



Challenge: Dr Michael Crotty

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
because they want to improve their health and that's why people may go outside of the regular channels seeking care. We would love to have the best evidence-based treatments available and they will become available and there are many people who will benefit. But there is the issue of the cost of the medication and reimbursement of the medication and supply, which are very real issues.

'At the moment, medications that are in use for obesity are not covered by the drug payment scheme, medical card or long-term illness so people are paying for them out of their pocket. We wouldn't

expect people to pay for cholesterol medications, blood pressure medications or asthma inhalers in the same way but traditionally because obesity has been seen as someone's own fault or responsibility these medications haven't been covered.

'So there is a huge amount of bias and stigma and lack of understanding about the treatments and that needs to change.

'Often times the people who need the treatment most are the ones who are least able to afford it. There is a huge inequality and unfairness in that many people who would benefit from treatment are not able to access it and that goes for

bariatric surgery too. It is a very safe and very effective treatment but the number of people being treated is much less than it should be because that area of treatment in Ireland has not been resourced over the years and the services are not at the level they need to be.

'That is being addressed at the moment and there are new services launching in Galway and Cork to try and address some of these needs but they need investment and infrastructure.'

On the whole he feels the new generation of drugs will help many people get their health back - as long as they are properly monitored.

'For many people, these are very positive treatments,' he says. 'Changing will also help so many people realise that it is a biological issue, that it isn't their fault. They are not doing anything wrong, this thing they blamed themselves for their entire life is a medical condition that there are treatments available for. That is hugely positive for people.'

'However, not everyone is going to get the same response so that is why, the same as any other medical condition, we put people on treatment but we need to follow them up and monitor it.'

'But for so many, the benefits to their health will be very significant.'

Women aided Harrods boss in sex abuse campaign

EXCLUSIVE

By Lisa Brinkworth and Vanessa Allen

A STRING of Ghislaine Maxwell-style female 'super-enablers' assisted Harrods boss Mohamed Al Fayed in his decades-long abuse of women and girls, it was revealed yesterday.

Keaton Stone - a journalist who spearheaded a six-year investigation into Fayed - said he had amassed evidence against the women who allegedly helped his vile abuse, who could still face justice.

Police believe the former Harrods owner, who died last year aged 94, may have raped and abused at



Claims: Women like Ghislaine Maxwell 'enabled' Al Fayed

away with it. There are certain names which appear overwhelmingly in the women's testimonies. The evidence is stacking up.

Mr Stone has investigated Fayed since his then-fiancée, now wife, Sophia, revealed she was sexually assaulted by the former Harrods boss while working as his personal assistant. She went to the police in 2020 and gave a 31-page statement, but was later told the case was being dropped because Fayed was said to be unfit to face charges.

The couple were horrified that the case was closed, and Mr Stone sought out other women subjected to similar ordeals. More than 400 women have contacted the Justice for Harrods Survivors team. Lawyers for the women sent the first legal letter of claim to Harrods this month, and their barrister Bruce Drummond said hundreds more such letters would follow.

Mr Stone compiled a dossier of evidence that led to the BBC documentary *Al Fayed: Predator* at Harrods. He learnt the abuse was not limited to the Knightsbridge department store, but extended throughout Fayed's businesses and personal empire, including his Park Lane residences, his Surrey mansion, the Ritz Hotel in Paris and Fulham Football Club.

news@daily Mail.ie

ChristmasFM

Ireland's Christmas Station

ON FM ACROSS IRELAND,
ONLINE AT CHRISTMASFM.COM
AND ON YOUR SMART SPEAKER

LISTEN LIVE NOW

christmasfm.com

LISTEN

SUPPORTING

the Magic of Christmas

DONATE

SUPPORTING IRELANDS CHILDRENS CHARITIES

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Extra.ie