

Father (19) was holding a rare machine gun to pay drug debt

Five and a half year jail for man who pleaded guilty to possession of a Mac-10

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A YOUNG father who was holding a rare and powerful machine gun in order to pay off a drug debt has been sentenced to five and half years in prison.

Michael Skelly, 19, of Ballyfermot, Dublin, pleaded guilty at

Dublin Circuit Criminal Court to possession of a Mac-10 firearm, ammunition and a silencer at his father's home in Ballyfermot on May 21, 2019. He has no previous convictions.

Detective Garda Donal Donoghue told Monika Leech BL, prosecuting, that the loaded machine gun was found in a wheelie bin at Skelly's father's home along with a silencer.

He said the weapon, which

was capable of firing 1,140 rounds of ammunition a minute, was very rare and no longer manufactured.

He said that Skelly had displayed "a level of knowledge" in relation to firearms that Skelly claimed came from playing the computer game "Call of Duty".

Judge Karen O'Connor suspended the final two years of a five and half year sentence on condition that



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

NOTICE PURSUANT TO: SECTION 177AE OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) AND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED).

Proposed Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) at Whitechurch Rd, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA FOR APPROVAL

Notice is hereby given that South Dublin County Council proposes to seek the approval of An Bord Pleanála for proposed flood defence works at Whitechurch Stream in Rathfarnham, Dublin 16, along the Whitechurch Stream between St Enda's Park and its confluence to the Owendoher River at Ballyboden Road - comprising: building new walls and/or reinforcing existing ones, increasing existing wall heights, removal or replacement of low-level bridges, river bank improvement, provision of trash screens and debris traps, removal of trees and other vegetation to accommodate the works, and tree planting and landscaping.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared as part of the application for approval in respect of the proposed Scheme.

An Bord Pleanála may give approval to the application for development with or without conditions or may refuse the application for development.

A copy of the NIS and Project Particulars (including the EIA Screening) will be available for inspection at the following locations on working days from Thursday August 6th, 2020 to Thursday September 17th, 2020 (inclusive):

- The consultation website of South Dublin County Council at <https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/> and the Scheme's website at www.whitechurchfas.ie;
- The offices of South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24, between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. To make an appointment please phone 01-4149000 on working days from 06/08/20 to 17/09/20 (inclusive) or email: info@sdublincoco.ie; and
- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, between the hours of 9.15 am and 5.30 pm. Note: Due to COVID-19, it is recommended that persons contact the Office to arrange viewing of the application in advance (Phone: (01) 858 8100 or Lo-call 1890 275 175).

The NIS may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy).

Submissions or observations may be made in writing to **An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01V902** during the above-mentioned period relating to:

- the implications of the proposed development, if carried out, for proper planning and sustainable development in the area or areas concerned;
- the likely effects on the environment, if carried out; and
- the likely significant effects of the proposed Scheme on a European site.

Any submissions or observations must be received by An Bord Pleanála not later than 5.30 pm on Thursday September 17th, 2020. Note: Due to COVID-19 it is recommended that persons contacting the Office to arrange viewing of the application in advance (Phone: (01) 858 8100 or Lo-call 1890 275 175).

A person may question the validity of a decision by An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the rules of the Superior Courts (SI. No15 of 1986) in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Practical information in respect of the judicial review process can be accessed on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie

www.sdcc.ie

Skelly enter into a bond to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for two years, that he remain under supervision of the Probation Service for 12 months and engage with any treatment recommended by them.

Judge O'Connor said Skelly had acted in the most serious form of criminality and the weapon was armed and ready.

She acknowledged that Skelly was young at the time. "the positive message that he is now drug free", the court heard from his family and her and his previous good character.

At a sentence hearing earlier this month, Det Garda Donoghue said that Skelly admitted that he had previously

discharged the gun but wouldn't give the gardai "any specifics".

Det Garda Donoghue agreed with Michael O'Higgins SC, defending, that Skelly's parents separated when he was young and that both his mother and father had their own difficulties.

He accepted that Skelly left school at 15 years old and began spending a lot of time at home playing video games before he started abusing both cocaine and cannabis.

Det Garda Donoghue said there were "some grounds for optimism" in that Skelly had not come to garda attention since his arrest.

He has a partner and she gave birth last February.

The garda said Skelly was a "confident" that if he was not in court and away from his family, he would not be back in court.

He accepted that Skelly had a "background in video games" and gained his knowledge of the weapon from an online computer game.

Ms Leech said that the quality of the fire was such that the velocity weapon was primed for use, and that the prosecution's evidence on the scale of the offence was essential that his client be discharged the g

DSPCA's mobile clinics have restarted in Clondalkin and Tallaght

THE DSPCA's mobile veterinary clinics, which are held in Clondalkin and Tallaght, have restarted. The mobile clinics offer subsidised veterinary treatment to those whose owners are in receipt of welfare benefits, and people are advised that they must make an appointment

before attending, there can only be one person with each pet, and masks must be worn.

The Clondalkin mobile clinic is on Mondays in the Mill Shopping Centre carpark, between 6.30pm and 7.30pm, and the Tallaght clinic is on Wednesdays in the carpark of St Mark's Church in Springfield,

also between 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

The charity who attend there consider paying a debit card, as well as going to the facilities essential that be booked in advance on 01 499 4703