

Crime & Law

# Well-known figures in Irish soccer arrested over €3m heroin haul

Men being questioned under drug-trafficking laws about 22kg seizure in Blanchardstown

Expand



THE IRISH TIMES

Subscribe

Sign In

Conor Lally Security and Crime Editor

Thu Aug 06 2020 - 19:06



Two well-known domestic soccer have been arrested over the  
 discovered a haul valued at €3 million.



One of the men has a conviction for a firearms offence involving a replica gun and is also a suspect in a conspiracy that resulted in the shooting of Dubliner

Robert Delaney in 2008 .

Mr Delaney has been in a permanent vegetative state in hospital since the shooting almost 12 years ago. He was working as a postman when targeted over intervening in a row outside a pub,

The suspects were arrested following a joint operation between the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau (GNDOCB) and Revenue's Custom Service led to the multimillion euro narcotics seizure.

**READ MORE**

Legal definition of media must include social media, says expert



Man arrested after €161,000 cocaine seizure in Portarlinton



All sex crime suspects should keep anonymity unless they are convicted, report recommends



Garda taking too long to set up unit to investigate sex crimes, says expert group



Gardaí believe the drugs had recently entered the country. The haul was monitored, leading to the arrest of the two suspects – aged 40s and 30s – in the Dublin 15 area.

The arrested men were being questioned in Blanchardstown Garda station under section 2 of the Criminal Justice (Drug Trafficking) Act.

ADVERTISEMENT



Det Chief Supt Angela Willis, head of GNDOCB, said the operation had "resulted in the seizure of a significant quantity of heroin from circulation within communities that are suffering the consequences of drug trafficking".

In 2008 father-of-two Robert Delaney intervened in a dispute outside a Dublin pub. One of the men he challenged is the older suspect who is in custody over the heroin find. That man has links to people previously in the Provisional IRA.

Over a period of months after the incident outside the Dublin pub Mr Delaney was followed, intimidated and in October of that year was shot at his home in Tallaght. When a caller rang the bell to his apartment Mr Delaney looked over the balcony to see who it was and was met with a shotgun blast to the face.

### **‘No hope of recovery’**

He suffered catastrophic injuries and has no hope of recovery.

The gunman who attempted to murder him, Daniel Gaynor from Dublin, carried out shootings for money. Gardaí believe he was paid €10,000 to shoot Mr Delaney.

Gaynor was shot dead in Finglas, north Dublin, in August 2010. Several crime gangs co-operated to kill him because he had worked as a killer for the Real IRA.

Detectives believe the older man now in custody conspired with an older close associate previously involved with the Provisional IRA, and other men, to shoot Mr Delaney in revenge for his 2008 pub-row intervention.

The man was arrested by gardaí investigating the attack on Mr Delaney, but was released without charge.

[Conor Lally](#)

Conor Lally is Security and Crime Editor of The Irish Times



---

Garda National Drugs And Organised Crime Bureau

Garda Síochána

Organised Crime Bureau

Crime

Angela Willis

---

**Man arrested and charged over car hijacking in Dublin city centre**

---

**Gardaí found breaches of Covid-19 regulations in 22 pubs last week**

---

**Man dies following disturbance at house in Kilkenny**

---

**Gardaí arrest three men and seize firearm at homeless hostel in Dublin**

---

**Gardaí identify chief suspect in Ballyfermot murder investigation**

---

**Mobile homes and cars seized from Drogheda feud gang members**

---

## IN THIS SECTION

**Omagh bombing inquiry: Witness says he ‘can’t understand’ why communities have protected bombers**

---

**Man charged with rape and false imprisonment of girl (17) in west Cork**

---

**Second man remanded in custody over fatal stabbing outside Dublin nightclub**

---

---

**High Court delays granting inspection order for historic Tom Clarke house in effort to avoid ‘stand off’**

---

**Old people deserve protection says judge after hearing how elderly farmer was defrauded**

---

**MOST READ >**

---

**Planning rules for cabins and modular homes in back gardens set to be relaxed**

---

**Sex for rent offers in Dublin: The landlord wanted me to share a bed with him**

---

**Woman living ‘exotic’ lifestyle fails to overturn order allowing receiver to sell her home**

---

**Ukraine should not have ‘started’ war with Russia, Donald Trump says**

---

**Zelenskiy says Trump is living in a ‘disinformation bubble’ after US president blames war on Ukraine**

---

---

**LATEST STORIES >**

**Gloucester line up Leinster outhalf Ross Byrne for three-year deal**      **Profits slide at Sony Music’s Irish arm**

**Two tiny captives, symbols of hostage crisis, to come home dead, Hamas says**      **Five Guys Irish franchise swings into profit**

**Number of Ukrainian refugees in State continues to rise three years after Russian invasion**

ADVERTISEMENT



---

© 2025 The Irish Times DAC

**Subscribe**

Why Subscribe?

Subscription Bundles

Subscriber Rewards

Student Subscription

Subscription Help Centre

Home Delivery

## Gift Subscriptions

### Support

[Contact Us](#)

[Help Centre](#)

[My Account](#)

### About Us

[Advertise](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[The Irish Times Trust](#)

[Careers](#)

## Irish Times Products & Services

[ePaper](#)

[Crosswords & puzzles](#)

[Newspaper Archive](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Article Index](#)

[Discount Codes](#)

## Download the app

**OUR PARTNERS:** [MyHome.ie](#) • [The Gloss](#) • [Recruit Ireland](#) • [Irish Times Training](#) • [RIP.ie](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Cookie Information](#)

[Cookie Settings](#)

[Community Standards](#)

[Copyright](#)