

Pension plan income fears

AGE Action yesterday voiced concerns over the impact of Government pension plans on low-income OAPs.

Under the Pensions Amendment Bill, elderly people in defined benefit schemes will no longer enjoy 100% protection.

The charity's spokesman Eamon Timmins said: "They have retired and thought they had a defined income for the rest of their lives."

"That will change under this proposed legislation in cases where their pension fund is insolvent."

New rules to help tenants

MONEY paid as a deposit on rented accommodation will be held by a third party under new rules to protect tenants from unscrupulous landlords.

Junior Minister Jan O'Sullivan revealed the plan as Threshold, as the country's top housing charity, said the issue was its biggest source of complaints.

Chief executive Bob Jordan said the average deposit being paid by renters was €800 and some landlords routinely withheld it at the end of a lease.



CLOSE BOND
Christopher Gaffney and sister Rachel

Give us back my brother's severed head

SISTER'S PLEA OVER GAFFNEY MURDER

BY EAMON DONOGHUE

THE sister of murdered drug dealer Christopher Gaffney has begged for her butchered brother's head back.

Rachel Gaffney said she can't give the 37-year-old a proper Christian burial until his corpse is complete.

She added: "People are telling me to get him cremated but how can you get someone cremated without a head?"

"I know it's terrible but it's how I feel. I want a Christian burial because that's what he was."

"I know what happened to Christopher was barbaric but maybe someone else knows something." Gaffney's arm was

found in a field at The Mayne, near Clonee, Co Meath, at the start of the month, followed by the discovery of his torso and other body parts.

Rachel said: "I don't know and I can't answer how the killer or killers would feel, whether they would pick up a phone."

"But if anyone else has any information or could shed any light, if they seen him around the time."

Rachel told RTE's 2fm she was the first to report Gaffney as missing. She

added: "I was quite worried for a couple of weeks. I was calling his phone and texting his phone but people were saying he'll turn up."

"I went to the gardai on October 30, the day before Halloween, and that was three days before they found it was Christopher."

"The whole family is in shock. He was my big brother."

Gaffney, from Blanchardstown in West Dublin, was a convicted heroin dealer and was jailed in 2001 after being caught in the act on a bike on

O'Connell street. Detectives believe he was killed by a Finglas thug.

Rachel added she will always remember her brother leaving sweets under her pillow when she was a child.

She added: "My fondest memory of him was waking up with sweets under my pillow and wearing his size 10 shoes."

"He was known to the gardai but he wasn't violent. I know my brother."

"Even neighbours and journalists who went to his home said he was polite, respectful and quiet. People who know Christopher know this."

"He kept to himself and had a big heart. He was no angel but no one is perfect."

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“I want a Christian burial because that's what he was”

RACHEL GAFFNEY
YESTERDAY

IRISH DAILY
Mirror

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