

256.3 *General cases*

R v Larsen 2014 EWCA Crim 1514 D was convicted of causing an explosion likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property, possessing an explosive substance with intent to endanger life or cause serious injury to property and three arson offences. D set off a series of homemade explosions and fires in part of his home town over a 2 1/2-month period. He was a local councillor and a former Mayor of the town. He enjoyed the media attention it gave him. He talked about the fears he had for himself and his family. In one attack, D exploded a bomb containing 13 ball bearings just after midnight. Four ball bearings smashed windows and caused damaged to a neighbour house. One hit an upstairs bed. The owner was so frightened she sold her house. A mental health residential home also hit and had broken windows. Three cars were damaged by fire. D was aged 46 and of good character with references. He was diagnosed with a serious illness. The Judge made a reduction for this and thought D had an inflated sense of his own importance and enjoyed being at the centre of attention. He applied the terrorist guideline case of *R v Martin* 1999 1 Cr App R (S) 477, see 356.3. The defence said that was inappropriate. Held. This was a sustained campaign of deliberate terror. The motive for the attacks was unclear. D was not engaged in terror for political aims nor had any connection with terrorist groups. [However using the explosive cases (see the last two cases in this para) which were less serious than this, we consider] **18 years** concurrently was severe but not excessive.

258.6 *Cases*

See also: *R v Kasprzak* 2013 EWCA Crim 1531, 2014 1 Cr App R (S) 20 (p 115) (Late pleas to having an explosive substance. Eight counts. Large quantities of various chemicals which could be used to make explosives found. Large amount of research material into explosives also found on his computer. Large quantity of pyrotechnic fuses and other chemical equipment. Very dangerous chemicals capable of causing serious injury. Limited experimentation arising out of curiosity. 10% credit. **4 years** was appropriate. Sentence concurrent to 20 years for attempted murder and kidnapping.)