

Extracts from Noel Clancy's victim impact statement

"I found it hard and painful to sit down and write this victim impact statement. It is just not possible to put into words the impact that the defendant's dangerous driving and the resulting collision has had on my life.

Most people wake from a nightmare, but I wake every morning to a nightmare. A real nightmare.

The pain in the pit of my stomach is hard to believe. I was in hospital in May for tests to see if there was a medical explanation, there wasn't. Stress, grief, heartbreak, loss, take your pick.

Every morning I have to grit my teeth and go farming. The pain is there all the time, the unbearable loss is there all the time - morning, noon and especially at night.

I sit at the kitchen table and look at the empty chairs. I listen to the silence, a silence broken only by the clock ticking on the wall. My wife and daughter are dead aged 58 & 22. They are in their grave for eternity. I will never see them again."

"When I lost Geraldine I lost everything. My girlfriend, my wife, my life partner, my lover, the mother of my children and my best friend."

"If I lost the past with Geraldine, I lost the future with Louise, because of her struggles with autism and her determination to overcome every obstacle. Nobody deserved a bright, happy, safe and rewarding future more than Louise."

"On Christmas Day the undertaker asked me a question I hope that he never has to ask anyone again. Which coffin will we lower first? While most people were enjoying Christmas with their families, I was trying to make a decision. I phoned him back and told him we would lower Geraldine first and place Louise back in her arms."

"Whatever sentence the defendant is given here today will pale into insignificance compared to the sentence we are living. A sentence which says I will never see my wife and daughter again. It haunts me that Geraldine and Louise were killed in such a senseless manner. Trapped upside down in their car, screaming for help, screaming for their lives as they drowned in the water.

I pass the crash scene every day. I stop, every day. I stand there for hours on end and wonder how was it possible for this to happen. It cost me my beloved wife and daughter. It cost Declan and Fiona their mother and sister. I wonder has the defendant any idea of the extent of the devastation she has inflicted on our family. Our lives are destroyed, our family torn apart, our hearts are broken and at this time in my broken heart, I cannot find the strength to forgive".