



Nathan McDonnell (43) was arrested last month at his workplace, Ballyseedy Garden Centre

Businessman charged over meth seizure is refused bail

Father offered €100k savings

ANDREW PHELAN

A businessman charged over Ireland's biggest crystal meth haul has been refused bail by the High Court.

Former garden centre boss Nathan McDonnell (43) remained in custody yesterday after Ms Justice Karen O'Connor said there were no conditions that would allay fears he was a flight risk.

His father, Michael, had offered to put up his own "life savings" of €100,000 to secure bail, but the judge said this was "not a substantial amount" given the nature of the "sophisticated operation" allegedly behind the €32.8m drug seizure.

A bail application for co-accused James Leen is expected tomorrow.

The pair were arrested following the seizure of more than 500kg of methylamphetamine in a container at Cork port last month.

It is alleged the drugs were hidden in a recycling machine that had been imported from Mexico and stored at Mr McDonnell's garden centre before being transported to Cork, destined for export to Australia.

Mr McDonnell, of Ballyroe, Tralee, and Mr Leen, of Pilgrim Hill, Kilmorna, Listowel, both Co Kerry, are charged with possession of more than €13,000 worth of the drug for sale or supply.

The offence is alleged to have happened at Ballyseedy Garden Centre, Tralee, between October 27 last year and February 12 this year.

The judge said Mr McDonnell was presumed innocent, and she accepted that he had strong ties to the jurisdiction

and community. However, she said it was an "extremely serious charge", with more expected, and it could be argued he was allegedly "caught red-handed".

The judge said the amount of drugs was significant and the proposed supporting evidence was strong. It was alleged Mr McDonnell had associated with people involved in organised crime, she said.

Of his father's willingness to offer €100,000 for bail, the judge said: "I do not for a moment doubt the integrity of Michael McDonnell and his belief in his son."

However, the judge said that "in the overall scheme of things", this was not a substantial amount given the nature of the operation behind the alleged offence, which "must have had available to it significant funds".

It was an alleged "sophisticated plan" with a transnational element and Nathan McDonnell's involvement was alleged to have been at an "active level". The maximum penalty for the charge was life imprisonment, and Mr McDonnell "would appear to be facing a substantial sentence" if convicted.

During last week's bail hearing, Detective Sergeant Ernie Henderson said customs officers examined a container in Cork port on February 15 and found a "purported" electromagnetic separating machine. In a "sophisticated concealment area" of the machine, 543kg of crystal meth was found, he said.

The following day, gardai arrested Mr McDonnell at Ballyseedy Garden Centre. The prosecution would allege he received, stored and dispatched the machine from his business and was to get €150,000 for his part in the operation.

Mr McDonnell and Mr Leen are due to appear in Tralee District Court again today.

Satchwell returned for trial over the murder of wife Tina

RALPH RIEGEL

A truck driver charged with the murder of his wife, whose body was found buried beneath the stairwell of their Co Cork home, has been returned for trial to the Central Criminal Court.

Richard Satchwell (57) is charged with the murder of his

wife, Tina (45), whose body was unearthed last year following a week-long garda excavation.

She had vanished without trace from her Cork home in March 2017.

Mr Satchwell was charged with his wife's murder three days after her body was found.

Judge Brian O'Shea at Clon-

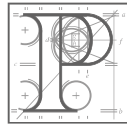
mel District Court was told yesterday by Sergeant Tom O'Brien that the book of evidence in the case had been formally served on Mr Satchwell and his defence legal team.

Judge O'Shea had warned two weeks ago that if the book of evidence was not ready for service on the defence by yesterday, the

State ran the risk of the matter being struck out.

Judge O'Shea formally remanded the defendant for trial.

The judge confirmed free legal aid. He remanded Mr Satchwell in custody to appear before the next sessions of the Central Criminal Court at the Criminal Courts of Justice in Dublin.



An Bord Pleanála

Roads Acts 1993 to 2015 Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

ABP-314610-22

Notice of a decision by An Bord Pleanála in relation to the proposed Ballymun/Finglas to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme, all in the County of Dublin and the jurisdiction of Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council.

An Bord Pleanála has, on the 12th March, 2024 in exercise of the powers vested in it by section 51 of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended, made an order to approve subject to conditions the proposed road development as submitted by the National Transport Authority.

The conditions of the Board's decision are summarised as follows:

- The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions.
- (a) All mitigation, environmental commitments and monitoring measures identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report shall be implemented in full as part of the proposed development.
(b) All mitigation and environmental commitments identified in the Natura Impact Statement shall be implemented in full as part of the proposed development.
- In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, a suitably experienced and qualified ecologist will be appointed by the contractor.
- Prior to the commencement of works the contractor shall install a plastic chute with internal corrugations or ladder on the downstream face of the 5th Lock Gate.
- A new loading bay shall be provided along Church Street (east side), south of Mary's Lane within a portion of the area currently allocated to on street parking, to replace the existing loading bay on Church Street (west side), south of Mary's Lane, which is to be removed.
- The developer shall submit a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and a Construction Stage Mobility Management Plan (CSMMP) for the construction phase of the development for the written agreement of the planning authority.
- The location and duration of use of the proposed construction compound at Catherine Lane North (shown as temporary land acquisition on General Arrangement Drawing Sheet 17 of 37) shall be agreed with Dublin City Council and the use of this compound shall not conflict or impede the delivery of consented housing at this location.
- All works to Protected Structures, and Structures of Cultural heritage interest shall be monitored and recorded by an Architectural Conservation Specialist.
- Noise monitoring shall be carried out during the construction phase of the proposed road development by the developer.
- Drainage arrangements, including the attenuation and disposal of surface water, shall comply with the requirements of the relevant planning authority.
- Any new or improved surface water outfalls shall be constructed in a manner which protects riparian habitat and does not result in excessive erosion of such habitat.
- The developer shall prepare, in consultation with the relevant statutory agencies, an updated Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), incorporating all mitigation measures indicated in the Natura Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a demonstration of proposals to adhere to best practice and protocols.
- The developer shall monitor queuing time / delays at each works location and record traffic flows on the local road network.
- Prior to the replacement of trees, hedging and planting which is to be removed the National Transport Authority shall liaise with the relevant landowner with regard to the species, size and location of all replacement vegetation. The National Transport Authority shall also employ the services of an appropriately qualified arboriculturist and Landscape Architect.
- Tree protection measures for all existing trees shall be put in place prior to the commencement of development or phases of development.
- All details of soft landscaping shall be submitted to the planning authority prior to implementation.
- Comprehensive details of the proposed public lighting system to serve the proposed scheme shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning authority, prior to commencement of development.
- The developer shall facilitate the preservation, recording and protection of archaeological materials or features that may exist within the site.
- The applicant shall submit an Invasive Species Management Plan to the planning authority, which includes details of a pre-construction survey to be carried out.
- (a) Trees to be felled shall be examined prior to felling and demolition to determine the presence of bat roosts.
(b) No ground clearance shall be undertaken and no vegetation shall be cleared from the 1st day of March to 31st day of August, unless otherwise agreed with the planning authority.

The full text of the Board's decision, including conditions, can be viewed on the Board's website at <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/314610>. A copy of the Board's decision and the EIA is available for inspection at the offices of the National Transport Authority during office hours on working days for a period of 8 weeks beginning on the date of publication of this notice.

A person may question the validity of a decision by the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986), in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie

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