

A Hatfield man who admitted downloading child pornography after police raided the home he shares with his parents walked free from court on Monday.



Baker Martin Silsby, 46, was given four months in prison for each of four offences of making indecent images of children at St Albans Crown Court, but recorder Justin Rouse suspended the sentence for 18 months.

Prosecutor Peter Shaw said that Silsby had initially denied using child pornography when police raided his home Win Raven Court in May last year, but 37 indecent images were found on his laptop, computer discs and Dell notebook.

Although most were low category, four, showing children as young as one or two, were particularly graphic and obscene.

Defending, Sunjay Versani said: "He accessed it over a very short period of time.

"The offending was born out of insularity and isolation."

He said his client was of good character other than a 2004 conviction for disorderly behaviour, and was assessed by probation officers as unlikely to re-offend.

Recorder Rouse told Silsby: "The children are the victims of obscene abuse.

"They are further victimised by the knowledge that their images will be viewed by strangers on the internet, possibly forever."

However, he gave credit for Silsby's early guilty pleas, accepted there were a relatively low number of images, and said the defendant suffered from depression.

Silsby was ordered to pay £400 costs and attend a rehabilitation programme.

He will be under probation supervision for 12 months, and must allow police to monitor his internet use, using risk management software.