



23 May 2025

Statement On Behalf Of Hazel Stewart

Hazel Stewart is appealing against her sentence for the double murder of her husband Trevor Buchanan and her former lover Colin Howell's wife Lesley Howell who were killed in May 1991. She was sentenced to life imprisonment.

On Friday 24/5/25 she will appeal to the Court of Appeal in Belfast for a third time. The appeal will proceed as an Out of Time application to Extend Time to hear the appeal against sentence.

This latest application is grounded on the basis that at the time of the commission of the index offences she was under the "coercive control" of Colin Howell. We in turn say coercive control wasn't known about at the time of her trial in 2011 when she was convicted and sentenced. Nor had it evolved sufficiently as an issue to be raised at the time of her subsequent appeals.

The court will adjudicate on a preliminary issue as to whether or not there was any delay in the applicant raising coercive control as an appeal issue before now. The outworkings of that request will determine whether or not any fresh evidence from an expert on coercive control can be adduced.

Mr Brendan Kelly KC and Mr Eugene McKenna BL are instructed by Kevin Winters KRW Law.

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