

Laois man remanded in custody as €1.2m in cash forfeited to the State

● Portlaoise Circuit Court was told man found guilty of money laundering 'got involved over his head'

Court reporter

A Laois man was remanded in custody as €1,203,555 in cash was forfeited to the State at a sitting of Portlaoise Circuit Court.

A jury found Portlaoise man Eugene Doyle (51) guilty of money laundering following a trial at Portlaoise Circuit Court earlier this month.

William Fennelly BL said a van had been stopped between

Junction 14 and Junction 15 at Ballybrittas on January 8, 2021. The cash was discovered during a search of the van and the driver was arrested.

Detective Garda Sgt Mary Moore of the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau said the cash had been vacuum packed.

"There was figures written on the vacuum packs as well," she said. In total, Det Moore said there were 24 packages contain-

ing €1,203,555. A phone was also recovered from the van.

Mr Fennelly said the driver of the van worked for Glenbrook Logistics, a company owned by Mr Doyle. He said the driver had gone to a filling station at Togher and parked up shortly before 6am. He bought a coffee and walked around the station as another vehicle arrived and left a short time later. The driver then returned to his van and drove away.



Over €1.2 million in cash has been forfeited to the State

Mr Fennelly said text messages between the driver and Mr Doyle showed Mr Doyle asking "well bud?" at 5.52am. "Well bud. Here now," the driver texted in reply. "Does he know this yoke?" the driver then asked. "Yes he does," replied Mr Doyle.

Mr Fennelly said the second vehicle had arrived and the cash was transferred into the unlocked van belonging to Glenbrook Logistics.

When arrested and interviewed, Det Moore said Mr Doyle had claimed he had no idea why the driver was at the filling station in Togher. When the texts were put to him, she said, "he believed we interpreted the messages incorrectly".

Mr Fennelly said the driver pleaded guilty and was given a three years suspended sentence which was backdated to the time of his arrest. He said he had spent between four and six months in custody in relation to the offence.

Det Moore said the cash had been counted and labelled and "pre-prepared and ready to go" and she described the operation as a "high level money laundering cell of an organised crime

gang".

In relation to Mr Doyle, she said, "he would have been high up the food chain" and he was using his logistics company to coordinate the operation.

Damian Colgan SC said there had been a number of searches including at the defendant's home following the seizure. He said €10,000 was found which he believed was from the family business. He asked that this be returned to Mr Doyle's family.

He produced a letter from the accused who he said "fully accepts responsibility for his actions". He said the man had no previous convictions except one for having no road tax. He said the defendant had a history of road traffic accidents and has an injury to his back.

Mr Colgan said the logistics company had been in business for three years but his client rented the premises and his home and had no real assets.

"He was born here in Portlaoise, lived all his life in Portlaoise," said Mr Colgan. He said the man had left school at 16 and worked at various jobs.

"Despite what the guards say about him, there doesn't seem to

be any trappings of wealth," said Mr Colgan.

He produced a letter from the man's wife and said the incident will have a knock on effect on his family. He again asked that the €10,000 be released to the man's family. The court was told there was no objection. Mr Colgan also said his client had medical difficulties and walks with a stick.

Judge Keenan Johnson asked why the man had become involved in the operation.

Mr Colgan said he didn't know but suggested "outside influence" and said his client was a hard working man who "got involved over his head". He asked the judge to consider suspending some of the sentence. "I am asking the court to be as lenient as possible," he added.

Judge Johnson said it was a serious offence which certainly ranked at the upper end of the scale.

"The conviction has an automatic custodial sentence so I will remand the accused in custody," he said.

Judge Johnson said he would finalise sentencing at Mullingar Circuit Court on May 15. He ordered the forfeiture of the cash.

Man charged following alleged attempted robbery of business

A man has been charged following an alleged attempted robbery of a business in Laois.

The attempted robbery allegedly took place in Murphy's Portarlinton, on Friday March 20 at 3:50pm.

A male and a female entered the business and allegedly told

staff members to open the cash register. The suspect allegedly kept his hands in his pockets, and staff members did not see a gun. Staff refused to open the till for the suspect, and the pair fled the shop. No injuries were sustained in the incident.

Gardaí said three suspects in-

involved in the attempted robbery were arrested, with one male charged and due to appear before court.

A file is being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions. Laois Gardaí said they wish to thank members of the public for their assistance in the matter.



COMHAIRLÉ CHONTAE LAOIS LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

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COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 76 OF AND THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE HOUSING ACT, 1966, AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS, 2000 - 2014.

HOUSING ACT, 1966

SECTION 10 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1898, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 11 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO. 2) ACT, 1960 AND SECTION 213 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS, 2000 - 2014.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO. 3 OF 2026

207 St. Brigid's Place, Moneyballytyrrell, Maryborough East,
Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 VEW2.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO. 4 OF 2026

Land Adjoining 207 St. Brigid's Place, Moneyballytyrrell,
Maryborough East, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO. 5 OF 2026

50 Whitefields, Cooltederry, Portnahinch,
Portarlinton South, Co. Laois, R32 EP90.

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL (hereinafter referred to as the "Housing Authority") who, pursuant to of section 10 of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960, as substituted by section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966 as amended by section 6 and the Second Schedule to the Roads Act, 1993 and amended and extended by the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 - 2014 has made orders entitled as above which are about to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála for confirmation. If confirmed, the orders will authorise the housing authority to acquire compulsorily the lands described in the Schedules thereto for the purposes of the Housing Act, 1966.

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the lands described in the Schedules will receive individual written notice.

An Coimisiún Pleanála cannot confirm -

- a compulsory purchase order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn,
- an order which authorises the extinguishment of a public right of way if there is an objection to the extinguishment, which is not withdrawn,

until it has considered the objection(s).

An Coimisiún Pleanála has an absolute discretion under Section 218 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) to hold an oral hearing. In the event of objections, An Coimisiún Pleanála, may at its absolute discretion, hold an oral hearing in relation to the matter.

A copy of the orders and of the maps referred to in them may be seen on our website at www.laois.ie, or by appointment, at the offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. on working days between 31st March, 2026 and 1st May, 2026. To make an appointment to view the CPO documents and maps please send an e-mail to vacanthomes@laoisoco.ie. Objections to the orders should be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 before 5.00 p.m. on 1st May, 2026.

Dated this 31st March, 2026.

Pamela Tynan,
County Secretary.

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
"IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY"