Disgraced swimming coach Gibney attacked me in Florida hotel room

Anti-abuse charity offers to pay for alleged Irish victim's trip to U.S. to press charges

The statute is due to run out

A WOMAN who claims she was abused by former Irish Olympic swimming coach George Gibney has revealed she may travel to the U.S. to make a formal complaint.

The woman, who was then 17, claims she was attacked in a hotel room in 1991 by Gibney, who was the national swimming coach between 1984 and 1992.

This week charity One Child International, which was established to prevent child abuse, offered to pay for the woman's legal costs and flights to Florida so she can return to make a formal complaint.

The ex-swimmer is one of several who have settled recent court cases with Gibney for hundreds of thousands of pounds.

AN POST has spent an estimated €500,000 settling eight bullying cases.

The majority of the employees, five women and three men, have settled their actions for sums believed to be around €50,000 each, including costs, in the High Court.

All were employed as sorters or sorter managers in the Cork Mail Centre at Little Island, which in 2003 replaced the old city centre sorting office.

None of the allegations related to sexual harassment or physical assault.

Instead it involved ‘explosive outbursts’ by another An Post employee against the sorters.

Despite the allegations, the person alleged to be responsible for the bullying is still employed by An Post.

A source told our sister paper, the Irish Mail on Sunday: ‘There was a very sensitive matter.’

‘It is a very sensitive matter’

The Departments of Homeland Security and of Justice in the U.S. had been ordered to bar Gibney from the country.

But a judicial review in 1994 allowed Gibney to return to the U.S., an offence for which he had lied on his immigration forms.

Gibney sparked a national scandal in Ireland when he went to the High Court in 1992 to stop his trial from going ahead.

Gibney had abused children for more than 20 years, and has never been sought by the Irish State.

A formal complaint was made to gardaí by the woman at the time, but the DPP ruled that no prosecution could be ordered because the alleged crime occurred outside Ireland's jurisdiction.

When the young woman was informed of this decision, she was devastated.

Even Daly of One Child International, said: ‘The statute of limitations has run out in Florida for this woman to make her complaint against Gibney.

‘We have offered to pay for her flights and legal costs for her to liaise with the police here about what happened.

‘She is considering our request; it is a very sensitive matter.’

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is also investigating a complaint Gibney lied on his immigration application to gain entry to the U.S., an offence for which he could be deported. It is believed he was denied being charged with a criminal offence, which is normally sufficient to bar someone from entry.

Mr Daly made a complaint to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security last year, claiming Gibney had lied on his immigration forms to gain entry to the country. He has received a response from the department stating that his complaint is being investigated.

Gibney sparked a national scandal in Ireland when he went to the High Court in 1992 to stop his trial on 17 sexual abuse charges.

He successfully argued that the time limit had expired because most of the alleged abuse took place between the sixties and 1991.

Gibney then fled the country.

A government-commissioned report, released in 1988, found that Gibney had abused children for three decades. There was a huge public outcry when his replacement, Derry O'Rourke, was jailed for similar offences.

Gibney was evicted from his hotel room in 1997.

A neighbour told our sister paper, ‘He was an embarrassment to the hotel, he was a meatball and shouting all the time.’

A Simpleton who goes by the name ‘Jon’

Shamed: George Gibney in 1988

Crime Correspondent

By Ali Bracken

A woman who claims she was abused by former Irish Olympic swimming coach George Gibney in 1988 has been offered €500,000 to settle the case.