

Mike Dwane

IN what is believed to be a first in criminal justice, four men were ordered out of a detention extension hearing at Limerick District Court after gardai investigating last week's murder of Danny Fitzgerald in Ballysimon made an application to have them excluded.

It is understood to be the first time the State has used the new provision, introduced in the Criminal Justice Act of 2009.

Detective Inspector Tom O'Connor, Roxboro Garda Station, gave evidence that the continued presence of the four civilians in the body of the court might prejudice the proper investigation of Mr Fitzgerald's killing.



Det Inspector Tom O'Connor, left, gave evidence that the presence of the four witnesses might prejudice the proper investigation of Mr Fitzgerald's killing. Solicitor John Herbert, centre, opposed the exclusion application, however, Judge Tom O'Donnell, right, was satisfied to make the exclusion order.

Under Section 22 of the new act, a judge "may exclude from the court during the hearing all persons except officers of the court, persons directly concerned in the proceedings, bona fide

representatives of the press" and others permitted to remain if the judge is satisfied there is a risk of prejudice in the investigation by their continued presence while the detention extension

application is being heard.

Last Thursday's application by State Solicitor Michael Murray to exclude the four men was opposed by solicitor John Herbert but Judge Tom

O'Donnell said he was satisfied to make the exclusion order before hearing Garda evidence on why people in custody in relation to the murder should be further detained.

use the ParkMagic system daily, I don't have to go shopping for parking discs, and it's brilliant for

Colette entered the competition when she saw it advertised in our sister paper, the Limerick Leader.

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Iarnrod Eireann probes train service breakdown

INVESTIGATIONS are underway to establish the cause of an engine failure which resulted in major delays on rail services between Limerick and Dublin at the weekend.

More than 100 passengers on the 15.25 service between Heuston and Colbert Station were stranded when the engine broke down just outside Monastervin shortly before 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon.

A replacement engine was required and the train eventually arrived at its destination shortly after 10.30pm on Sunday - more than seven hours after passengers had first

boarded at Heuston Station.

Jim Gallivan, Business development manager with Iarnrod Eireann at Colbert Station, said break-downs such as what happened on Sunday were "exceptional" on the new fleet of trains.

Mr Gallivan said a "major investigation" would be conducted to establish what caused the engine failure.

A spokesman for Iarnrod Eireann said thousands of other rail passengers on other routes to and from Dublin also endured lengthy delay's on Sunday due to the break-down.

DEATH

FITZGERALD, Limerick, on the 13th December, 2009, at the Regional Hospital, Thomas, formerly of 39 Creagh Avenue, Kileely and late of CIE and Treaty Sarsfields GAA. Very deeply regretted by his loving wife Teresa, son Pat, daughters Geraldine, Mary, Patricia and Tracey, sister May, daughter in law, sons in law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends and Paddy Bennis. May he Rest in Peace. Removal from Cross's Funeral Home this Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock to St. Munchins Church. Requiem Mass Wednesday at 11 o'clock with burial afterwards in Mount St. Oliver Cemetery.

Funeral of City Freeman Ciaran MacMathuna

Eugene Phelan

FREEMAN of Limerick legendary broadcaster Ciaran MacMathúna was buried in Dublin this Tuesday.

The Limerick man was the distinctive voice behind the radio programme Mo Cheol Thú which was one of the longest programmes ever broadcast on RTE, lasting over 30 years.

Limerick was represented at the funeral by Cllr Michael Hourigan and director of Services Pat Drommey. It was Cllr Hourigan who bestowed the Freedom of Limerick on Mr MacMathuna in 2005.

"I was honoured to give him the Freedom of Limerick. I felt he really deserved it as he was a



The late Ciaran MacMathúna who was buried on Tuesday

very proud Limerick man, very proud of his roots here and he was a credit not only to Limerick but to the whole country," said Cllr Hourigan.

He said he was a big fan of his

Sunday morning programme. "He had a very distinctive accent, cultured and he travelled the country recording Irish music," he added.

"This music would have been lost to the Irish people if it was not for the work of Ciaran MacMathúna," Cllr Hourigan said. "I personally never missed his programme on a Sunday morning, Mo Cheol Thú."

Born in St John's Avenue, off Mulgrave Street, Mr MacMathúna was a renowned authority on Irish music and made an enormous contribution to the preservation and development of traditional music.

He was best known to radio listeners for his programme, Mo Cheol Thú, which was one of the longest running programmes on

radio until his retirement in November 2005.

Each 45-minute programme offered a miscellany of archive music, poetry and folklore, mainly of Irish origin.

"It was a great pleasure to be part of RTE for the last 50 years. My duties were mostly 'a job of journeywork' - very enjoyable work indeed travelling around Ireland and many parts of America, England and Scotland recording traditional music and song. Meeting all the musicians was very exciting for me and I only hope that my programmes helped to make their music as popular as it is today."

Mr MacMathúna is survived by his wife Dolly, a well known folk singer and sons Padraic, Ciarán and daughter Deirdre.

Dr Murray to meet with Bishops' Congregation again

Mike Dwane



suffering of people like Mervyn Rundle, a victim of paedophile

received specific allegations and he acted accordingly in all five".

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