

REGINA v HENRY LONG, ALBERT BOWERS, JESSIE COLE AND THOMAS KING

Remarks of The Honourable Mr Justice Edis

Central Criminal Court

21st December 2020

After very serious and difficult cases, it is my practice to commend publicly those public servants who have worked hard and effectively on them. The public should know how well it is served by people who do not operate in the limelight, but who go above and beyond what is required of them.

The sentencing hearing in this case was a very emotional event. Some purely technical errors were made which have been corrected by the Court of Appeal, and which have not changed the outcome in any material way. One very important non-technical thing was overlooked, and I can put that right now.

This was an extremely important and difficult case, and it required a careful and thorough investigation followed by a clear presentation of the evidence at trial. That was achieved by a dedicated team of Police officers, civilian staff and by the Crown Prosecution Service working together to obtain and then present the necessary evidence.

I am proud to publish a list of these people and to be able to commend and thank them on behalf of the public they serve for all the work they did.

They are

- DCI Stuart Blaik Senior Investigating Officer
- DS John Slater Receiver/Officer In the Case
- DS Pete Clarke Supporting DS
- DC Chris Cooper Case Officer
- Mr Mick Murphy Disclosure Officer
- Mr Phil Mullins CCTV Coordinator
- Mrs Rebecca Waller CPS Reviewing Lawyer