# Primary school teacher admits to murdering partner in 'carefully planned domestic execution'



Fiona Beal, a 50-year-old primary school teacher, has admitted to the murder of her partner, Nicholas Billingham, 42. Billingham’s partially mummified remains were found buried in the garden of their shared home in Northampton, four and a half months after he was last seen on November 1, 2021. The sentencing hearing is taking place at the Old Bailey after an initial trial at Northampton Crown Court collapsed.

Prosecutor Hugh Davies KC detailed that Beal stabbed Billingham in the neck, describing the act as a "carefully planned domestic execution." After the murder, Beal sent deceitful messages from Billingham’s phone and claimed they both needed to isolate due to COVID-19. She invented a narrative that Billingham had left her for another woman, even inviting his mother for a Christmas drink.

In March 2022, police discovered Beal’s journals in a cabin in Cumbria, containing a confession and references to a split personality called Tulip 22. Beal’s arrest followed the discovery of Billingham’s body. The court is expected to conclude the sentencing on Thursday.