



EXCLUSIVE BY NICOLA DONNELLY

THE head of a domestic violence support service is backing the brother of murdered Jennie Poole for the implementation of an abuse register.

Jason Poole has urged the Government to bring in a number of measures under "Jennie's Law" to help stop violence against women at the hands of their partners.

Today marks the fourth anniversary of Jennifer's murder at the hands of her ex-partner Gavin Murphy, 31, on April 17, 2021.

The mum-of-two was stabbed to death in her apartment in Melville Drive, Finglas in north Dublin when she was just 24.

Murphy is serving a life sentence for her murder.

Jennifer was unaware he had a history of abusive behaviour, including a conviction for assaulting a former partner.

She believed he had just returned from Spain when in fact he had been in jail.

Since her death, Jason has been campaigning for a domestic abuse register, which would allow those with concerns to ask authorities for information about a partner's violent past.

The *Irish Daily Star* is supporting him in his campaign for "Jennie's Law".

Anne Clarke, CEO of Offaly Domestic Violence Support Services said the service is also backing his proposal.

She told us: "It's a piece of vital legislation and it's part of a strategy that should be there to protect any victim of domestic abuse."

PERPETRATORS

"It's a no-brainer really so I don't know why it's taking so long to introduce."

"Clare's Law in the UK has been around for about 10 years and it has been quite successful."

"We have seen incidents where perpetrators have been serial perpetrators, moving from one victim to another."

"And the victim will never know that person has breached a domestic violence order, or has been found guilty of domestic violence and the victim is completely unaware that they are at a potential risk."

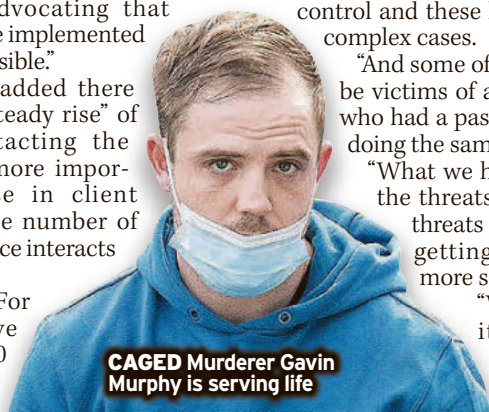
"It's the right to know and the right to find out."

"Those two are critical points of the proposed legislation."

"We are advocating that Jennie's Law be implemented as soon as possible."

Ms Clarke added there has been "a steady rise" of victims contacting the service and more importantly, a rise in client contacts – the number of times the service interacts with a client.

She said: "For 2024 we have well over 4,000 client contacts



CAGED Murderer Gavin Murphy is serving life

while the previous year it was 3,200. So when you have particularly post separation abuse, you have coercive control and these lead to more complex cases."

"And some of those would be victims of a perpetrator who had a past history and doing the same MO."

"What we have found is the threats of violence, threats to kill etc are getting more and more severe."

"We are seeing it week in week out and if legis-

lation was there it would certainly help not only the victim but also services like ourselves to put in really good risk assessment models that we can do a whole protection of safety planning for those victims."

Ms Clarke added since the pandemic hit in 2020 the "figures haven't stopped rising".

She said: "It's been like a tsunami since Covid."

"That's reflective throughout all the sector and not just ourselves in Offaly."

"Every service will say they are

seeing higher figures, higher client contacts, higher breaches of orders."

“Threats to kill etc are getting more severe

ANNE CLARKE OFFALY SUPPORT SERVICES

Ms Clarke added the rise in figures is a "combination of people knowing about the services and reaching out for support as well as national awareness campaigns making victims realise they can get help".

She said there is a rise "in a level of misogyny culture which she feels is perpetuated with sections of social media."

Ms Clarke added: "All of these toxic masculinity are making it acceptable

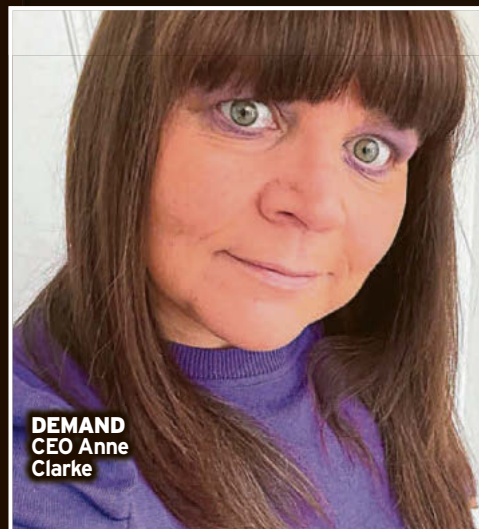
to treat women in such a way." She said the organisation has been backing Jason's campaign since last November and had him as a guest speaker at their recent conference.

Ms Clarke added: "We are getting signatures for Jason's petition and we have written our support in regards to the Jennie's Law legislation."

"We have also spoken to Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan about it as well."

"It's about the Government understanding how this legislation is one piece of safety that they can give to women and any victim of domestic abuse."

We need Jennie's Law as soon as possible, it would help save lives..



DEMAND CEO Anne Clarke



CAMPAIGN Jennie Poole's brother



CRUEL DEATH
Jennie Poole murdered by vile Murphy

Domestic violence register supported on anniversary