

Gilfoyle wins fight to proclaim his innocence

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Andrew Fox

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Eddie Gilfoyle today proclaims his innocence of murdering his wife after winning his fight against a [gagging order imposed as the price of his release](#) from prison.

The lifer, allowed back into the community before Christmas, declares that he will never be free until he is cleared of hanging heavily pregnant Paula Gilfoyle and faking her suicide note.

The Parole Board has dropped an order forbidding him from communicating with the media, even through his lawyers, relatives or

former MPs. The effect had been to prevent him telling the world that he was innocent, for fear of being arrested and sent back to die in jail.

“I am obviously pleased to be released from prison but I will never consider myself to be free until the day my conviction is quashed,” Gilfoyle said in a statement to *The Times*. “I have asserted my innocence since the day I was arrested in 1992 and it did seem unbelievable that I should suddenly be stopped from doing so on my release.”

The Times broke the story of Gilfoyle’s release and the Parole Board’s gagging order in late December. The controversial decision was then widely reported by newspapers, radio, TV and blogs.

“I had planned to come out of prison quietly but the media restrictions of my licence led instead to a great deal of media attention,” Gilfoyle said. The lifer has lodged a request for an appeal against conviction with the [Criminal Cases Review Commission](#) (CCRC), which examines miscarriages of justice.

New evidence from an expert who examined the rope that hanged Mrs Gilfoyle suggests she would have been able to get it over the high beam in her garage, contrary to what the jury was told.

Fresh research uncovered by *The Times* also disclosed that suicide was the main cause of maternal deaths, with late pregnancy a high-risk time and hanging the main method. This contradicts what police were told by experts when they investigated the death of Mrs Gilfoyle, 29, who was found dead at home in Upton, Wirral, Merseyside.

“I look forward to the CCRC making progress with all the further evidence that is already before them to get my case back to the Court of Appeal,” Gilfoyle concluded.

His solicitors, Birnberg Peirce, said: “The blanket media ban denied Eddie Gilfoyle the right to discuss his innocence. We are pleased that the Parole Board has reversed what was clearly an unlawful decision. We hope that Eddie can now begin the process of resettling in the community and then focus on his appeal.”

They added: “We are pleased his lawyers and his family are also now free to talk about his case.”

The formal reason given by the Parole Board for the unusual gagging order was to reduce the chances of Gilfoyle reoffending on release. His lawyers immediately said the gag was unlawful and threatened to get a judge to overturn the decision.

The Parole Board then asked the panel that examined Gilfoyle’s request for release to think again. The crucial question they needed to address was whether they would have insisted on him staying behind bars if the condition had never been imposed. The panel accepted that it would have released him anyway. “They are still happy to endorse the release of Mr Gilfoyle,” a source said.

The condition on Gilfoyle’s licence stated: “You must not contact press or media either personally or through a third party.”