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Man Set for Trial Over Alleged Shoplifting Incident in Pembroke Dock

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— Categories: Crime



A man with links to both Pembrokeshire and Swansea has been remanded in custody and will face trial later this month over an alleged shoplifting offence at a Home Bargains store in Pembroke Dock.

Gareth Mann, aged 48, who currently has no fixed address but was previously associated with the St Thomas area of Swansea, appeared before Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court on Monday, July 14. He is accused of stealing a number of items, including hair clips, from the Home Bargains branch on Pier Road on June 7.

Mann had previously entered a plea of not guilty during an earlier hearing held on June 9. The trial is scheduled to take place at Haverfordwest Magistrates' Court on Monday, July 21, at 2:00 pm. It is expected to last around 20 minutes, with both legal teams prepared for a swift resolution.

Bail Refused

Prosecutor Sian Vaughan outlined the allegation against Mann, stating that although the precise value of the stolen items is unclear, the offence was still treated seriously due to the defendant's prior history. Solicitor Alaw Harries defended Mann, who appeared for the briefcase management hearing.

Magistrates decided not to grant bail, pointing to a combination of concerns. These included the nature of the alleged theft, Mann's previous criminal record, and the risk that he could either fail to appear for the upcoming trial or go on to commit further offences. It was also confirmed that Mann is currently a recalled prisoner, meaning he is already serving a sentence and was returned to custody following this new allegation.

The bench, comprising Mr C Pattison, Mr L Evetts, and Mr A Smith, decided after considering all aspects of the case, including Mann's previous conduct and the potential risks associated with releasing him.

While the court proceedings were brief, the case has highlighted broader issues around repeat offending and the burden placed on local retailers by petty crime. For shop workers and businesses already navigating challenging times, such incidents can add yet another layer of stress and disruption.

Though the alleged theft involved what appear to be low-value items, the legal consequences may be far more significant for Mann if he is found guilty. The magistrates' firm stance also reflects growing calls from communities across Wales for tougher responses to repeat offenders, even for what might otherwise be viewed as minor crimes.

This case will be closely watched by those in the local community, not just for its outcome but for what it may signal about how the justice system intends to handle such matters moving forward. With the current political climate raising questions about law and order, particularly under a Labour-led government, many will be looking to the courts for reassurance that accountability is still being taken seriously at the grassroots level.

The outcome of Mann's trial on July 21 will determine what comes next. Should a conviction follow, sentencing will likely be swift, with magistrates expected to weigh both the details of this case and his prior history.