

Justice committee presentation

Introduction

My name is Noel Byrne I am the brother of Paul Byrne who was murdered in September 2009. Paul was murdered by his estranged spouse Tanya Doyle. Paul was a project manager for RPS that carries several contracts for major companies throughout Ireland. Pauls income was over €100k at the time of his death.

Background to Paul's and Tanya's split up.

- Tanya stabbed Paul in the back, this stabbing punctured one lung causing it to collapse and was 1cm short of puncturing his heart.
- This caused the breakup of their marriage. Paul supported her for a time and provided support for accommodation etc. Tanya left this country and established another base in Portugal I believe where she stayed for some time.
- Tanya came back to Ireland as she was in difficulties and Paul paid for flights and allowed her to live in his home where they shared separated bed rooms.

The lead into Paul's death

- Paul and Tanya were in the process of going through a legal separation. They were in the final stages of this process and had reached an agreement.
- The weekend of his death there was a 21st birthday party for our niece.
- I had made arrangements to meet Paul and our Dad for a few drinks on Friday evening.
- Paul called a taxi at 7pm to take him to my Dads we were suppose the call to him at 7pm but we were running a bit late. We arrived in Tallaght and the M50 at 7.10pm and tried to make contact with paul to see if we would pick him up but his phone was engaged.
- Because Tanya was living in Paul's house we were worried for him and I would at first call him every day and it fizzled back to mainly the weekend and early in the week, as he was away on business every day.

Paul's murder

- Paul's murder was pre-planned

- He was stabbed over 68 times. he had defences wounds all down his arms the knife passed through his arms and five vital organs were punctured, any one of which causing his death. There was a 4" slash wound down him arm(s)
- The last wound was to his neck. She slashed his throat and voice box.
- Paul called 999 and the attack and his death were recorded.
- It took him just 9 mins to die.

The aftermath

- Tanya was arrested at the house.
- Tanya admitted to the Garda that she killed Paul for his money, that there was no point in just stabbing him she would not get enough. So she stabbed him for all he had.

The wider picture

- On contacting Paul's firm (RPS) they agreed not to pay any moneys to Tanya from his death benefit or pension plan.
- The Financial controller changed and they planned to pay Tanya the spouses portion of his pension, amounting to about €1 million.
- Friends First the pension holders told us that they had to pay this to Tanya.

The campaign

- RPS did pay out the death benefit to the family.
- They insisted that they would pay the spouses benefit to Tanya as it was their legal duty.
- I campaigned consistently to have this changed and point out to both RPS and Friends First that the conditions of the policy were left in the hands of the Trustees.
- In 2016 RPS Trustees decided that they would not pay out this money to Tanya (Remember she killed him for this money and the house)

The house

- The Family had to buy Tanya's share of the house or allow her to live there on her release.
- On legal advice it was not possible to get a baring order or any other order to keep her from entering or living in the house (remember that why he was murdered)

Disbelieve

- I can't understand why our politicians allow someone who has committed Homicide and killed their spouse to benefit from their crime in any way.
- Someone who kills their spouse should not be allowed to benefit from their crime in any way that is either from inheriting property or any financial benefit from the death.

Who has this affected?

- In 2018 SEVEN WOMEN HAVE died in violent circumstances in Ireland this year, a report by Women's Aid has found Femicide Watch 2018' report.
<https://www.thejournal.ie/women-murder-ireland-4355923-Nov2018/>
- Over half of women were murdered by their current or former boyfriend, partner or husband (resolved cases) and 61% of women were killed in their own homes.
Since records began (1996) 225 women have died violently, an average of 10 women per year.
16 children have died alongside their mothers.
<https://www.womensaid.ie/about/newsevents/news/2018/11/23/media-release-womens-aid-calls-for-review-of-domes/>

Summary

In looking at the figures there are approx. 10 females not including males killed by their partners and will receive a reward for killing their spouse.

In looking at the statics of 225 women that have died at the hands of their partners since 1996 that is at least 225 people that have benefited in some way over the last 20 years of whom large portion are probably released from prison.

There are wider issues to be address also but they are for a later date

- The CSO shows

Table 3.1: Previously published recorded homicide incidents 2003 - 2016

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Murder	37	30	52	62	77	50	56	53	42	53	52	52	29	38	683
Manslaughter	14	15	13	8	7	5	4	5	3	7	3	3	4	3	94
Infanticide	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dangerous driving leading to death	29	53	61	68	47	34	28	31	21	19	28	25	30	30	504
Total Homicide	80	98	126	138	132	89	88	89	66	79	83	80	63	71	1,282

These statistics are categorised as under reservation. This categorisation indicates that the quality of these statistics do not meet the standards required of official statistics published by CSO.

Table 3.2: Revised recorded homicide incidents 2003 - 2016

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Murder	36	29	52	60	78	51	53	55	42	52	51	53	31	37	680
Manslaughter	15	15	14	12	7	14	9	8	10	8	7	6	5	5	135
Infanticide	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dangerous driving leading to death	41	70	76	77	66	48	35	49	29	30	37	46	47	49	700
Total Homicide	92	114	142	149	152	113	97	112	81	90	95	105	83	91	1,516

These statistics are categorised as under reservation. This categorisation indicates that the quality of these statistics do not meet the standards required of official statistics published by CSO.

<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-rc/recordedcrimeq42017/homicidestatisticsrevisions/>