

Increased sentence for Bedford child abuser

News story

Claire Buttice's sentence has been increased to 16 years' imprisonment following a hearing at the Court of Appeal.



A Bedford woman has received an increased sentence for child abuse and child sex abuse after her case was referred to the Court of Appeal by the Solicitor General Alex Chalk QC MP.

Claire Buttice, 42, engaged in a sustained course of sexual and mental abuse against children in cooperation with her partner. This abuse included causing/inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity and causing a child to watch a sexual act. She would also regularly beat the children.

Buttice has four previous convictions for child sexual abuse, including making and distributing indecent images of a child.

On 28 January 2022 Buttice was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment at Luton Crown Court. She has also been ordered to sign on the sex offenders register indefinitely and has been given a restraining order in respect of each of the victims. Her partner received a sentence of 23 years' imprisonment at Luton Crown Court for his role in the abuse.

Following the original sentencing, the Solicitor General referred Buttice's case to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme because he believed it to be too low.

On 28 April the Court found her original sentence to be unduly lenient and increased it to 16 years' imprisonment. Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General Alex Chalk QC MP said:

These crimes were among the most horrifying instances of child abuse and child sex abuse imaginable, and these children will have to carry the trauma of what happened to them for the rest of their

lives.

I welcome the Court's decision to impose an increased sentence which shows that such acts of cruelty towards children will receive severe punishment.

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