

Michael's story

40 years old

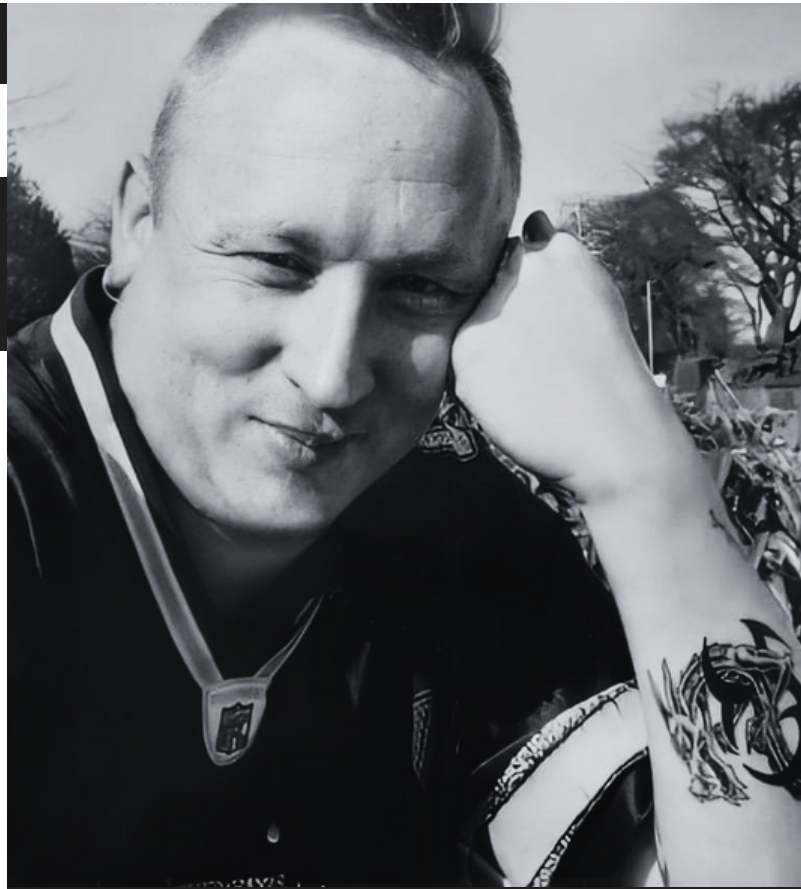
Michael was murdered by a man he considered a friend.

His killer was jailed for life after having been found guilty of the 'brutal and wicked' asphyxiation of Michael at his flat in 2015.

Convicted quickly with overwhelming evidence, the judge condemned the killer [Birchall] for the 'brutal and deliberate killing' of a vulnerable man who thought they were friends.

After a hopeless appeal 'totally without merit', the murderer earned himself an extra month in prison for wasting judges' time.

Michael's killer will serve at least 18 years behind bars.



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You murdered this 40-year-old vulnerable man who you called your friend.

The only conclusion I can form is that you acted as you did for whatever reason because you intended to kill him. That is why you applied the pressure with the straps of that bag for the length of time that you must have done. For whatever perverted reason you wanted him to die and you certainly succeeded.

Judge Michael Stokes QC