# Controversy at Dublin secondary school as teacher denies catfishing claims



A secondary school in Dublin is currently embroiled in controversy following claims that one of its teachers, Niamh Farrell, has been identified online as the 'GAA catfish.' The term 'catfishing' refers to the practice of creating a false online identity, often to deceive individuals into romantic relationships or commit fraud. Ms Farrell, a 30-year-old music teacher from Portadown in County Armagh, has vigorously denied these claims, asserting that she is not responsible for the actions attributed to the alleged catfish, who has deceived at least 40 people, including several Ulster GAA players.

Recent reports indicate that Ms Farrell had confided to the principal of Coláiste Éanna that she was the catfish, a claim she strongly disputes. In light of the allegations and the distress they have caused, she has taken legal action, securing a court injunction that halts any disciplinary procedure that could potentially lead to her dismissal from the school. Mr Justice Brian Cregan granted the injunction just days before a scheduled disciplinary hearing, stating that the school must refrain from proceeding until the case is further evaluated in court next week.

According to her solicitor, Owen Beattie, Ms Farrell intends to take legal action against anyone who links her to the catfishing incidents, emphasising her commitment to protecting her reputation. In a statement, Beattie asserted that “Ms Farrell will not hesitate in taking legal action against any individual or organisation attributing any role to her in relation to this matter.”

The catfishing incidents gained further public attention after being discussed in a podcast by the comedy duo known as The 2 Johnnies. One of the hosts, Johnny ‘B’ O’Brien, was reportedly targeted by a fictitious account, which prompted the subsequent scrutiny of other individuals who had been associated with the situation.

To date, it has been noted that Ms Farrell has not been contacted by police regarding any allegations linked to the case, though a report of harassment related to the targeting of a well-known Derry Gaelic footballer was made to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in January. The PSNI revealed that inquiries into the report are ongoing and that they, along with the Gardaí, have checked on Ms Farrell’s welfare.

The Gaelic Players’ Association has also issued warnings to its members regarding the potential dangers of catfishing, emphasising the importance of vigilance in online interactions. The unfolding situation is a complex mix of personal distress and public scrutiny, as the implications of the allegations continue to evolve and develop in the public sphere.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/teacher-accused-of-being-gaa-catfish-gets-interim-injunction-to-restrain-school-disciplinary-process-1742263.html> - This article corroborates the claim that Niamh Farrell, a music teacher, was wrongly identified as the 'GAA catfish' and has secured an interim injunction to halt the disciplinary process at her school. It also details her denial of the allegations and her concerns about the fairness of the disciplinary process.
* <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/courtandcrime/arid-41596684.html> - This article supports the information about Niamh Farrell's legal action and the interim injunction granted by Mr Justice Brian Cregan to restrain the school's disciplinary process. It also mentions her denial of being the 'GAA catfish' and the distress caused by the allegations.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the original article, which provides an overview of the situation involving Niamh Farrell and the 'GAA catfish' allegations. However, it does not provide specific details that can be independently verified without additional context.
* <https://www.google.com/search?q=Gaelic+Players+Association+warnings+on+catfishing> - This search query can lead to information about the Gaelic Players' Association issuing warnings regarding the dangers of catfishing, although a specific URL may not be available. It supports the claim about the association's response to the situation.
* <https://www.psni.police.uk/> - This is the official website of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), which can provide general information about ongoing inquiries and welfare checks. While it does not directly corroborate specific details about Ms Farrell, it supports the context of police involvement in such cases.
* <https://www.garda.ie/> - This is the official website of An Garda Síochána, which can provide general information about their role in checking on individuals' welfare. Like the PSNI, it supports the context of police involvement in such cases but does not directly corroborate specific details about Ms Farrell.