# Couple given probation after sexual acts in Belfast city centre church amid rising public indecency cases



A couple caught engaging in sexual acts within the grounds of a Belfast city centre church has been handed two-year probation orders. Karol Piotr Biernacik, 43, from Loopland Road, and 35-year-old Adrienne Surgenor, who has no fixed address, pleaded guilty to a charge of committing “a lewd, obscene and disgusting act outraging public decency.” This incident, which took place in a location that many consider sacred, has not only raised eyebrows but also reignited conversations about the sanctity of places of worship and the boundaries of public behaviour.

This incident is not an isolated one in Belfast. In a similar case on May 18, 2024, Sean Paul Russell and Kirsty McMaster were arrested for allegedly performing sexual acts inside St Mary's Church. This event reportedly shocked onlookers, prompting charges of public indecency and disorderly behaviour. Both individuals faced strict prohibitions as part of their bail conditions, including a restriction on entering Chapel Lane—the site of the church—and a ban on consuming alcohol in public. These cases highlight an unsettling trend regarding inappropriate conduct in spaces traditionally reserved for reflection and reverence.

Kirsty McMaster's situation further complicates the narrative surrounding such incidents. Sentenced to four months in prison for a similar offence, and facing issues of homelessness and addiction, her case reveals the intersection of social challenges and the law. Her defence highlighted her precarious living situation, prompting questions about the support systems available for vulnerable individuals. As the community grapples with these incidents, the impact of such actions on the perceptions of communal spaces cannot be overstated; they threaten the trust and respect typically afforded to places of worship.

Moreover, the legal implications of these acts underscore broader societal concerns. The frequent occurrence of public indecency cases, such as that of Biernacik and Surgenor, casts a shadow on efforts to maintain the dignity of public and sacred spaces. Discussions on public decency are essential, especially in urban settings where communal norms are continually challenged.

As cities like Belfast continue to evolve, balancing the rights of individuals with the respect accorded to places of worship remains a contentious issue. This scenario stresses the need for ongoing dialogue about public behaviour and societal responsibilities, particularly as incidents of this nature raise pertinent questions about community standards and the protection of sacred spaces.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/couple-caught-having-sex-in-grounds-of-belfast-city-centre-church-handed-probation-orders/a349814044.html), [[7]](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/man-and-woman-facing-trial-over-allegations-of-having-sex-within-grounds-of-belfast-city-centre-church/a1201032258.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/05/29/man-accused-of-having-sex-in-belfast-church-is-barred-from-area/), [[5]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/woman-who-admitted-having-sex-inside-st-marys-church-in-chapel-lane-to-be-sentenced-next-month-U5TBTB5B2FFHHIRMA3KUORG2DI/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/woman-caught-engaging-in-sex-act-in-side-room-of-a-chapel-has-been-jailed-5K7ST4LDTBAT7HL42HOOGUESOQ/), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cerrydde8ppo)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/05/20/pair-accused-of-having-public-sex-in-church-appear-in-court-in-belfast/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/05/29/man-accused-of-having-sex-in-belfast-church-is-barred-from-area/), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cerrydde8ppo)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/couple-caught-having-sex-in-grounds-of-belfast-city-centre-church-handed-probation-orders/a349814044.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/05/29/man-accused-of-having-sex-in-belfast-church-is-barred-from-area/> - A man accused of engaging in sexual activity inside St Mary's Church in Belfast was barred from returning to the area as a condition of his bail. The incident occurred on May 18, 2024, when Sean Paul Russell and Kirsty McMaster were arrested for committing acts that outraged public decency and disorderly behavior. The court imposed strict conditions, including a ban on entering Chapel Lane, where the church is located, and prohibitions on consuming alcohol in public or using legal highs. The case highlights concerns over public decency and the sanctity of places of worship.
3. <https://www.irishtimes.com/crime-law/courts/2024/05/20/pair-accused-of-having-public-sex-in-church-appear-in-court-in-belfast/> - Sean Paul Russell and Kirsty McMaster appeared in court after allegedly engaging in sexual activity inside St Mary's Church in Belfast on May 18, 2024. The incident, witnessed by shocked onlookers, led to charges of outraging public decency and disorderly behavior. Both defendants reportedly shouted obscenities at police officers when confronted. The case underscores the legal and social implications of such behavior in public and sacred spaces, raising questions about public decency and the protection of communal areas.
4. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/woman-caught-engaging-in-sex-act-in-side-room-of-a-chapel-has-been-jailed-5K7ST4LDTBAT7HL42HOOGUESOQ/> - Kirsty Leigh McMaster was sentenced to four months in prison after admitting to engaging in a sexual act inside a side room of St Mary's Church in Belfast on May 18, 2024. The incident caused significant upset to parishioners who witnessed the act. McMaster's defense highlighted her homelessness and addiction issues at the time. The case emphasizes the legal consequences of public indecency and the impact such actions have on the community and places of worship.
5. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/woman-who-admitted-having-sex-inside-st-marys-church-in-chapel-lane-to-be-sentenced-next-month-U5TBTB5B2FFHHIRMA3KUORG2DI/> - Kirsty Leigh McMaster pleaded guilty to committing an act outraging public decency by engaging in sexual intercourse inside St Mary's Church in Belfast on May 18, 2024. The sentencing was scheduled for March 27, 2025. McMaster's solicitor noted her homelessness and addiction issues at the time of the offense. The case highlights the intersection of social challenges and legal accountability, raising questions about the support systems for vulnerable individuals and the sanctity of public spaces.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cerrydde8ppo> - Sean Paul Russell and Kirsty McMaster were arrested for allegedly engaging in sexual activity inside St Mary's Church in Belfast on May 18, 2024. The incident, witnessed by shocked onlookers, led to charges of outraging public decency and disorderly behavior. Both defendants reportedly shouted obscenities at police officers when confronted. The case underscores the legal and social implications of such behavior in public and sacred spaces, raising questions about public decency and the protection of communal areas.
7. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/man-and-woman-facing-trial-over-allegations-of-having-sex-within-grounds-of-belfast-city-centre-church/a1201032258.html> - Karol Piotr Biernacik and Adrienne Surgenor are set to stand trial over allegations of engaging in sexual activity within the grounds of a church in Belfast city centre. The incident, which occurred on November 6, 2024, has led to charges of committing a lewd, obscene, and disgusting act outraging public decency. The case highlights ongoing concerns about public behavior and the sanctity of places of worship in urban settings.