

Man, 30, shocked teenagers by touching their thigh as he walked past them

Pervert who put his hand under skirts of schoolgirls is jailed

By Sean Doherty
sean.doherty@kentlive.news

A PERVERT who hung around outside the gates of a school waiting for his next victim has been jailed.

Phillip Henry, 30, had denied putting his hand under the skirts of two schoolgirls from Folkestone and Dover but was found guilty at an earlier trial.

Henry, of Sandown Road in Deal, was convicted of sexually assaulting one 14-year-old girl and one 15-year-old girl in separate incidents, both of whom were wearing their uniforms.

Margate Magistrates' Court heard last Thursday that Henry has a previous caution for possessing indecent images of children.

On February 24, a 15-year-old girl had just left her school and was using her mobile phone while walking with a friend to the bus.

She noticed a man walking towards them and as he passed,

she noticed a hand on her thigh feeling under her skirt.

She told her friend and initially did not want to report what had happened but was concerned the same man would return to the same location.

She told her parents, who in turn told the school, and the police were notified on February 28.

Two weeks later, on March 10, Henry struck again.

A 14-year-old girl had left her school in Folkestone and went into Debenhams in Sandgate Road with a group of friends.

While inside Henry walked towards her and placed his hand on her leg underneath her skirt.

Julie Farbrace, prosecuting, said: "She described the touch to her leg under her skirt and she was shocked.

"She immediately told her friends, 'that man has just touched me'."

That night the girl received a message from another girl who

said the same thing had happened to her.

On March 17, the police sent out a press release stating they were looking for Henry and he turned himself in to the police station the following day.

Both girls identified Henry as the man who had touched them.

Miss Farbrace said: "I am sure as you have heard, it was very shocking for both of them to be touched like this by a male much older than them."

Defending, Keith Middleton, said: "Physically [Henry] is in good shape but mentally he is feeling very stressed by these proceedings. He denies taking drugs at the time of the offence.

"The touching was not of the genitalia or breast area. Although he denies these incidents, in my opinion that does not mean custody should be imparted."

He added that District Judge Barron, who had previously handled the case, saw the incidents as "a fairly low level offence".

Sentencing was originally set to go ahead on October 12 but was put back in order for a report to be compiled by probation officers.

Christine Lovell, of the Probation Service, said: "In light of the previous caution, he needs to be assessed more fully.

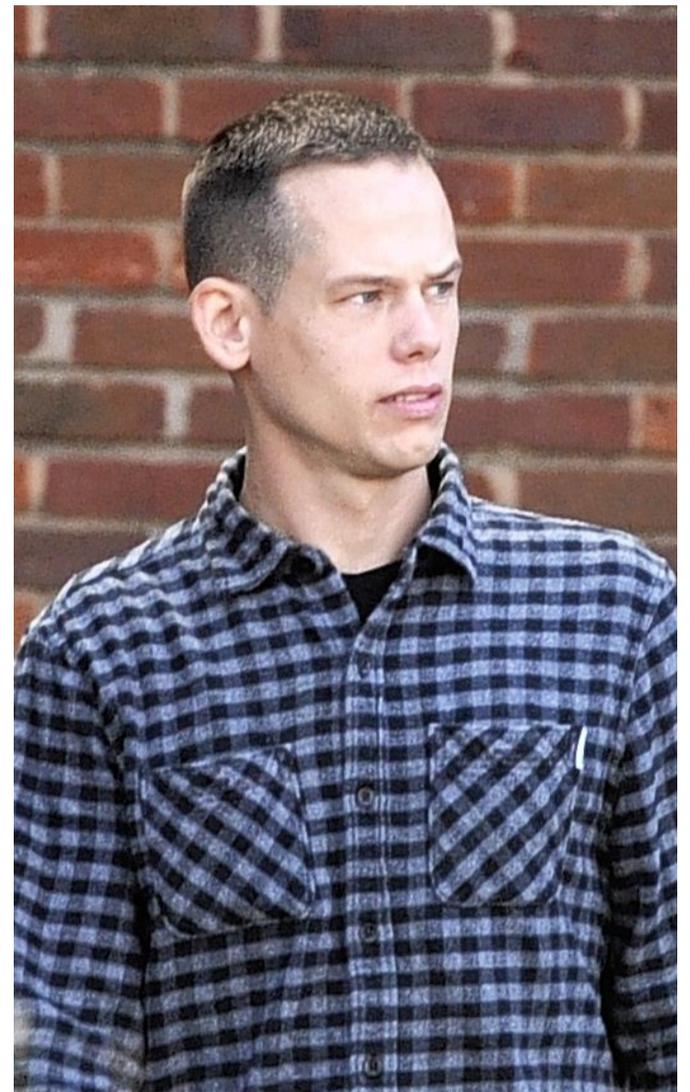
"While he was denying the offences, I did not think he would be eligible for a programme."

Henry was given a 40-week custodial sentence, 20 weeks of which will be spent in prison and 20 weeks of which will be spent on licence.

He was also ordered to pay £300 compensation to each of the girls and will be subject to notification requirements for ten years.

In sentencing, chairman of the bench Fiona Jones cited Henry's previous caution for possessing indecent images of children.

She said: "There were no mitigating factors in this case. There was no realistic chance at rehabilitation. Our only alternative is removing you from the public."



Phillip Henry will spend 20 weeks in prison

Brexit lorry parking plea by MP

LORRY parking facilities which could be used for customs checks should be built off the M20, politicians were told on Monday

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke called for investment to ensure the right infrastructure is in place at the Port of Dover and the Channel Tunnel on day one of Brexit.

The news comes after the Government axed its original proposals for an M20 lorry park at Stanford. A new planning application for a lorry park is not expected until 2019.

Mr Elphicke spoke up during a debate on customs when financial Secretary to the

Treasury Mel Stride faced questions from MPs.

He said: "Does [the Minister] agree that it is really important for the Channel Ports that parking facilities and resilience are built in off the M20 so that whatever eventuality arrives with respect to needing to do checks - whether for animal health or customs purposes - we have the right kind of infrastructure and facilities in place on day one?"

Mr Stride replied: "We certainly recognise that we need to have infrastructure there and that the port itself would generally not be able to handle a

large number of stoppages at any one time. As I say, I have been down to the port to inspect the facilities there, so I certainly appreciate that. That is an issue that is receiving ongoing consideration."

Statement

Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Collins said: "The £250 million allocated by the Government in the autumn statement two years ago for the provision of an Operation Stack relief lorry park on the M20 is still in place."

Mr Stride said he would write to Mr Collins on the matter.



National Homeowners Guarantees

From the very beginning your money is protected with NHG

WE MANUFACTURE SUPPLY AND INSTALL

Valley Windows UPVC Ltd is a friendly, Dover based manufacturer of quality UPVC products.

We aim to provide great service with competitive prices.

ALUMINIUM NOW AVAILABLE



Getting bigger by being better

- Triple Glazing now available
- Windows, Doors & Conservatories
- Composite Doors, French doors, patio doors
- Bi-folding doors
- Fascias, soffits & guttering
- Secondary glazing
- Vertical sliders
- Loft conversions



LOCAL, FAMILY RUN COMPANY WITH OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

01304 203362

1-4 Poulton Close, Coombe Valley Business Park, Dover, Kent CT17 0HL
email: enquiries@valleywindowsupvc.co.uk www.valleywindowsupvc.co.uk

Our opening hours are:

Mon-Fri: 07.30-16.30 Sat: 08.00-12noon



CRAFT & GIFT FAIR

SAT 25TH & SUN 26TH NOVEMBER
THE KINGS HALL, BEACON HILL
HERNE BAY

FREE ENTRY | 10AM TO 4PM

SUPPORTING THE KENT AIR AMBULANCE

TEL: 01843 842762 OR 07966 225217

WWW.MIDASLEISURE.CO.UK

