

# 'IMPOSSIBLE' TO SELL HOME



Killed... Mother of two Rachel O'Reilly

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**THE HOUSE** of horrors where murderer Joe O'Reilly bludgeoned his wife Rachel to death faces demolition, the Irish Sunday Mirror can reveal.

The pretty €500,000 house in The Naul, North Dublin, could be seized by the ICS Building Society, which loaned the O'Reillys the cash to buy it in December 2003.

But with Joe O'Reilly beginning a life sentence in jail, he can no longer pay the mortgage so the house could be repossessed.

O'Reilly had even started the process of claiming on his wife's life insurance policies before he was found guilty of her murder.

But estate agents and local neighbours say it will be almost impossible to find someone to buy the cursed property - even at a bargain price.

A spokesman for the ICS Building Society refused to discuss the future of the O'Reilly home, Lambay View in Beldaragh.

But he said if payments were not kept up on a property, the firm had no choice but to repossess it.

The spokesman said: "The mortgage does not have to be met by the person who has taken the mortgage - other arrangements can be made.

"But the bottom line, as a last resort, is that if repayments are not kept up, we have no choice but to repossess the house."

O'Reilly had submitted the death certificate to have the €240,000 mortgage paid on the house through a mortgage protection policy in his wife's name.

He was also beginning to claim on his wife's insurance policy valued at €194,000.

Both claims were put on hold after O'Reilly was charged with Rachel's murder.

Now that he has been found guilty, both policies have been declared void.

A court order before Joe O'Reilly was found guilty of his wife's murder prevented him from staying at the family home in The Naul except at weekends.

While facing trial for his wife's killing, O'Reilly was regularly seen tidying the house and even painting it.

But a nearby neighbour said he still got the shivers walking by the house and doubted if it would ever be sold.

"Who in their right mind would want to live in that house?"

"It was once a very happy home with two lovely little boys running around it.

"But after what happened in it, nobody could live there in peace.

"I know it might go on the market at a knock-down price but I don't know too many people around here who would

# Wife killer Joe's house of horrors to be knocked down



The O'Reilly family home in Beldaragh, Dublin



Jailed... Joe O'Reilly, left, was sentenced to life in prison, a verdict that was welcomed by supporters of his murdered wife Rachel

want to live there," he said. The house sat empty all this week, just days after Joe O'Reilly was jailed for life by Judge Barry White.

The trial was told how O'Reilly had ambushed his wife with a heavy object, either a wheel brace or a dumbbell, beating her around the head several times.

He then calmly had a shower - washing off any evidence that might link him with the scene - before heading to meet work colleague Derek Quinlan at the Broadstone bus garage.

Just days after the killing, O'Reilly even invited Rachel's family to the house of horrors, where he played out the grisly murder.

Rachel's heartbroken

father Jim Callaly has said he almost passed out during his son-in-law's sick stunt.

The house has already become a macabre stopping-off point for passers-by.

"Cars are coming up and stopping outside of it at all times of the day and night," a neighbour said.

"I suppose it's probably one of the best-known houses in the country, even if it is for all the wrong reasons.

"I think it will be a very long time before people forget the terrible things that happened behind that front door."

The house is still kept tidy and the windows have been washed.

However, the grass was getting long in both the front garden and the driveway.

Pink and yellow rose bushes are dotted in the garden while blood-red fuchsia drip over the wooden garden fence.

Neighbours said tragic Rachel loved flowers.