

21st July, 1986

Her Majesty's Attorney General -v- Steven William Vincent

Deputy Bailiff: We think that the Relief Magistrate was right to impose a deterrent sentence. The appellant had had his chance with the binding over and he had thrown that chance away. This was a very deliberate offence because he left by a no exit door and ran away. The offence was committed only twelve days after his previous release from prison, where he had served six weeks and three months for identical offences. This was his fifth conviction for shop-lifting, an offence that is all too prevalent, he had previously served four months for a like offence, and he cannot be surprised if sentences are imposed on an ascending scale. He also had a previous conviction for fraud which also involves dishonesty. Whilst a sentence must not be disproportionate to the offence, the previous bad record does negative any mitigation. The appeal is dismissed. Mr. Le Marquand will have his legal aid costs.

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