

ROYAL COURT
(Samedi Division)

17.

29th January, 1993

Before: P.R. Le Cras, Esq., Lieutenant Bailiff,
and Jurats Bonn and Herbert

The Attorney General

- v -

Ronan Paul Coyle

1 Count of possession of a controlled drug, contrary to Article 6(1) of the Misuse of Drugs (Jersey) Law, 1978. (Count 1 of Indictment).

1 Count of driving a motor vehicle with alcohol concentration above prescribed limit, contrary to Article 16A of the Road Traffic (Jersey) Law, 1956. (Count 2 of Indictment).

AGE: 24.

PLEA: Guilty.

DETAILS OF OFFENCE:

In possession of 28 tabs of LSD (had bought 30 that evening and taken two). Claimed had bought in bulk to get better rate. Then drove with 89 mg. alcohol in 100 ml. breath, over twice the legal limit.

DETAILS OF MITIGATION:

No previous convictions for drug offences. Had always been in employment. Left home and large family to come to Jersey. Lonely circumstances.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS: Four, but none for drugs.

CONCLUSIONS:

Count 1: 12 months. Drugs forfeited and destroyed.

Count 2: £350 or 1 month. 21 months disqualification.

SENTENCE AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE COURT:

No reason to depart from frequently stated policy of the Court. Defendant must have known likely consequences.

Count 1: conclusions granted.

Count 2: conclusions granted save default concurrent. Drugs destroyed.

Miss S.C. Nicolle, Crown Advocate.
Advocate C.J. Scholefield for the accused.

JUDGMENT

THE LIEUTENANT BAILIFF: We have taken careful note of the submissions of Advocate Scholefield. Nonetheless, we can see no reason to depart from the frequently stated policy of the Court. The amount seized was substantial and you, Coyle, must have known of the likely consequences of this form of abuse. After six months you are nearly falling into the category of an habitual user.

On Count 1, therefore, we accept the conclusions of the learned Attorney General and you will go to prison for 12 months.

As to Count 2, we propose to vary the conclusions of the learned Attorney General to make the proposed term of imprisonment concurrent. On this count, therefore, we impose a sentence of £350, or 1 month's imprisonment concurrent, plus 21 months disqualification. We order, Miss Nicolle, that the drugs be forfeited and destroyed.

We wish to add it is clear that you are not beyond redemption, and we express the hope that your family, who are clearly now alerted to the problem, will be able to support you in your efforts to rebuild your life when you come out of prison.

Authorities

A.G. -v- Roberts, Gleeson (23rd November, 1992) Jersey Unreported.

A.G. -v- Gaughan (21st August, 1992) Jersey Unreported.