# Man steals hundreds of Salvation Army donations while battling addiction and mental health issues



Graham Hyland, a 62-year-old man from Walton, has garnered attention following a series of thefts involving clothing donations intended for the Salvation Army. Over a span of several months, Hyland made multiple visits to donation bins outside a Tesco Superstore on Mather Avenue in Mossley Hill, Manchester. These visits, occurring between February and May 2025, culminated in his apprehension when police discovered 13 bags of stolen clothing in his vehicle, with an additional stash of between 150 and 200 bags found at his home.

Hyland's criminal activities began on February 8, 2025, when he damaged the lock on the donation bin and took bags of clothing. He returned the next day to commit another theft and repeated the act on two further occasions before being apprehended on May 20. Prosecutor Elizabeth Brown highlighted that Hyland had a significant criminal history, marked by 10 previous convictions for 18 offences, the most recent of which involved theft. At the time of these incidents, he was already under a community order for prior offences.

In court, Hyland pleaded guilty to five counts of theft and faced a sentence of 26 weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months. Additionally, he was ordered to pay £85 in court costs and a £154 victim surcharge. In light of his apparent struggles with alcohol and mental health, the court mandated that he partake in treatment programmes as part of his ongoing community order. The magistrates emphasised the importance of his engagement with these support services, warning that failure to comply could lead to his immediate incarceration.

The severity of Hyland's crimes highlights an ongoing issue within the community regarding the misuse of charitable resources. Donations intended to assist those in need were instead hoarded by an individual struggling with personal issues, underscoring the intersection of criminal behaviour and mental health challenges. Community and charitable organisations may face increasing pressures as they grapple with ensuring that their donation processes are secure while trying to fulfil their charitable missions.

The response from the courts reflects a broader trend towards rehabilitation rather than punitive measures for individuals dealing with addiction and mental health problems. Courts are increasingly recognising the necessity of treating the underlying issues, as encapsulated in the magistrates' remarks urging Hyland to leverage support from probation services as a means of improving his situation.

As the public continues to witness cases like Hyland's, it raises critical questions about the systems in place for supporting vulnerable individuals and protecting charitable assets. The hope is that proactive measures can prevent the exploitation of such resources while fostering a spirit of community support and responsibility.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-4
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/mans-trips-tesco-led-police-31702171> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/mans-trips-tesco-led-police-31702171> - An article detailing the case of Graham Hyland, 62, who stole clothing from Salvation Army donation bins outside a Tesco Superstore in Mossley Hill, Liverpool, on five occasions between February and May 2025. Hyland was apprehended on May 20, 2025, with 13 bags of clothing in his car and an additional 150 to 200 bags at his home. He pleaded guilty to five counts of theft and was sentenced to 26 weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months, along with community orders for alcohol and mental health treatment programs.
3. <https://courtlistings.co.uk/magistrates-court-listings/liverpool-and-knowsley> - A comprehensive list of court cases scheduled at Liverpool and Knowsley Magistrates' Court, including various criminal offenses such as theft, assault, and public order matters. The listings provide case references, defendant names, charges, and hearing types, offering insight into the court's daily proceedings and the range of cases handled.
4. <https://www.inkl.com/news/all-the-criminals-sentenced-at-liverpool-magistrates-court-so-far-this-month> - An overview of individuals sentenced at Liverpool Magistrates' Court, covering a range of offenses from shoplifting to assault. The article provides names, ages, addresses, and details of the charges, along with the sentences imposed, offering a snapshot of the court's recent activities and the types of cases processed.
5. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/merseyside/news/2025/april-2025/latest-sentencing-results-charges-and-arrests-following-disorder-in-merseyside-last-summer/> - A report from Merseyside Police detailing the sentencing results, charges, and arrests related to violent disorder incidents in Merseyside during the previous summer. The article includes information on individuals charged with violent disorder, their court appearances, and the ongoing efforts to identify and prosecute those involved in the disturbances.
6. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/news-search/?ct=Court+results&fdte=&page=18&tdte=> - A collection of court results published by Merseyside Police, featuring recent sentencing outcomes for various criminal offenses. The page includes details on individuals convicted, the charges they faced, and the sentences imposed, providing transparency and public access to legal proceedings in the region.
7. <https://www.merseyside.police.uk/news/news-search/?ct=Court+results&fdte=&page=17&tdte=> - An archive of court results from Merseyside Police, showcasing recent convictions and sentences for a range of offenses. The page offers insights into the judicial process and the outcomes of various cases, reflecting the ongoing efforts of law enforcement in the region.