

Attorney General orders review of sentence given to violent Oxford armed robber Jon Shirley

# Robber's term challenged

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A VIOLENT armed robber could have his jail term increased after his case was sent to the Court of Appeal.

Jon Shirley brutally assaulted a shopkeeper with a handgun, robbed a petrol station at gunpoint and burst into the home of an elderly couple armed with a meat cleaver during his crime spree between December and February.

Judge Julian Hall sentenced the 23-year-old, *pictured*, to six-and-a-half years in prison at Oxford Crown Court in June.

But it meant the armed robber could be back on the streets by 2012



after serving half his term behind bars.

The jail sentence was criticised for being too short by one of his victims, Paul McLoughlin, 64, who needed stitches in his head after he

Although Shirley was charged with just three armed robberies, police have linked him with a series of similar raids

was pistol-whipped by Shirley during a raid on his Londis shop, in London Road, Wheatley

Police and Crown Prosecution Service appealed to the Attorney General to review the case and this week Baroness Scotland ordered the Court of Appeal to review the sentence, agreeing it could be “unduly lenient”.

Det Insp Simon Morton, head of Oxford CID, said: “Thames Valley Police together with the Crown

Prosecution Service have been looking into whether the sentencing of Jon Shirley to six-and-a-half years’ imprisonment at Oxford Crown Court earlier this year was unduly lenient.

“After careful consideration, the Attorney General has decided to seek leave to refer this case to the Court of Appeal for review and we await the decision.”

Although Shirley, of Roman Road, Wheatley, was charged with three armed robberies, police questioned him over similar raids on bus drivers in Headington and Wheatley, a taxi driver in Northway, a motorist in Summertown and robbery of a village shop in Stanton St John.

Officers are no longer looking for anyone in connection with these raids.

In one of his robberies, Shirley used a Colt handgun to hit shopkeeper Mr McLoughlin over the head before stealing cash from his shop.

Mr McLoughlin welcomed the review, but did not want to comment until the outcome of the hearing.

Shirley also admitted a gunpoint robbery at BP garage in Cherwell Way, in Oxford.

He also pleaded guilty to bursting into the home of John and Dorothy Hazel, in Beckley, armed with a meat cleaver, and two counts of possession of an imitation firearm.

The appeal hearing in London later this year will decide whether to quash the sentence and impose a longer jail term or keep the sentence and order a point of law for judges in future similar cases.

