

Eddie Gilfoyle is 100 per cent guilty, his wife's family insist

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LRPS

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Paula Gilfoyle, who was found hanged in the garage of her home in 1992 LRPS

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Last updated December 24 2010 12:01AM

The family of Paula Gilfoyle publicly condemned yesterday her husband's release from prison and said they were convinced that he had murdered her.

Eddie Gilfoyle could not respond as the lifer has been freed on condition that he cannot contact the media, directly or indirectly. Gagging orders may be imposed on released convicts to protect bereaved families from distressing media coverage, the Parole Board has said.

Shortly after news of Gilfoyle's release broke, his late wife's family were quoted in a local newspaper expressing their shock. As relatives of a murder victim, they had been warned in advance about his release. Margaret Glover, Mrs Gilfoyle's sister, told the *Liverpool Echo*: "As far as I'm concerned, he's 100 per cent guilty and he will always be guilty. We have suffered anguish over this and now we're going to have to go through it all again just before Christmas. He's going to be able to join his family, but my sister won't ever be able to do that again with our family." Gilfoyle maintained his innocence throughout his 18 years in prison. His release on Wednesday does nothing to change his status as a convicted murderer.

Mrs Gilfoyle was found hanged in the garage of their home in Upton, Wirral, in 1992. A suicide note was discovered in her handwriting but a murder jury accepted the Crown's case that Gilfoyle dictated it to her as a trick, saying that he needed it for a course in his job as an auxiliary nurse. *The Times* has learnt that his licence states: "You must not contact press or media either personally or through a third party." Lord Hunt of Wirral, a Tory peer and Gilfoyle's former constituency MP who believes his innocence, has written to Sir David Latham, chairman of the Parole Board, to protest about the condition.

Gilfoyle's solicitors, Birnberg Peirce, said that they too were unable to comment and were "challenging what is clearly an unlawful decision". Parole Board sources suggested to *The Times* that it would be permissible for a supporter or relative of Gilfoyle to make an independent expression of belief in his innocence. However, a statement made on behalf of the convict, which appears to include anything released by Birnberg Peirce, was likely to be covered by the ban.

A long investigation by *The Times* has raised doubts about the safety of Gilfoyle's conviction. Police notes, which were withheld from the jury, gave him a potential alibi. Although police were advised that pregnant women rarely killed themselves, later official statistics showed that suicide was the main cause of such deaths in late pregnancy, and hanging the main method. Experts on suicide said that the note appeared to be genuine. Gilfoyle's sister Sue Caddick and her husband, Paul, who have campaigned to clear his name, said in a statement: "We have been told that the Parole Board have today said that we are able to talk to the media independently but can't pass anything on to the media on Eddie's behalf. However, there is no certainty to this at all and we are not prepared to risk Eddie being placed back in jail."