

Ramsgate man has sentence for domestic abuse increased following referral to the Court of Appeal

News story

Adam Fleming has sentence for grievous bodily harm increased after his case was referred under the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme.



A Ramsgate man guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to do so has had his sentence increased after his case was referred to the Court of Appeal by the Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP.

Adam Fleming, 27, inflicted life-changing injuries on his ex-partner after he severely beat her in the home they shared. His attack left the victim with a traumatic brain injury, meaning she now requires full nursing care and has to use a wheelchair.

On 7 December 2021, Fleming was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment with an extended licence period of 4 years.

Following the sentencing, the Solicitor General referred Fleming's sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) scheme.

On 03 March 2022 the Court of Appeal found his original sentence to be unduly lenient and increased it to 17 years and 6 months' imprisonment plus 4 years on licence.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP said:

Adam Fleming's savage attack has left his former partner with life-changing injuries, and she will never be able to live independently again as a result. No sentence can rectify the appalling damage done by Fleming, but the increased sentence shows that cowardly domestic abusers can expect to go to prison for a long time.

Mental health issues in the workplace

Press release

The Traffic Commissioner for the East of England made comments on mental health issues facing drivers in a recent public inquiry.



In a recent case, whilst the Traffic Commissioner for the East of England, Richard Turfitt, found William Morris of Linline Transport to have lost his good repute, he took account of some wider health issues, facing the industry.

The operator and Transport Manager had encountered mental health challenges for some time, made worse by the challenging conditions of the pandemic. Like many operators and drivers contributing to the national effort, he continued to work as a 'key worker' during the first lock down. The uncertainty of the pandemic and the lack of understanding about how the virus was transmitted, coupled with issues around container haulage, further impacted on his health.

The commissioner acknowledged that the availability and health of professional drivers is rightly a matter of national concern, given the reliance placed on the transport industries. It is important to recognise the additional pressures placed on drivers. HSE's publicly available guidance defines stress as 'the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressures or other types of demand placed on them'. It recognised that those suffering from stress may not be best placed to make decisions about any necessary control measures.

The commissioner said "Drivers must feel able to report issues with their health and to talk about their problems. Driving can be a solitary job, placing drivers at even greater risk. Goods vehicles are essential for delivering products, upon which our economy and society rely, but those vehicles are useless without qualified and healthy drivers. As a society, we

must not lose sight of the importance of the driver and that driver's welfare; that includes their mental health. That challenge needs to be recognised across what frustratingly continues to be a male-dominated industry, and where evidence tells us that it may be harder to challenge societal expectations and gender stereotypes.”

Further details can be found [here](#).

For advice and guidance on mental health, visit [Every Mind Matters](#).

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[UK and Japan forge closer links on telecoms](#)

- Two nations agree to closer cooperation to solve global telecoms supply chain issues
- Includes commitment to more information sharing on innovative ways to build networks
- Will support R&D collaboration on future tech such as Open RAN and 6G

The UK Minister for Digital Infrastructure Julia Lopez and Japan's Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Yuji Sasaki met in London on Friday morning. They agreed several joint initiatives to support efforts to reduce the global overreliance on a small number of suppliers to build and maintain telecoms networks.

Both nations committed to greater information sharing on their respective policy approaches seeking to build a more competitive and diverse global market for telecoms equipment, including for 5G and future wireless networks.

Further commitments include deeper cooperation on research and development, particularly on open and interoperable network technologies such as Open RAN, which allow telecom providers to mix and match technical equipment from different suppliers within a network.

The Japanese and UK governments also agreed to share information and facilitate joint efforts between industry and academia in both countries to develop future communications technologies such as 6G.

UK Digital Infrastructure Minister Julia Lopez said:

The UK and Japan share a track record of strong leadership and expertise on telecoms and we both recognise the need for a more diverse global telecoms market.

This partnership opens up important new avenues for our countries to work together to pursue our shared goal of a more secure, competitive and innovative telecoms supply chain.

Japan's Vice-Minister of Policy Coordination for International Affairs Yuji Sasaki said:

It is my great pleasure to announce the telecommunications cooperation framework between Japan and the UK which will promote vendor diversification, including for 5G. Our countries both recognise the importance of initiatives to secure telecommunication infrastructure supply chains.

A secure, competitive and innovative supply chain is essential. Japan and the UK will pursue this together through this new framework.

The UK has already announced similar partnerships with India and the US to work closer together to achieve shared ambitions on telecoms diversification. These will support the UK's £250 million [5G Supply Chain Diversification Strategy](#) which seeks to build a more competitive and diverse telecoms supply market by supporting incumbent suppliers, attracting new suppliers into the UK market and accelerating the development and deployment of open-interface solutions such as Open RAN.

Read the [Joint Announcement on Telecommunications Supplier Diversity between the UK's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications](#) (ODT, 4.11 KB)

ENDS

[Guaranteed Minimum Pension](#)

News story

We undertook a review of the fixed rate of guaranteed minimum pension revaluation for early leavers. The work was commissioned as part of a government consultation.



Revaluation rate

Experts at the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) reviewed the fixed rate of guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) revaluation for early leavers.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) had asked GAD to undertake the review. It was for early leavers in contracted-out employment before 6 April 2016 and who leave service on or between 6 April 2022 and 5 April 2027.

Inflation and wage growth

As a result of GAD's analysis, we proposed a fixed revaluation rate of between 3% per year and 3.5% per year would be an appropriate range. This conclusion was based on current trends and expectations in inflation and wage growth, with 3.25% deemed a reasonable assumption.

One of the authors of GAD's report was actuary Hayley Spencer: "While GMP is a technical pensions subject, the fixed revaluation rate assumption does directly impact the level of individual pension payments.

"In our analysis we considered the consumer prices index and any upcoming gaps between inflation and earnings."

Following the GAD review, the DWP [launched a consultation](#) which ran from 23 September 2021 to 18 November 2021. It asked stakeholders on the new fixed rate percentage and [GAD's report](#) was included as an annex to the consultation.

Consultation ends

The [consultation response](#) to the GMP revaluation was published on 21 February 2022. The consultation received 2 responses, one from the Pensions Administration Standards Association and the other from an individual.

The government has said the small number of responses suggests the industry is largely content with the proposed rate.

New revaluation rate

DWP has now confirmed the fixed rate of revaluation of GMPs. It will be 3.25% per year for early leavers in contracted-out employment before 6 April 2016 and who leave service on or between 6 April 2022 and 5 April 2027.

This is a decrease from the current rate of 3.5% a year. This percentage is provided for in legislation and is reviewed every 5 years by DWP.

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[Chair and Trustees appointed to the board of the Theatres Trust](#)

Dave Moutrey

Dave Moutrey is Director and Chief Executive of HOME, a purpose built multi art form venue that opened in May 2015. He conceived and led both the merger of Cornerhouse and Library Theatre Company and the £25m capital project to create HOME which has attracted almost 1m visits per year since opening.

In April 2018 Dave was seconded to Manchester City Council in a part time role of Director of Culture. He is responsible for advising the Council on policy and strategy for culture and working closely with the Cultural Leaders Group on joint working and other collaborative initiatives.

Dave was awarded a Doctor of Arts honoris causa by the University of Salford and is a Fellow of the RSA, and a member of the Chartered Management Institute and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. He is also an advisor to the British Council and holds a number of non-executive roles on not-for-profit boards.

James Dacre

James has been Artistic Director of Royal & Derngate Theatres and Northampton Filmhouse since 2013 and is a Non-Executive Director of Spirit of 2012 and Talawa Theatre Company. Previously he's been Associate Director at the New Vic Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent, the National Youth Theatre and London's Theatre503 and held roles as a Franco-British Young Leader and Fulbright Fellow.

He has directed, produced, and toured work to several hundred theatres, opera houses and festivals across the UK and abroad, with his productions winning Olivier, The Stage and UK Theatre awards.

Suba Das

Suba Das is an award-winning director, producer and dramaturg, brought up in the North East of England before reading English at Cambridge. He is Creative Director Designate of the iconic Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Theatres, taking up post from April 2022. He is currently Artistic Director and Chief Executive of HighTide, one of the UK's leading new writing theatre companies.

Prior to HighTide, Suba was Associate Director at Leicester Curve, overseeing all Artist Development and Community Engagement; and Resident Director at the National Theatre Studio and English Touring Theatre. Suba's other directing credits include the world premiere production of Ravi Shankar's only opera Sukanya for the Royal Opera House and London Philharmonic Orchestra; and for the Young Vic, The Roundhouse, Northern Stage, Nottingham Playhouse and Bolton Octagon.

Suba is passionate about access to theatre buildings and cultural activities for audiences of all backgrounds across the UK and he is also a trustee of the North Music Trust (Sage Gateshead); and the Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival.

Stephanie Hall

Stephanie Hall is a barrister specialising in town and country planning at Kings Chambers. She lives with her family near Leeds but works across England and Wales.

Stephanie represents both local authorities and developers at planning appeals and in the Courts. She has particular experience of large schemes and major infrastructure projects, sometimes involving theatres and very often involving works to or in the setting of listed buildings.

Stephanie appears in the list of top rated planning junior barristers, is a member of the Planning and Environment Bar Association, the Compulsory Purchase Association, the Parliamentary Bar Mess and the National Infrastructure Planning Association.

Lucy Osborne

Lucy Osborne is an award-winning set and costume designer based in London. She works internationally across the UK, Europe and United States, specialising in new writing and musical theatre. Current productions include a new production of Kander and Ebb's Cabaret for Gothenburg Opera and a new musical The Osmonds which is currently touring the UK throughout 2022. □ Lucy is also a co-founder of studio three sixty, working with performing arts venues to design and regenerate buildings which enrich people's lives and empower users. studio three sixty were recipients of the Stage Awards "Theatre Building of the Year" for their design of Paines Plough's pop-up theatre ROUNDABOUT.

Lucy is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the Editorial Board for the International Theatre Engineering and Architecture Conference

(ITEAC) 2022. Through Inspiring the Future she works with young people in schools to share career pathways into theatre. She is a passionate advocate for inclusive design in theatre architecture.

The Theatres Trust Chair and Trustees are not remunerated. These appointments have been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. The appointments process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Dave Moutrey, Suba Das, James Dacre, Stephanie Hall and Lucy Osborne have not declared any activity.