

Directed Verdict

At the close of the prosecution case, I was called upon to decide as a matter of law whether there is evidence on which you could return a verdict of guilty of [insert offence].

I concluded that there is no evidence on which you could find beyond reasonable doubt that [insert fact].

This means you will not be retiring to consider your verdict. Instead, I am directing you that you must return a verdict of not guilty of [insert offence]. The verdict must come from you, but you have no choice in the matter.

My associate will ask you whether you find the defendant guilty or not guilty of [insert offence]. Through your speaker, you must answer not guilty.

Judge to associate: *Take the verdict from the jury.*

Associate: *Members of the jury, do you find the defendant guilty or not guilty of [insert offence]?*

Speaker: *Not guilty.*

Associate to Jury: *So says your speaker, so say you all?*

Jury: *Yes*

Associate to Judge: *Not guilty, Your Honour.*

Judge: *You have been found not guilty of the charge.
You are discharged.*