The waiting must end for Eddie Gilfoyle

Daniel Finkelstein



Published at 12:01AM, January 18 2014

Notebook

I do hope that I am not being impatient, and I'm sure they will let me know if I am being a nuisance bothering them like this, but I wonder when the Criminal Cases Review Commission might get round to ruling on the case of Eddie Gilfoyle.

It's been more than 20 years now since Mr Gilfoyle was convicted of murder and the accusation has always seemed an odd one.

He was found guilty of somehow tricking his wife Paula into writing a suicide note, fooling her into climbing a ladder and then putting a noose a round her neck without provoking a struggle.

I don't buy this prosecution theory for a second. And I'm not surprised that strong evidence has come to light that challenges it and undermines the evidence that helped to convince the jury. Eddie Gilfoyle has finally emerged from jail but he can't get on with his life until his conviction is overturned, as I believe it should be. Yet this can't happen until someone, somewhere makes a decision.

Listen, we're all busy and that, but it has now been three and a half years since new evidence was presented to the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

And nothing. No decision after all that time on whether to refer the case. I know these things are complicated, and there are other cases and so on, but really.