



MAGAZINE

MIRIAM O'CALLAGHAN

CAREER HIGHS, CHILDBIRTH & 'RECEPTIONGATE'



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O'Brien was 'completely duped' by DJ Carey

Victim reports reveal 'gut-wrenching' hurt of people taken in by false cancer claims

Judge warns Kilkenny great to expect a custodial sentence on Monday

MARY CAROLAN

Businessman Denis O'Brien gave DJ Carey €125,000 after being "completely duped" by the former Kilkenny hurling star, a court has heard.

Mr O'Brien was among more than 20 people whom Carey induced to pay him sums totalling €400,000 by falsely claiming to have a rare form of cancer requiring treatment in the US.

After a sentencing hearing yesterday, Judge Martin Nolan said Carey could expect a custodial sentence and remanded the 54-year-old in custody until Monday when sentence will be imposed.

Mr O'Brien first met Carey when playing golf in 1997 and a friendship developed, he said in a victim-impact statement read to the court by counsel. When Carey told him in 2014 that he had cancer and needed funds to travel for treatment, he believed him.

When someone comes to you telling you they are seriously ill with cancer, you do not question their bona fides, he said.

It was "unconscionable" for Carey to claim he had cancer and to seek assistance. "It was extraordinarily deceitful, manipulative and cunning."

Carey came back to him again and again over the years, seeking money, he said.

In total, Mr O'Brien gave Carey about €125,000 between 2014 and 2022, including paying a €60,000 bank debt owed by Carey.

He also gave him the use of an apartment and a car when he was in Dublin.

He had received hundreds of requests over the years from other people for support and was never defrauded by any of them, Mr O'Brien said. "To my embarrassment, I was completely duped by DJ Carey."

Thomas Butler, an accountant and Kilkenny GAA supporter who gave Carey more than €16,000, said the fact Carey used cancer as a means to obtain money under a false pretence "was gut-wrenching personally for me as both my parents died of cancer".

"I was also a volunteer driver for the Irish Cancer Society and there he was obtaining money by lying that he needed finance to obtain lifesaving cancer treatment," Mr Butler said in his victim-impact statement read by himself to the court.

The court also heard that Edwin Carey, a distant cousin of Carey's, had told gardai, some days after they met at Carey's father's funeral, that the former hurler phoned him saying he had cancer and needed €5,000 to travel for treatment.

Edwin Carey said he was glad to help him and transferred the money.

DJ Carey, the court heard, had told Margaret and Jer Kirwan he had the same cancer as Margaret Kirwan. Carey had said he needed €4,000 for treatment in the US and Mr Kirwan transferred €4,000 to him in September 2021. That was later repaid.

Carey has admitted 10 separate counts under section 6 of the Criminal Justice Theft and Fraud Offences Act of dishonestly inducing 13 people to pay him sums for cancer treatment. Another 10 counts relating to eight people will be taken into consideration in the sentence.

The maximum sentence is a fine and/or five years imprisonment. Carey was in court yesterday to hear his counsel, Colman Cody, offer a "heartfelt and sincere" apology on his behalf to all affected.

Carey is suffering from a chronic heart condition, Mr Cody said.

Urging the judge not to impose a "disproportionate" sentence, counsel said Carey had experienced a "descent into shame" equal to his meteoric rise to sporting fame.

HAIR-RAISING HALLOWEEN FRIGHT



■ Tamia Fox (9), dressed as a princess, and Jorgilee Doody (4), as Frankie Stein, at the Halloween Carnival on Seán McDermott Street in Dublin yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM HONAN

Connolly wants to make Irish the working language of Áras

JACK HORGAN-JONES and ÉANNA Ó CAOLLAÍ

President-elect Catherine Connolly wants Irish to become the working language of Áras an Uachtaráin once she takes office.

Ms Connolly, a Gaeilgeoir for whom the Irish language was a core part of her campaign, will be inaugurated on Tuesday, November 11th, at Dublin Castle.

Earlier this week, a source close to Ms Connolly said "Gaeilge is going to be to the fore" in her presidency, along with other key campaign commitments, such as support for the disabled community. Her

team would be looking to have people within the Áras staff with Irish "and for it to be the working language of the Áras" in as much as is possible.

During the campaign, Ms Connolly referred to the Irish language as "a gift", telling The Journal podcast that it was a "completely different view of the world".

A campaign team source said that it was not the case that everyone would have to have Irish to work in the Áras.

Yesterday, the president-elect told Raidió na Gaeltachta that she would prioritise proficiency in Irish when hiring staff. "I will do my best to bring Irish in from the mar-

gins and use it," she said.

In her first media interview since being elected, Ms Connolly, who rekindled her knowledge of Irish after becoming mayor of Galway, told the station that she was impressed by the effort people made to speak Irish to her during the campaign.

"I don't like the phrase 'cúpla focal' but the effort they made to speak to me in Irish and use what they had" had made an impression, Ms Connolly said during the interview on Adhmhaidin, Raidió na Gaeltachta's morning current affairs programme.

Asked if she would make proficiency in Irish a requirement

for her new staff, Ms Connolly said: "I will. I will be focusing in on a lot of things, on people with disabilities and a lot of other things. I don't have a lot of jobs [to fill], I should say, I am still getting information on that, but Irish will be at the top of the ladder."

The details of how it would be implemented are yet to be fully fleshed out, it is understood.

Ms Connolly's team are in the midst of preparing for her inauguration and the opening weeks of her presidency.

➔ How will Connolly define her presidency?: page 8

The Dunnes story

Matt Cooper

WEEKEND

Witness Protection

What's in store for Jonathan Dowdall?



NEWS



Food Month

The new rules of dining out

WEEKEND

TICKET

Life as Emma Stone

Home News

Infrastructure: Ministers will next week discuss plans for emergency planning powers. [Page 2](#)

Homeless: The number of homeless people hit another high in September, surpassing 16,500. [Page 9](#)

Weather

Bright and mostly dry start. Showers will become more frequent in the afternoon and spread further east. They will be heavy at times with a chance of hail. Breezy with highs of 9-12 degrees.

World News



Gaza: Israel is obstructing aid to Gaza using a new registration system, humanitarian groups warn. [Page 11](#)

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➔ Miriam Lord: page 6

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