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Andy goes
backs to
basics...

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GANGLAND EXCLUSIVE

'CHARGE MONK OVER MURDER'



SHOCK: Scene in Co Cork

Arrest over body in car

A MAN was in custody last night over the grim discovery of a woman's body in a burning car. It's feared the body of Mary O'Keeffe (72), who was found dead in Co Cork on Thursday, had been so seriously charred that determining the exact cause of death will be extremely difficult.

SEE PAGE 10

FEUD:
Gerry Hutch
and
(right)
David Byrne



Garda file
to DPP over
Regency attack

GARDAI have formally asked the DPP to charge Gerry 'The Monk' Hutch over the infamous gangland murder of David Byrne at the Regency Airport Hotel, *The Star* can reveal.

PAGES 6&7

FIVE YEARS SINCE RAID

GARDAI WANT REGENCY RAP FOR MONK



DRUG LORD: New recent photo of crime boss Daniel Kinahan

Show's team facing threats

■ Nicola DONNELLY

THE BBC Panorama team who reported on mob boss Daniel Kinahan's links to professional boxing have received death threats in the wake of the broadcast.

But, despite the horrific threats, the BBC has stated that its team of investigative journalists and researchers will not be silenced.

It is understood the Panorama team have been taking security advice from the PSNI in light of the threats.

Irish journalist Darragh MacIntyre — a brother of investigative journalist Donal MacIntyre — presented his investigation into how gangster Kinahan has been welcomed to boxing's top tables in the Panorama special last Monday night.

Following the broadcast Kinahan, who is holed up in Dubai, is said to be livid his gang's activities and rise through boxing circles was broadcast to millions.

Now, we can reveal that following the show's broadcast, the team involved have received death threats.

Safety

Sources have told *The Star* that security has been stepped up around some of those involved in the programme.

And in a statement to this paper last night, the BBC's Head of Current Affairs Joanna Carr said that despite the threats, the broadcaster's teams will not be silenced.

"The BBC places the utmost priority on the safety of our teams, whose journalism plays a vital role in a free society.

"It is despicable and intolerable if thugs think they can muzzle a free press through intimidation," Ms Carr said.

"We will continue to throw light into even the murkiest of corners."



BLOODY: Gardai at the scene of Regency shooting in 2016

Cops ask DPP to charge Hutch over murder ...and believe they've 'significant evidence'

GARDAI have formally asked prosecutors to charge Gerry 'The Monk' Hutch over the murder of David Byrne at the Regency Airport Hotel, it has emerged.

The Star has learned that officers want him charged over the murder of Byrne, gunned down at the north Dublin hotel by the Hutch mob five years ago yesterday.

They argue he was not one of the gunmen, but was part of the 12-strong gang involved in the killing, which was an attempt by the Hutch gang to murder cartel boss Daniel Kinahan (43).

The Star can reveal that the formal request was made in an investigation file on the Regency attack that was sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions in recent months.

It will now be up to the DPP to decide if Mr Hutch (57) should be charged. Sources, however, said that gardai believe there is significant evidence against him.

The DPP can decide to charge him with murder, or conspiracy to murder — or may rule there is not enough to secure a conviction and order no prosecution.

Sources added that it is likely to be several months before the DPP



EXCLUSIVE

■ Michael O'TOOLE
Award-winning crime journalist

makes any decision on Mr Hutch or other suspects in the case.

And they also revealed that former criminal Mr Hutch will be arrested over the Regency attack the second he sets foot on Irish soil.

Hutch — who survived a murder bid by the cartel in Lanzarote on New Year's Eve 2015, which was just two months before the Regency attack — is hiding out abroad in a desperate bid to stay one step ahead of the Kinahan gang.

Home

He is moving between the Canary Islands, the Netherlands and Turkey, sources say.

But investigators believe he will never come home to Ireland — because he knows he is going to be arrested as soon as he does.

"The minute he comes home, he will be lifted," a source said last night.

"He is wanted for questioning over the Regency and nothing else. There is no other crime that he is suspected for in relation to the feud.

"He knows he is wanted and he knows what the investigation team has on him. So he is staying away.

"The Kinahans are still after him and that is another reason why he can't come home, but the main one is because he knows he is in serious bother over the Regency."

The Star's revelation comes a day after the Garda's top anti-gangland officer confirmed that files had been sent to the DPP over the Regency attack.

Assistant Commissioner John O'Driscoll refused to name names — but *The Star* has established that one of the people named in the files with a request that he be charged is Hutch, originally from north inner city Dublin.

Mr O'Driscoll, who was addressing the media to update them on the force's anti-gangland drive, responded to criticism from 33-year-old David Byrne's family that no-one had been convicted over the February 5, 2016 murder.

Hutch's nephew Patrick (27) was the only man charged over the killing so far — but the case against him collapsed in February 2019 after the sudden death of lead investigator Detective Superintendent Colm Fox inside Ballymun Garda Station the previous year.

Mr O'Driscoll insisted the investigation into the Regency was continuing — and confirmed files were now with the DPP.

Evidence

He said: "It's an ongoing investigation, as we are required to gather all the evidence and put it to the DPP — not just putting forward evidence which assists our case, but also any evidence assisting the defendant.

"We will leave it to scrutiny of the courts of our actions and evidence, perhaps that will be a better time."

"Any criticism is justifiable if we don't gather all the evidence — but we are still investigating that crime and engaged on an ongoing basis with the DPP.

"That is a matter for the DPP, what I can say without doubt is that the investigation is very comprehensive and ongoing, certainly there is the prospect of prosecutions in circumstances where the DPP hasn't yet directed on all the evidence that we have provided."



FEUD: The Monk



SLAIN: David Byrne



CRACKDOWN: O'Driscoll

THAT SPARKED A WAR

ANNIVERSARY: Balloons and bouquets of flowers left with tribute notes for David Byrne at Regency Hotel five years on from killing; (below) grave yesterday



Family's tributes to Byrne at scene



KINAHAN mobster Liam Byrne has paid tribute to his slain brother by leaving a note outside the Regency Hotel, five years on from his murder there.

Our pictures show the sisters of slain gangster David Byrne (32), placing balloons, flowers and notes at the gates of the now Bonnington Hotel, where he was blasted by the Hutch gang in a callous gang-land murder on February 5,



2016.

And in a short message to his slain brother, gang boss Liam — who fled Ireland after gardai came after his criminal wealth — said: "David. My baby brother. I love and miss you. My best friend. Your bro Liam."

David's sisters Melanie, Maria and Joanne were seen placing the tributes at the hotel on the Swords Road yes-

■ **Paul HEALY**
Chief Reporter

terday morning.

The sisters, who hail from Crumlin, were notably more than five kilometres from their family home.

A heartbreaking note was also left at the scene yesterday by David's two young daughters which read: "Daddy you were the best daddy in the world. We miss you so much. Life will never be the same without you."

"We are making you so proud."

We love you to the moon and back. Your two beautiful girls." And David's sister Joanne, who is married to jailed Kinahan mob boss Thomas 'Bomber' Kavanagh, wrote: "David, my beautiful baby brother. Oh how I miss you so much. Life has never been the same since you were taken from us."

"You were the life and soul, a beautiful person and a true gentleman, always there to help people."

"You left a huge hole in my heart that can never be filled. I think about you every day and every second of the day."

Cartel

Her husband, a senior mob boss and pal of cartel leader Daniel Kinahan, is facing a potential life sentence for shipping in €5 million worth of cocaine and cannabis into the UK.

The murder of David Byrne was the second in the bloody Kinahan-Hutch feud that has now claimed 18 lives.

David's murder sparked a series of horrific revenge killings by the Kinahan gang — starting with Eddie Hutch who was gunned down at his home in Poplar Row, Dublin, just three days later.



MESSAGES: Flowers and balloons placed at scene and (above) message from gangster brother Liam (inset)



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12-PAGE SOCCER PULLOUT

STARTS PAGE 25



'Don't kill Kenny'

PAGES 60&61

EAMON DUNPHY EXCLUSIVE



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INSIDE



PLUS ANOTHER ONE TOMORROW!



COMPLAINT: George Lee

Pubs hit back at RTE star Lee on virus link

PUBLICANS have complained to RTE over a report by George Lee on the Six One News that pubs caused a spike in COVID-19 cases. It comes as Stephen Donnelly said a million vaccines will arrive here in each of the next three months.

■ PAGES 4&5

INQUIRY BREAKTHROUGH

COWEN LEAK COP PROBED

■ **Garda station searched by GSOC** : ■ **Officer facing the sack if guilty**

A GARDA station has been searched as part of a probe into allegations that an officer leaked details of TD Barry Cowen's drink-driving offence, *The Star* can reveal.

DRINK-DRIVE OFFENCE: Barry Cowen

■ PAGES 8&9



'MAJOR DEVELOPMENT' IN TD

GSOC'S GARDA SEARCH OVER COWEN PROBE



SACKED: Barry Cowen in 2016 with now Taoiseach Micheal Martin who removed him as Agriculture Minister

Watchdog seizes phone in operation : Investigation into officer leak claims

INVESTIGATORS have searched a major Garda station as part of a probe into allegations an officer leaked news of former Agriculture Minister Barry Cowen's drink-driving case.

The Star has confirmed the search operation by independent policing watchdog GSOC took place in a large station in Munster. And we have also learned that GSOC investigators seized a phone when they searched the station late last week. "It is a major development in the investigation," a source told *The*



EXCLUSIVE
Michael O'TOOLE
Award-winning crime journalist

Star last night. "The fella being investigated is in serious bother now." A GSOC spokeswoman confirmed the search operation last night. She told *The Star*: "A search was carried out as part of an ongoing investigation. GSOC will not be making any further comment." A Garda spokesman declined to comment, and Deputy Cowen did the same when he was contacted by *The Star* last night. The search and seizure operation came after Deputy Cowen made a formal complaint about how the news of his 2016 arrest and conviction for drink-driving emerged in June last year — shortly after he had been appointed as Agriculture Minister.

The negative publicity and political row around his conviction then led Taoiseach Micheal Martin to remove Mr Cowen from his position in July.

Leaking

The Laois-Offaly TD accused gardai of committing a criminal offence by leaking the details to the media — and Commissioner Drew Harris then referred the issue to GSOC, the independent policing body, who began a major investigation.

The Star has confirmed that a sergeant in the Munster station that was searched in recent days admitted accessing confidential information on the Garda PULSE computer system on Mr Cowen's 2016 conviction.

Each member of the force has his or her own unique login details that they must

use every time they access PULSE, which contains hugely sensitive information about people and investigations.

The Star has confirmed that the sergeant used another officer's PULSE login instead of his own to access details of Mr Cowen's conviction.

The sergeant held his hands up and admitted accessing the information when he was interviewed by GSOC investigators last year. However, he denies leaking the information.

The search of the station where he was working at the time is being regarded as a major development in the GSOC case.

Sources said that the officer — who is well regarded within the force and well known — could be sacked as part of the probe.

Mr Cowen was arrested after he was found to be over the limit when he was stopped driving home from the All-Ireland football final in September 2016.

He was on a provisional licence at the time and was banned from driving for three months, as well as being hit with a €200 fine.

As well as investigating the leak, GSOC is also probing Mr Cowen's claim that the official Garda record of the incident is incorrect.

The record suggested Mr Cowen turned away from a Garda checkpoint — but he angrily denies that.

Record

"This incorrect Garda record can only have come into the possession of the newspaper through a criminal act," he said at the height of the controversy.

"It is obvious that the disclosure of this information at this time, in flagrant breach of the criminal law and my rights under data protection law, is a disgraceful attempt to cause me the maximum personal and political harm."

Mr Cowen has now gone back to being an active backbench TD for the Fianna Fail party.



COMPLAINT: The GSOC office in Dublin is investigating the Cowen leak

DRINK-DRIVE ROW

STATION



INQUIRY: Fianna Fail TD Barry Cowen and (inset right) Garda Commissioner Drew Harris



BRAVE: Shaneda Daly and (inset) her rapist father Harry Daly

‘People need to be told if a pervert is living nearby’

A SURVIVOR of rape has commended a new RTE drama which highlights how a man accused of child sex abuse was targeted by his community. Smother, which was filmed in Lahinch, Co Clare, stars Dervla Kirwan and Carrie Crowley as well as Danish star Thomas Levin. The show has highlighted how a fictional character Carl Jenson (played by Levin) was questioned in Denmark about the alleged sexual abuse of a teenage female student before he moved to Ireland. Carl, a science teacher in the local school, is suspended after a parent saw him being questioned by gardai.

Last night's episode showed how locals left signs around his home and the area, calling him a 'paedo' despite being cleared of the allegations. Rape survivor and founder of the group Survivors Side By Side, Shaneda Daly, said it was an important move for TV.

Area
She said: "This whole area is one of things I want to work on — We need a proper sex offenders register in this country. "Otherwise, things like people taking their matters into their own hands happen — like in the show last night. I believe people should be told if there is a registered sex offender in their area. "Smother, for me, highlights the need for actual offenders to be registered," she added. Shaneda's former prison officer father Harry Daly was jailed for 15



EXCLUSIVE
Alison O'REILLY

years with five suspended in 2011 and ended up serving seven and a half years. This was after pleading guilty to 227 charges of rape, indecent assault and sexual assault — the largest amount in the history of the State — between February 1982 and November 1992, when Shaneda was aged between six and 17 years old. Shaneda said she had to find out where her father was living following his release in 2018.



GRIPPING: (Left to right) Smother stars Niamh Walsh, Dervla Kirwan, Seana Kerslake and Gemma Leah Devereux

Hope
She said: "I have had to learn myself where my father is living in the hope I don't bump into him." However, when he was locked up, she was kept informed of when he might get temporary release. "I signed up to the victim liaison office and was able to know where my father was going to be if he had

hospital appointments and had to leave the prison." However, the show hit the nail on the head for her: "I found this storyline really important. "His [the innocent man] car getting egged and the signs outside his house show the other side to the issue, when someone is cleared but rumours take over. "But no matter what, I am calling for a discussion on a sex offenders register," brave Shaneda added.