

Woman jailed for aiding commission of 2017 murder

Ciara Mahony bought petrol to destroy getaway car, Circuit Criminal Court told

ISABEL HAYES

A woman who helped to commission the 2017 murder of a Dublin man by buying petrol to destroy the getaway car has been jailed for six years and three months.

Ciara Mahony knew Jamie Tighe-Ennis “from around the area” and phoned and met him on the night he was murdered in October 2017, Dublin Circuit Criminal Court heard.

She then purchased petrol that was used to set the getaway car on fire.

Mahony (46), with an address at Edmondstown Road, Ballyboden, Dublin, but originally from Artane, was extradited from Birmingham last year in connection with the murder of Jamie Tighe-Ennis (24) nine years ago, which remains unsolved.

She pleaded guilty to the sole count on the indictment of facilitating a criminal organisation in the commission of the murder between October 27th and 28th, 2017. It is an offence that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years.

Jamie Tighe-Ennis died instantly after being shot in the head as he walked along Moatview Avenue, Coolock, in the early hours of October 28th, 2017. A black Audi getaway car was found burnt out in Finglas a short time later.

Mahony’s involvement included purchasing the petrol that was used to burn out the Audi, the court heard. She was seen on CCTV footage filling a red jerry can in a Topaz petrol station

that was later found in the burnt-out vehicle, Det Sgt Domhnall O’Connell told prosecuting barrister Conor McKenna.

Gardaí also discovered her involvement from a phone that was found in the car and a limited edition bottle of wine, which was only sold in about 12 places in the country and which they tracked down to the Priorswood Inn, Clonsillaugh.

Jamie Tighe-Ennis was socialising in the Priorswood Inn on the night of his murder and Mahony met him there briefly, the court heard. The pair went outside and spoke briefly before he went back inside and Mahony left.

Phone mast data

Gardaí used phone mast data to track Mahony’s movements that night. She phoned Jamie Tighe-Ennis a number of times and again the following morning after he was killed, the court heard.

Mahony, who has no previous convictions except for some road traffic matters, was arrested in October 2018 and released, with a file sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

The DPP decided to prosecute in November 2024, at which point Mahony was living in the UK and extradition proceedings began. Her guilty plea was an early one, the court heard.

In a victim impact statement read out by O’Connell, the father of Jamie Tighe-Ennis, Kevin Ennis, recalled arriving

on the scene shortly after his son had been shot and seeing the pool of blood around his body.

“My son was dead,” he said. “It’s with me every day and will be for the rest of my life.”

He said he was sickened when he heard Mahony was a mother.

“How would you feel if it was your child?” he said. “You can rot in hell.”

June Tighe said her son’s death was “violent, sudden and devastating” and learning of it was “the worst moment of my life”.

“He was loved,” she added. “He mattered. He had a life, a future. We will never make the memories that should have been made with him.”

Defence barrister Jack Ryan put it to O’Connell that while Mahony knew “a very serious offence” was planned that night, she did not necessarily know Jamie Tighe-Ennis would be killed.

The detective said Mahony was “aware something serious was going to happen” to Jamie Tighe-Ennis.

O’Connell agreed with Ryan when he said Mahony had a severe addiction to crack cocaine at the time and was under the influence of people involved in organised crime, including two previous partners.

Judge Martin Nolan said Mahony the defendant “has moral culpability in this particular case”.

He took into account mitigating factors, including Mahony’s early guilty plea and lack of previous convictions and said she had been unlucky in her previous relationships which appeared to involve violence and coercion. The judge set a headline sentence of nine-10 years, which he reduced to six years and three months.



■ Ciara Mahony (46) with an address at Edmondstown Road, Ballyboden, Dublin was extradited from Birmingham last year in connection with the murder of Jamie Tighe-Ennis (24) nine years ago, which remains unsolved. PHOTOGRAPH: COLLINS COURTS

Briefs

Central Criminal Court in Limerick

Man goes on trial accused of smothering 89-year-old woman

A man went on trial yesterday, accused of murdering his then-partner’s 89-year-old mother by allegedly smothering and strangling her.

Hasan Ali Gori (52), of no fixed abode, denied a single charge of murdering Josephine “Josie” Ray at her home, which she shared with her daughter Mary Ray and the accused, in Nenagh, Co Tipperary.

Ali Gori, who is using the services of an interpreter in court, replied “not guilty, sir” when arraigned before Judge Seán Gillane, on the charge that he murdered Ray at her home at St Joseph’s Park, Nenagh, on August 4th, 2024.

Prosecuting barrister Lorcan Connolly opened the trial in front of a jury of nine men and three women at the Central Criminal Court in Limerick.

“Josie Ray was killed at the hands of Hasan Ali Gori,” he said. “She was

found dead in her bed.

“She died by asphyxiation after external compression of her neck – Josie Ray was smothered and strangled,” Connolly told the jury.

“You’ll hear about inward fractures caused by this compression and DNA matching the accused found on the fingernails of the late Josie Ray.”

Connolly said that while “nobody saw him do it, so perhaps it is a circumstantial case”, the prosecution case is that Ali Gori “had motive” and that his DNA was “found on the victim’s fingernails”.

Connolly claimed Ali Gori and Mary Ray were involved in “a volatile and tempestuous” relationship at the time of Josie Ray’s death.

Connolly said that before the alleged killing, Ali Gori had “struck up” a relationship with Mary Ray, then 55, who has a “learning disability” and who shared a “close bond” with her mother.

The trial continues.

Limerick Circuit Criminal Court

Teenager pleads guilty to hit-and-run that killed nurse

A teenager has been further remanded in prison ahead of sentencing after he pleaded guilty to his role in a fatal hit-and-run in Co Limerick.

Keelan O’Connell (19), of Scanlon Park, Castleconnell, who was under the influence of drugs at the time, admitted dangerous driving causing death among other charges before Judge Colin Daly at Limerick Circuit Criminal Court.

Aine O’Reilly of Pallasgreen, Co Limerick, died at the scene of the crash when her car collided with a vehicle forced into its path after it was hit by O’Connell’s vehicle.

The collision occurred on the N24, at Grange West, Boher on February 13th. Aine O’Reilly, a nurse, was on her way to work at Shannondoc, Limerick, at the time.

Garda Tony Burke, of Henry Street Garda station, previously told the court O’Connell was driving a “high-powered” Volkswagen Golf “at excess speed” when

he attempted to perform a “dangerous manoeuvre” moments prior to the crash.

He said O’Connell collided with a Peugeot car as he attempted to undertake it, forcing it into the path of Aine O’Reilly, who was driving a Nissan Micra.

Burke said O’Connell “fled the scene on foot” without offering assistance to Aine O’Reilly or the driver of the Peugeot.

O’Connell handed himself in to gardai a few days later. He admitted during interviews under caution that he had consumed “cannabis” and “fast gas”, said Burke.

Aine O’Reilly suffered “catastrophic injuries” and died at the scene, the garda said.

O’Connell did not make any reply when charged earlier this year but pleaded guilty to eight charges yesterday. The judge remanded O’Connell in continuing custody for a sentence hearing in November.

DAVID RALEIGH

Central Criminal Court



Rapist Simon McGinley jailed for breaching release conditions

The rapist at the centre of the 1990s “C Case” has repeatedly breached the conditions of his release from a 21-year sentence imposed in 2009 for the rape of an elderly woman, a court has heard.

Simon McGinley (52) appeared before the Central Criminal Court yesterday, when Judge Tony Hunt was informed he received a 2½-year year jail term in Dundalk Circuit Criminal Court last week.

McGinley was jailed for repeatedly breaching the notification requirements of his release from jail in 2021 under the Sex Offenders Act, Fiona McGowan, prosecuting, told the court. These conditions include notifying the gardai about a change of address.

McGinley, formerly of Latlorcan Court, Co Monaghan, and originally from Dundalk, was jailed for 21 years in 2009 for the rape of an 86-year-old woman in her own home.

He was previously jailed for eight years in 1998 for raping the then 13-year-old girl at the centre of the “C Case” in August 1997.

This girl became pregnant as a result of the rape and had to apply to the courts to access an abortion in the UK, which her parents resisted. She was granted permission to travel in December 1997.

The court heard McGinley previously appeared before the Central Criminal Court in 2023 in relation to breaching the conditions of his release. On that occasion, two years from his 2009 sentence were reactivated.

Having offended again since then, he was before the Central Criminal Court yesterday in relation to that six-month suspension.

The judge said he would reactivate three months of the six-month suspension, which he noted would run consecutive to the 2½-year sentence imposed in the Circuit Court last week.

Judge adjourns rape trials as solicitors withdraw

MARYCAROLAN

Legal Affairs Correspondent

A senior judge was “coerced” into adjourning six rape and sexual offence trials involving accused people on bail yesterday as the dispute over the new legal aid payment model was intensified by solicitors.

Many defence solicitors, particularly in Dublin, withdrew legal aid services after a new flat-fee system for District Court cases was introduced in July.

This has led to the adjournment of thousands of criminal cases across all court divisions, adding to existing backlogs. The dispute ramped up yesterday with the withdrawal of services expanding to almost all cases.

Judge Paul McDermott at the Central Criminal Court said the withdrawal meant he had been “obliged” or “coerced” into adjourning six out of 13 such cases before him yesterday.

Those cases were listed for trial but, had he forced the trials on, defendants may have been forced to conduct their own defences and possibly cross-examine vulnerable complainants, he said.

The six trials were adjourned to October 27th, when new trial dates will be assigned.

McDermott also said criminal defence solicitors withdrawing services in protest at a new legal aid payment model need court permission to cease representing accused people in custo-

dy. A solicitor “cannot unilaterally withdraw”, he said.

McDermott, who manages the Central Criminal Court’s list of serious crime cases, said, when dealing with one case dating from 2020, the court had “limited options” when a solicitor withdraws from a case.

He has said “on numerous occasions how regrettable this is”, and added: “Cases like this with a very long history need to get on.”

Noting the “obvious suffering” this inflicted on those involved, he said he was “obliged/coerced” to adjourn the cases, and apologised to complainants.

Defence solicitors were conspicuous by their absence from the Criminal Courts of Justice

yesterday and their withdrawal – replicated in various other courts around the country – resulted in adjournments in the central, circuit and district courts.

Courts Service sources said the adjournments were compounding existing backlogs but the real impact would only become obvious later this year and next year.

New payment model

The withdrawal began in mid-June but intensified when the new payment model was introduced on July 1st.

Court presidents were told, in a letter on Friday, the withdrawal was being escalated to virtually all cases, including custody cases and cases involving children, due to the Minister for Justice Jim O’Callaghan’s failure to engage in “meaningful” discussions.

The new payment model provides for one flat fee of €520, based on an average five court



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appearances, irrespective of the number of charges and court appearances.

O’Callaghan said it would achieve necessary reforms and

cost savings but solicitors have said it would result in them not being paid for their work in more complex cases, including those involving children and people with addiction and mental health issues.

Work-to-rule action

Separately, the work-to-rule action by public sector employees in the Courts Service continues to adversely impact the courts.

The action means, where registrars and other court staff have retired, are ill or on holiday leave, other court staff will not take their place.

Sources said the action has had a particularly serious impact on the Dolphin House family court complex in Dublin.

Just two or three out of the five courts in the complex have been sitting since the work to rule began two weeks ago, causing adjournments of multiple domestic violence, guardianship, maintenance and custody hearings.

Two men charged over wrong-way driving incident on M50 denied bail

TOM TUITE

Two men charged in connection with a traffic pursuit in Dublin on Sunday evening, in which a stolen car was allegedly driven on the wrong side of the M50 for one kilometre, have been denied bail.

Daniel Brown (22), of Hampton Wood, Dublin 11, was charged with four counts of dangerous driving, being in a stolen Volkswagen Golf estate car and possession of cannabis.

Co-defendant Adam White (25), also from Hampton Wood, was charged with being in the stolen car and possession of cannabis for sale or supply.

The pair are also accused of having a stolen key to a Toyota car.

Garda Dylan Toner, of Coolock Garda station, gave evidence of the arrest, charge and caution, and objected to bail for the pair, who had no solicitors to represent them because of the industrial dispute over legal-aid fee reforms.

They opted to represent themselves and had separate hearings, during which Toner told Judge Karen Dowling both men made no reply when charged.

The garda objected to bail, citing the seriousness of the incident and charges. He said he expected the case would be sent to the Circuit Court, but added

that the book of evidence was yet to be completed.

He was emphatic in his assertion that imposing bail conditions would not alleviate his concerns about the accused men.

The garda alleged the pair were arrested following a 40-minute traffic pursuit and

tation, about the risk of self-incrimination.

Brown maintained that he was being carried in the stolen car.

“I put my hands up to that,” he said.

The judge gave the accused men time to read the bail objections and allowed Brown’s partner and a relative of White’s to sit with them briefly to help them prepare for the bail hearings.

“I had nothing to do with the car,” White told the court.

Injuries examined

Both men had seen a doctor in custody to have injuries examined and were deemed fit to appear in court. Brown’s face was bruised, and White, a father of three, said he had a sore ankle.

The garda said White was caught close to the car when it stopped. He was adamant that no bail conditions would satisfy him and said the charges painted a picture in relation to that alleged incident.

The judge stressed that the pair enjoyed the presumption of innocence and lacked legal representation. However, she held that the threshold had been reached to refuse both men’s applications and remanded them in custody to appear at Cloverhill District Court on Friday.

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in Respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development

Roscommon County Council

In accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Islandmore Wind Farm Limited gives notice of its intention to make an application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a ten-year permission in relation to a renewable energy development extending to a total site area of 157 hectares in the townlands of Largin, Boleyslough, Cloonmeen, Toobrockan, and Tulagharrack, County Roscommon.

This development is covered by the provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive III (Directive (EU) 2023/2413) and the planning application is subject to a completeness check under Section 37A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. When a notice issues in accordance with Section 37A(4b), the provisions of Article 26A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2025 shall apply.

The proposed development will comprise the following:-

- i. 3 no. wind turbines with a hub height of 104 metres, a rotor diameter of 162 metres and an overall tip height of 185 metres;
- ii. 7 no. wind turbines with a hub height of 82 metres, a rotor diameter of 136 metres and an overall tip height of 150 metres;
- iii. All associated turbine foundations and crane hardstanding areas;
- iv. All associated underground electrical and communications cabling;
- v. Construction of approximately 4 kilometres of wind farm access tracks;
- vi. Construction of 6 no. site entrances and upgrade of 1 no. existing site entrance;
- vii. 2 no. temporary construction compounds;
- viii. 1 no. borrow pit which, when exhausted, will be utilised to permanently store excess excavated material;
- ix. The storage, as required, of excavated material at dedicated spoil deposition areas;
- x. Felling of approximately 6.5 hectares of commercial forestry plantation to facilitate the construction and operation of wind farm infrastructure;
- xi. All associated and ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works, permanent and temporary works to public roads along the turbine component haul route, the provision of site drainage infrastructure and environmental mitigation measures; and
- xii. A 40-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire proposed development.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this planning application.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement include an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed development both individually and in combination with the relevant on-site or secondary developments which will occur as a direct result of the proposed development including those for which planning permission is not currently being applied. The on-site and secondary developments assessed within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement include:-

- i. The proposed development’s grid connection infrastructure which comprises a 110 kilovolt electricity substation located in the townland of Boleyslough and approximately 7 kilometres of 110 kilovolt underground electricity line located within the townlands of Boleyslough, Cloonmeen, Tulagharrack, Toobrockan, Coogethane, Ballyougher, and Derrynacross, County Roscommon; and
- ii. Temporary accommodation works along the turbine component haul route comprising the removal of street furniture and road signage, felling of roadside vegetation and temporary hardstanding of roadside verges located within the townlands of Wellpark, Ballyboden Beg, Dougliska, Caranduff, Kilselous, Kinnore, Kilgloghans, Banagher, Carron, and Milltown, County Galway; and Newtown South, Ballinliffe East, Ballinliffe North, Ballinliffe South, and Ballyglass East, County Mayo.

The planning application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on 26 October 2026 at the following locations:-

- The Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902; and
- The Offices of Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, County Roscommon, F42 V9R8.

The planning application, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement may also be viewed or downloaded on the following website: www.islandmorewindfarm.ie.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála (“the Commission”), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902; or via the Commission’s website www.pleanala.ie (as observed during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to:-

- i. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development; and
- ii. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development; and

The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Commission not later than 5.30 p.m. on 16 December 2026. Such submissions or observations must also include the following information:-

- The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating the application should be sent; and
- The subject matter of the submission or observation; and
- The reasons, consideration and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Commission. The Commission may, at its absolute discretion, hold an oral hearing on the application (refer to ‘A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development’ at www.pleanala.ie).

The Commission may in respect of an application for permission/approval decide to:-

- (a) i) grant the permission/approval; or
- (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission/approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified; or
- (iii) grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions; or
- (b) Refuse permission to grant the permission/approval.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100).

A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Commission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 491 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed on the Commission’s website (www.pleanala.ie) under the following heading: Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice. This information is also available on the Citizens Information Service website (www.citizensinformation.ie).