



# ANGELA SCANLON GETS A GRIP

INTERVIEW MAGAZINE



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# THE IRISH TIMES

WEEKEND EDITION

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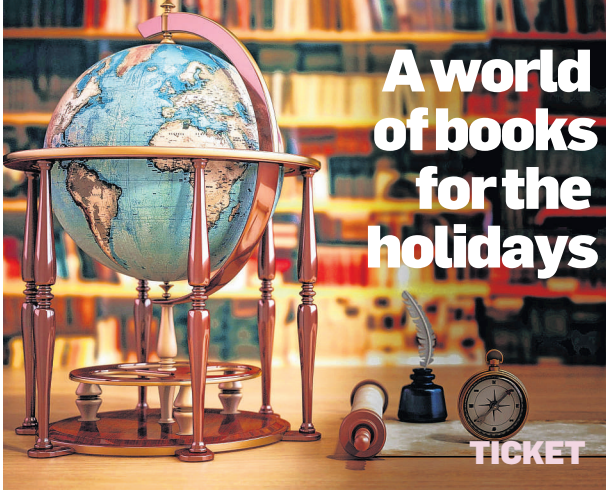
Saturday/Sunday, June 28/29, 2025

## Radio ringmaster takes his final bow

Retiring broadcaster Joe Duffy outside RTE yesterday after his final Liveline, the show he hosted for 27 years.

- His final show: Mick Heaney – page 4
- Duffy's greatest hits – Weekend
- Editorial comment – page 17

Photograph: Andres Poveda



## Spice up that BBQ Mark Moriarty



## Budget sunscreens Simone Gannon

MAGAZINE

# Carlow gunman had other weapons

Another shotgun and replica firearm found by gardai in searches after shooting

Investigators concerned they have been unable to determine source of these items

CONOR GALLAGHER  
Crime and Security Correspondent

Evan Fitzgerald, the gunman who fired shots into the air in a Carlow shopping centre before taking his own life, had possession of more weapons, gardai have found.

On June 1st, Mr Fitzgerald (22) entered the busy Fairgreen Shopping Centre and, using a pump action shotgun stolen in a burglary from a neighbour, began firing shots in the air before turning the gun on himself.

At the time, the former steel-yard worker from Portrushen, Kiltegan, Co Wicklow, was facing charges for possession of a military grade assault rifle, a handgun and ammunition which he had allegedly attempted to buy on the dark web.

Undercover gardai sold him the guns, which they had de-commissioned, after being tipped off that Mr Fitzgerald was attempting to source weapons on the internet.

Armed officers then forcibly stopped his car and arrested

him a short time later.

It has now emerged that following the shooting incident in Fairgreen Shopping Centre, gardai located further weapons, which have been conclusively linked to Mr Fitzgerald.

Gardai carried out several searches following the incident to determine Mr Fitzgerald's motive that day. During these searches, they found another shotgun and a replica firearm.

A big concern for investigators is that they have been unable to determine the source of these items. They may have been taken in a burglary or sourced online, sources say.

The Garda has faced significant criticism in recent weeks for its handling of the Fitzgerald case.

Senator and former minister for justice Michael McDowell described the Garda operation to sell Mr Fitzgerald the guns as

"entrapment" and claimed misleading evidence had been provided to the District Court judge in the case. Mr McDowell had raised court reports that suggested gardai had told the judge they were "investigating" how Mr Fitzgerald acquired the guns.

The Garda has referred these comments to Fiosrú, the Garda Ombudsman.

Labour TD Alan Kelly questioned the need for gardai to deliver the weapons to Mr Fitzgerald, describing him as a "poor, tragic, vulnerable individual".

Gardai have defended their handling of the case and said they used internationally accepted tactics in the interests of public safety. Senior sources said they accepted Mr Fitzgerald was a vulnerable person with mental issues and that he did not have links to terrorism or organised crime.

However, they could not rule out that he was planning a mass shooting of the type seen in the United States and other countries in recent years.

They said investigations show the young man shared some characteristics of mass shooters, including a fascination with firearms and feelings of deep isolation.

As part of the investigation, they have been examining Mr Fitzgerald's internet use to determine if he may have been under the influence of violent online figures.

Investigators pointed to the fact that searches of Mr Fitzgerald's home led to the discovery of ammunition and material which could be used to make explosives.

On Thursday, Garda Commissioner Drew Harris and his deputy Justin Kelly defended their handling of the case, with

the commissioner raising the recent school shooting "by a lone gunman" in Austria which left 11 people dead.

"This is sadly a more frequent occurrence," Mr Harris told a meeting of the Oireachtas Public Accounts Committee.

"I have to say, this was a very successful operation in that we made sure a threat to the public did not arise from the circumstances we were dealing with."

There was "no other way of doing it", Mr Harris said.



# Two new HSE ambulances catch fire

MARTIN WALL  
Public Policy Correspondent

The HSE is carrying out an urgent investigation into why two new ambulances suddenly caught fire in recent days.

The two vehicles were different makes, models and types, but an initial technical examination had "identified a possible issue", the HSE said.

The matter is "now being urgently explored in further detail with vehicle suppliers", it said.

It is understood the investigation will look at potential com-

mon links between the two ambulances. The HSE said a serious incident management team was established after the fires, which took place last Saturday and Thursday.

However, it said ambulance services for the public were not affected.

The HSE said a recently commissioned emergency ambulance was destroyed by fire while parked adjacent to the ambulance station in Castlebar, Co Mayo, early last Saturday.

On Thursday, a new community paramedic response vehi-

cle awaiting entry to service went on fire in a commissioning facility in Tullamore, Co Offaly.

"Neither vehicle was in use at the time, no patients were affected and no staff were injured," the HSE said.

### 'Vigilant'

"In line with health and safety requirements, all staff on duty have also been alerted to the two known incidents, requested to remain vigilant and reminded of current fire safety, vehicle evacuation, and incident reporting procedures," it said.

National Ambulance Service

(NAS) operations to the public are "unaffected by the current precautionary measures, which will remain under constant review", the HSE added.

The NAS has 437 patient-carrying vehicles, including emergency and critical care ambulances and intermediate care vehicles.

The HSE said all NAS vehicles are subject to a crew inspection at the commencement of each shift, as well as a safety inspection every eight weeks.

It said all vehicles were constructed in line with the relevant national and EU stand-

ards, were serviced and maintained in line with manufacturers' guidelines and replaced after five years or 350,000km.

It said all staff received training in fire safety and vehicle evacuation procedures.

A HSE internal audit of the national ambulance fleet found that the budget allocation for last year was 50 per cent less than the service required.

It identified that some emergency ambulances were being kept in service outside the recommended usage of five years, with 66 ambulances listed as five or six years old.

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## Weather

Cloudy with scattered rain but drier later in the west while the south remains humid. Highs of 17-23 degrees in light winds

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**Tariffs:** Splits have emerged between European governments over talks to avert crippling US tariffs on trade. Page 2

**Kinahan associate:** Ciarán O'Sullivan, the Kinahan associate targeted by Cab, took an unusual route to top of criminal gang. Page 9

## World News



**United States:** The supreme court has handed president Donald Trump a victory in his effort to forcefully remake US policy. Page 11

## Business Today

**Eurogroup:** Paschal Donohoe faces a contest to secure a third term as president of the Eurogroup, with two other ministers putting their names forward. Page 18

**CIÉ:** State-owned transport group has said it is to begin installing solar panels on its properties. Page 19

## Sports Weekend

**Matt Williams:** A vibrant three-Test contest against the Lions that captures the hearts of the host nation will go a long way to reviving the game in Australia

**Soccer:** Brentford have confirmed the appointment of former Irish international Keith Andrews as head coach

