

Times  
February 21, 2009

# Eddie Gilfoyle: I didn't do it, end of story

## I'd sooner die in jail than admit that I did kill her, says the man who has served 17 years for his wife's murder

Dominic Kennedy, Investigations Editor

Eddie Gilfoyle says he would rather die in jail than make a false confession to murdering his wife and their unborn baby.

"I've told them year after year I'm not admitting to something I haven't done. I don't give a s\*\*\* what you do to me. I would sooner die in jail," Gilfoyle told *The Times* in an exclusive interview this week.

He is eligible for parole at the end of the summer after serving 17 years for the murder of his wife Paula, who was found hanging in the garage next to their house in June 1992. But his release could be blocked because he continues to protest his innocence. One of the conditions for being granted parole is that the prisoner must have faced up to his supposed criminality. But Gilfoyle insisted: "I'm not going to start telling stuff to those bastards just so they can tick boxes. I haven't done it, end of story. I know people find that hard to understand: this guy spent 17 years in jail, if he admits it he could get out tomorrow. F\*\*\* it. I've got principles. I haven't fought just for the hell of it. They have had me in jail for 17 years for something I haven't done, the cheeky bastards. That's putting it mildly.

"My freedom was taken away 17 years ago. I'm never going to be that person again. Even if they quash my conviction tomorrow the damage is done. Even if they open the door tomorrow my freedom has gone. I'm not going to get the years back, my life back, the mental damage, the emotional damage. There are things that have happened in jail that they are never going to be able to repair.



### RELATED LINKS

- [Wife's family maintain husband killed her](#)
- [Suicide letter genuine, experts say](#)
- [Gilfoyle: Police excuse for keeping papers](#)

"I've got to start making a whole new life for myself. Where do I begin? Can I begin?"

Speaking by telephone from Sudbury open prison in Derbyshire, he listed the experiences that he had missed as a result of being in prison: "Going to Paula's funeral. My dad died; I never spent enough time with him before he died. My mum is ill."

Anger and bitterness are close to the surface and he is in no doubt who to blame. "It was a conclusion-driven investigation," he said. He blames "the police, Crown Prosecution Service. The whole judicial system is just beyond a f\*\*\*\*\* joke. I've not stopped thinking about Paula and the baby, my trial, the way I have been treated, the police, the prosecution and the s\*\*\* they have come up with.

"A lot of what was put forward at the trial was false or inaccurate and manipulated to make me look like a bad bastard. I didn't kill Paula. Nobody can ever ever make me change my mind and make me say that I did. If somebody came up and said I can give you £10 million, it would make no difference."

To outsiders, Mrs Gilfoyle gave the appearance of being a happy mother-to-be but her husband said marriage with her was like living with a split personality. He accepted that the trial witnesses had all described Mrs Gilfoyle as cheerful.

"Different girl," he said. "Different person to the one I was living with, trust me. That wasn't the person I was living with. It was as if I was living with a schizophrenic. That's not a nice thing to say but when you have all her family and all her friends saying she was a happy bubbly girl..."

The pregnancy? "She was all right at the beginning and then she got really moody. She used to change. She could be having a moan and groan at me and then one of her friends would come to the house, she would be bubbly, then as soon as she came back she would go back to being miserable, subdued, moaning and arguing etc. Her friends didn't see that she was this miserable soul.

"I don't know what effect all this is having on her family but I'm not interested in her family. I'm interested in my family."

His bitterness is based on the evidence given by Mrs Gilfoyle's relatives in court that she had been positive and happy. He has also been portrayed as a liar. He insisted: "I never lied in my police interviews. The fact that I told the truth is actually coming out now. I have never given up hope. I have never given up my belief I will get there."

He continued: "Not a day goes by when I don't think about Paula and the baby." Asked if he had grieved, he said: "This is not an environment that you could do that type of stuff in. Once I'm out of jail I'm going to have to get my head round it all. Whilst I am in jail I can't."

In the "suicide note", Mrs Gilfoyle had written: "Don't blame yourself Eddie." But Gilfoyle said: "Too late for that. I blame myself. How can I not? I've let her do it without knowing that that was her intention. If I look back, all the signs are there so, yeah, I do blame myself.

"On the morning she died she offered me breakfast in bed. I don't eat breakfast. She told the wine survey woman [a market researcher who visited the house on the day she died] she was a twin. It's silly little things like that you can't dismiss. It plays on your head. Why did she do it on that day? There's no respite from it. It's just constant soul-searching. It's hard because you are always looking for 'did I miss that?' The pain doesn't go away. There's no respite."

Gilfoyle was moved in autumn last year from Buckley Hall medium security prison in Rochdale, where he had been a cleaner and studied for NVQs in industrial cleaning. He

was also given a position of trust as a “listener”, helping new inmates to settle in. Life is dominated by routine — and small pleasures.

The first surprise when he was brought to his new single cell in Sudbury was that it had a window which opened, a luxury for a man who had been behind bars for 16 years. He has been given a job on the farm looking after the cattle and sheep, for which he is paid £11 a week.

Gilfoyle has to decide whether to spend that money on phone cards, rolling tobacco or instant coffee. His family send him £10 a week and clothes, bed coverings and DVDs by Shania Twain, Dire Straits and Bon Jovi. As a young man he played in local bands; today he has a guitar and sings along, though apparently his performances have received a mixed reaction from fellow inmates.

He spends £1 a week to have a television in his room. Rather than a uniform, he is allowed jeans and a sweatshirt. His day ends with a roll-call at 8pm and then he has a couple of hours relaxation before going to bed.

Gilfoyle expressed gratitude towards those who have supported his campaign for his conviction to be overturned. “I’ve got phenomenal support. People who have seen the truth, read the facts, know my case inside out. They smell a rat. I don’t have to say to them ‘Do you smell a rat?’ They make their own decisions.”

He mentioned the former Merseyside Assistant Chief Constable, Alison Halford, who visits him, and David Canter, the criminal profiler who helped to convict Gilfoyle but now says he is innocent. “She [Alison Halford] is absolutely disgusted with the way it has been treated,” he said. “She is a fantastic woman and it takes balls to stand up and do what she has done. So has David Canter had the balls to say, ‘I think I have got this wrong’.”

[dkennedy@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:dkennedy@thetimes.co.uk)