

## Hatton Garden thieves ordered to pay £6.4m or face dying in prison

Caroline Davies

The four ringleaders jailed for the audacious Hatton Garden jewellery raid must together pay back more than £6m or each serve another seven years in prison, a judge has ruled.

The thieves, who drilled a hole in the wall of a vault in London's jewellery quarter three years ago and ransacked 73 safety deposit boxes, were ordered to pay the money back at a confiscation ruling at Woolwich crown court yesterday.

The men, career criminals who are all aged over 60, staged the raid on Hatton Garden Safe Deposit over the Easter bank holiday weekend. If the money is not paid, some of them who are unwell may die in prison.

Judge Christopher Kinch QC said they had jointly benefited from the £13.69m in cash, gold and precious stones stolen.

The judge said: "A number of these defendants are not only of a certain age, but have in some cases serious

health problems. But, as a matter of principle and policy, it is very difficult to endorse any approach that there is particular treatment for someone who chooses to go out and commit offences at the advanced stage of their lives that some of these defendants were".

John "Kenny" Collins, 77, of Islington, north London, Daniel Jones, 63, of Enfield, north London, and Terry Perkins, 69, also of Enfield, are serving seven-year sentences, while Brian Reader, 78, of Dartford, Kent, is serving six years and three months.

The four must repay £6,447,079 between them - thought to be the value of property derived directly or indirectly from the Hatton Garden raid - plus individually assessed amounts based on their personal assets.

Tom Wainwright, representing Reader, said his client's sentence "does not have to be very long for it to mean, in reality, he will serve the rest of his life in custody".

The gang used a diamond-tipped drill to bore a hole into the 50cm-thick concrete vault wall. Many of the losers were small independent jewellers, including those who were keeping stock for their retirement.

### £13.69m

Amount stolen from the Hatton Garden Safe Deposit company, in London, over Easter weekend 2015