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UK Burglar Sentenced to Three Years Following Break-In at Deceased's Home

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— Categories: Crime



Alan Mellor, a 36-year-old career criminal with an extensive record, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court for a series of burglaries in the Newcastle-under-Lyme area, including a break-in at the home of a recently deceased individual.

Between 23 April and 27 May 2025, Mellor committed three burglaries across Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire. The first offence involved forcibly entering a property on Dimsdale Parade West. The home, unoccupied following the death of its owner, was unlawfully accessed after Mellor smashed a window to gain entry. He proceeded to search

every room and stole a diamond ring and gold band valued between £800 and £1,000, items described by the family as holding significant sentimental value.

Subsequently, on 30 April, Mellor entered a property on Liverpool Road through an unlocked back door. During this offence, he stole various items, including an Xbox console, £500 in cash, designer jeans worth £200, and a watch of sentimental importance to the occupant.

On 27 May, Mellor attempted a third burglary at a vacant property on Kimberley Road but was unable to take any items of value.

At sentencing, Judge Graeme Smith acknowledged Mellor's guilty pleas and noted his substantial criminal history, which includes 14 prior convictions spanning 22 offences. The judge emphasised the emotional impact of Mellor's actions, stating: "Although at least two of the properties were unoccupied, one due to the owner's recent passing, the burglaries have had a significant effect on those connected to the victims. The theft of items with deep sentimental value, particularly from the deceased's home, compounds the distress caused."

Defence counsel Anis Ali indicated that Mellor was aware of the seriousness of his offences and accepted the likelihood of custodial sentencing. Mellor expressed a desire to move on from his criminal past.

Staffordshire Police have urged members of the public to ensure the security of vacant or recently bereaved properties, which can be particularly vulnerable to opportunistic crime.

Mellor will serve a minimum custodial term of 18 months before becoming eligible for release on licence.