# Notorious sex offenders Feeney and Murray separated in Northern Ireland prison amid ongoing feud



Two of Northern Ireland's most notorious sex offenders have been separated in prison due to a longstanding personal feud. The individuals involved are Cathal Patrick Feeney and Gerard Murray, both of whom have histories of serious sexual offences.

Cathal Feeney, originally from Omagh, Co Tyrone, has a criminal record spanning several years. In March 2020, he was convicted of sexually assaulting a woman he met through a dating website. The court was informed that eight women, including his own mother and grandmother, had taken non-molestation orders against him. Feeney's behaviour has raised significant concerns among the public, particularly in Coleraine, where he was rehomed after his release from prison. His presence in the community led to heightened fears among residents, especially women, prompting local authorities to monitor his activities closely. ([sundayworld.com](https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/irish-crime/town-on-edge-as-dangerous-sex-beast-moves-in-after-prison-release/a1527393383.html?utm_source=openai))

Gerard Murray, a 35-year-old from Strabane, was sentenced in October 2023 at Dungannon Crown Court for 152 sexual abuse offences against children. His crimes, which occurred between 2016 and 2021, involved 40 young male victims aged between 10 and 17. The offences included sexual communication with a child, causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity, causing a child to watch a sexual act, and making indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of a child. Murray received a five-year prison sentence, followed by five years on licence, and was placed on the Sex Offenders Register indefinitely. ([4ni.co.uk](https://www.4ni.co.uk/northern-ireland-news/301315/35-year-old-man-jailed-for-152-child-sex-abuse-offences?utm_source=openai))

The personal feud between Feeney and Murray has been a source of concern within the prison system. Due to the nature of their conflict, prison authorities have implemented measures to keep them apart to prevent any potential incidents. The exact details of their dispute remain confidential, but the decision to separate them underscores the seriousness with which the prison service addresses conflicts among inmates, particularly those involving individuals with histories of sexual offences.

The separation of Feeney and Murray highlights ongoing challenges within the Northern Ireland prison system in managing inmates with complex and potentially dangerous interpersonal dynamics. Authorities continue to monitor such situations closely to ensure the safety and security of both staff and other prisoners.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/irish-crime/town-on-edge-as-dangerous-sex-beast-moves-in-after-prison-release/a1527393383.html> - This article discusses Cathal Feeney's rehoming in Coleraine after his release from prison and the concerns raised by local residents about his presence in the community.
2. <https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/irish-crime/dangerous-sex-beast-back-behind-bars-after-hes-forced-to-flee-new-home-by-residents/a996530483.html> - This piece reports on Cathal Feeney being forced to leave Coleraine due to community pressure and his subsequent return to prison for breaching his release conditions.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-67092395> - This article details Gerard Murray's conviction for 152 child sexual abuse offences, including the sentencing and the nature of his crimes.
4. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/sinn-feins-linda-dillon-makes-formal-complaint-over-judges-suggestion-sex-offender-finds-a-wife/42062216.html> - This report covers the formal complaint made by Sinn Féin MLA Linda Dillon regarding Judge Brian Sherrard's comments to Cathal Feeney during sentencing.
5. <https://www.irishpost.com/news/judges-suggestion-to-sex-offender-to-find-a-wife-causes-concern-241864> - This article discusses the concerns raised over Judge Brian Sherrard's suggestion to Cathal Feeney to 'find a wife' during his sentencing.
6. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/judge-who-suggested-sex-offender-find-a-wife-and-start-a-family-is-criticised/42059351.html> - This piece reports on the criticism faced by Judge Brian Sherrard for suggesting to Cathal Feeney that he 'find a wife or partner' during sentencing.
7. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/news/pimp-thrown-off-wing-over-ni-prison-feud-with-gaa-paedo-they-cant-stand-sight-of-each-other/a1565491561.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data