

One of the UK's most wanted drug dealers has been sentenced to 15 years after being arrested in Spain.

The court heard how on 20<sup>th</sup> of January, one of the most wanted criminals in the UK was arrested in Marbella, Spain following a national appeal by The National Crime Agency (NCA).

Joshua Hendry, 31, formerly of Walton, Liverpool, was sentenced today at Sheffield Crown Court for 15 years after pleading guilty to supplying £1.38 million worth of drugs across the M62 from Liverpool to Grimsby.

Just days after being named one of the UK's most wanted fugitives by the NCA, Hendry was caught while he was walking his dog by the Spanish police's fugitive unit after being recognised by an off-duty police officer.

Prosecuting, Rupert Doswell said: "There was about £1.38 million worth of crack cocaine and heroin taken to Grimsby."

Mr Doswell also claimed that Hendry fled the country before his trial in March 2019, where he was hiding for three years, trying to start a fresh start, before he was arrested in January.

It also emerged that he met a woman in Spain, who is now pregnant with his child.

Judge Roger Thomas said: "You were fully aware that you would be going to jail for a long time once you would get caught, yet that did not stop you from conceiving a child."

"Bringing a child into this world was not only greatly irresponsible, but also very selfish of you."

This is not the first time Hendry was arrested in connection to drugs offences, after being linked to a drugs trafficking scheme in 2017, along with 12 other members, including his mother and brother, whom have also been caught and sentenced.

Judge Thomas said: "This will not only affect you, but it will also have a significant impact on your partner and your new-born child."

Judge Thomas sentenced Hendry for a total of five years and three months, in addition to a 10-year sentence he was given during his absence in 2020, for pleading guilty to two counts of conspiracy to supply class A drugs.