applicable), you will be subject to supervision by the Probation Service for a period equal to one quarter of the total sentence or the period you would have served had you not received remission, whichever is the shorter. If you fail to comply with the conditions of the supervision, you will be liable to further imprisonment, a fine, or both.

In summary, the sentence is one of **3 years' imprisonment** from 5 September 2025.

Catherine Maureen Fooks
Judge of the Royal Court

5 September 2025