

Manslaughter or murder – jury told there are two verdicts to choose from

Intoxication level raised by defence in Daena case

RALPH RIEGEL

A murder trial jury was told an accused man who said he killed his partner during an alcohol- and drug-fuelled confrontation did not have the intent to murder her.

The defence has argued that Adam Corcoran (31) – who denied attempting to dismember the body of mother-of-two Daena Walsh (27) in a panic at their Cork home – was so impacted by intoxication that he was incapable of forming the required level of intent for a murder conviction.

The submission came as a Central Criminal Court jury began its deliberations following a two-week murder trial.

Mr Corcoran insisted that he did not intend to kill Ms Walsh and did not intend to cause her serious injuries.

Ms Justice Siobhán Lankford told the jury it was the defence case that if they accept that the accused did not have the required intent, “it is open to you to find him guilty of the lesser offence of manslaughter”.

Ms Justice Lankford told the jury two verdicts were open to it on the most serious charge – guilty of murder or not guilty of murder, but guilty of manslaughter.

The jury was sent home after suspending its deliberations at 4.15pm.

It will resume at 11am today.

Mr Corcoran said he could not remember anything about a fire in their Cork flat where gardai said aerosol cans had been wrapped in a tea-towel and placed on the cooker hob.

He pleaded not guilty to the murder of his partner of 10 years, Ms Walsh, who was found with gruesome injuries including “a gaping wound” to her chest, a slit throat and a partially amputated left arm.

Ms Walsh was found with 25 different stab and incised injuries in her burning Middleton flat on August 2, 2024.

Mr Corcoran had called 999 and claimed that Ms Walsh had just stabbed herself in the stomach.

One stab wound penetrated her sternum and was 11.5cm in depth – with some of her clothing found lodged in her bone.

Mr Corcoran also pleaded not guilty to damaging their Middleton apartment. The blaze caused €50,000 worth of damage.

Mr Corcoran has an address at John Barry House on Connolly Street in Middleton.

He told the trial both he and Ms Walsh had been together for almost 10 years and had addiction issues with alcohol and drugs.

They had relapsed about two weeks before the incident and, in the hours before August 2, 2024, had been drinking beer, vodka and alcopops while taking cocaine as well as prescription drugs including Xanax, Valium and sleeping tablets.

He said Ms Walsh claimed he had been “looking at one of the girls” at a bus stop that day while both were on their way to Cork to buy drugs and to look at engagement rings.

Both had gone back to their Middleton apartment where he had consumed more alcohol and cocaine.

“I made a roll-up [cigarette] and I called Daena to see what was going on. I went into the kitchen. Daena was over by the cooker. She had a red knife in her hand. She was self-harming. She was shouting at me, saying that I was cheating on her,” he said.

“She was screaming at me... [she said] she was sick of it – she was going to end it all.”

The accused said he went to grab his partner by the wrists.

“She was swinging at me. She was hitting me and headbutting me and lashing out. I did not know where the knife was. I was lashing out at her,” he said.

He added that his partner fell over and he toppled onto her.

“I hit her twice in the chest and she stopped moving. I was out of breath. I was very dizzy. When I came around, I felt my shirt was wet... I had the red knife in my hand.”

Mr Corcoran replied “No” to Mr Grehan when he was asked if he intended to kill Ms Walsh or intended to cause her serious injury that day.

Donal O’Sullivan SC, for the State, put it to the accused that he had told lies to the 999 operator, to gardai and to the jury.

Mr O’Sullivan challenged the defendant as to how his partner could have sustained a partial-amputation of her left arm as well as 25 sharp-force injuries to her neck, chest, abdomen and arm.

“I dropped the knife. I don’t know... I can’t remember. I grabbed it [the knife] and it hit her arm. I dropped it and caught it and on the swing of the catch, it went into her arm... where there was already a cut. It got stuck and when you pulled it out, the wound got bigger,” he said.

State pathologist Dr Yvonne McCartney conducted a post-mortem examination on Ms Walsh’s remains at Cork University Hospital.

She said she sustained multiple sharp-force injuries to her face, neck, chest and abdomen, which led to hypoglycaemic shock and cardio-respiratory arrest.

Mr Grehan put it to Dr McCartney that it “sounded like there was an attempt to amputate the arm”.

The pathologist agreed with his assertion.

“That is what it appears. It is difficult to say because of the heat,” she said.



Mum-of-two Daena Walsh was killed by her partner and her body was found in a burning apartment in 2024

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South Dublin County Council

NOTICE OF THE MAKING BY SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL OF A COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER UNDER SECTION 76 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1966 AND THE THIRD SCHEDULE THERETO AS EXTENDED BY SECTION 10 (INSERTED BY SECTION 86 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1966) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO.2) ACT, 1960, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 222 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000, AND PART IX (INCLUDING S.167) AND PART XIV (INCLUDING SS.212-213) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED.

PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 4(A) OF THE THIRD SCHEDULE OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1966

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL COMPULSORY PURCHASE (CLONBURRIS SOUTH LINK STREET) ORDER, 2026

South Dublin County Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Local Authority”) in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by, inter alia, Section 76 of the Housing Act, 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto, as extended by Section 10 (inserted by Section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966) of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 as amended by Section 222 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Part IX (including s.167) and Part XIV (including ss.212-213) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, have made an Order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála for confirmation.

An Oral Hearing may be held at the absolute discretion of the An Coimisiún Pleanála.

If confirmed, the Order will authorise the Local Authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the First Schedule hereto for the purposes of the provision of a site for the completion of the Clonburris South Link Street within the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone.

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written Notice.

Any objection to the Order must state, in writing, the grounds of objection and be sent addressed to An Coimisiún Pleanála at 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, so as to reach the said Commission before 5.30 p.m. on 30th April 2026.

A copy of the Order and of the Map referred to in it may be seen at all reasonable hours at the offices of South Dublin County Council, Town Centre, Tallaght, Dublin 24. A copy of the Order and Map is also available on the South Dublin County Council Website www.sdcc.ie.

Schedule Part I & II

Land other than land consisting of a house or houses unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable expense.

The land to which the Order relates is west of the R136 – Outer Ring Road, south of Lynche’s Land and north of the Grand Canal.

Dated this 19th day March 2026.

Signed: A/Senior Executive Officer,
Economic Development.

Web: www.sdcc.ie



'We need a tougher clamp down on scramblers and e-scooters'

There has been an increase in high powered e-scooters and quad bike seizures

By James Roulston Mooney
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CALLS have been made to increase powers to seize scramblers and e-scooters and take them off streets in Clondalkin, Tallaght and other areas.

Stronger powers for Gardaí to seize scramblers and e-scooters have been requested after reports claimed a larger haul this year than the entirety of last year.

Dublin Mid-West TD Mark Ward noted that the reported increase reflects the extra powers awarded to An Garda Síochána recently, and called for even more to ensure a safer environment for people.

Deputy Ward claimed that many of the seizures this year so far have been of stationary vehicles and requested powers to carry out seizures of mobile machines.

The local TD said: "There have been reports of an increase in scrambler, high powered e-scooter, and quad bike seizures in 2026..."

"...It is easy to point to such an increase when little powers were given to gardaí to seize scramblers and e-scooters before this year.

"The vehicles that are being seized are mostly stationary, often as an incidental finding during a different search.

"People are not being stopped while they drive these dangerously."

Deputy Ward also called for a regulation of the sale of high-powered e-scooters to ensure that they do not have the capability to easily go beyond speed restrictions.

He described the recent passing of 16-year-old Grace Lynch as



POWERS: Tougher action is needed on scramblers and e-scooters

something that is still "very raw" and called for better resources to ensure tragedies such as this do not continue to occur.

Tragedy has struck closer to home as well with the death of a teenager in Citywest last April when his scrambler collided with a car.

Deputy Ward urged the Government to "get serious" on the issue and ensure safety in local communities.

"I back the calls to regulate the sale of high-powered e-scooters, ensuring that they cannot easily bypass speed restrictions. This is a

safety issue for both the driver, other road users and pedestrians.

"We need a tougher clamp down on scramblers. The tragic death of Grace Lynch is still very raw.

"Gardaí need to be resourced so that they are present in our communities and so that they can pursue the criminal and antisocial elements associated with scrambler and high-powered e-scooter use.

"Government needs to get serious about safety in our communities. This needs to happen sooner rather than later."

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme.

€165,000 spent by local authority to clean up mess after 157 bonfires

ILLEGAL bonfires were lit in over 150 locations around south Dublin during Halloween 2025, according to the council, reports Ellen Gough.

Figures released by South Dublin County Council's Public Realm team showed that the total costs to the council after Halloween last year was approximately €165,000.

In response to a request from Cllr Adam Smyth (FF) for a breakdown of Halloween clean-up costs in 2025, the Public Realm team said they "identified approximately 210 individual bonfires, across 157 locations" in the county.

A breakdown of the locations per electoral areas showed just three bonfires in Firhouse-Bohernabreena, six across Lucan, nine in Rathfarnham-Templeogue and ten in Tallaght Central.


The most bonfire locations identified was 56 in the Palmerstown-Fonthill area, with 39 in Tallaght South and 34 around Clondalkin.

"The total cost for the collection of all waste and the necessary repairs and reinstatement of grass areas, resulting from Halloween 2025, is approximately €165,000," SDCC's director of climate action Teresa Walsh said in the written reply.

Funded by the Local Democracy Reporting Scheme

COSTS: The remains of a bonfire in Kilnamanagh





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