

[Most Popular](#)[Most Emailed](#)

[Breaking](#)[Sport](#)[Business](#)[World](#)[Gossip](#)



Choose a date:



[NEWS](#) >

Keyes witness refuses to come out of hiding

EXCLUSIVE

By Allison Morris

19/01/08

A crucial witness to the prison killing of loyalist getaway driver David Keyes is refusing to come out of hiding to give evidence at an inquest into the LVF man's murder.

David Patterson was this week visited by police who travelled to a secret address in England to inform him that head coroner John Leckey is seeking his testimony.

Keyes was found hanging in his cell in the LVF wing of the Maze prison just days after being remanded in connection with the shocking sectarian murders of Co Armagh men Damien Trainor (25) and Philip Allen (34).

Railway Bar in Poyntzpass in March 1998.

A convicted drug dealer, Keyes (27) had been suspected of cooperating with police by directing them to the spot where the guns used to kill the friends had been concealed.

He was tortured before being strangled and hanged by a bed sheet from a cell window.

Lurgan loyalist Robin King and Ralph McPhillips from Lisburn in Co Antrim, who had been serving sentences on the LVF wing, were charged with the murder.

Patterson originally agreed to give evidence against his former associates.

However, the case against the accused dramatically collapsed after he refused to continue with his testimony.

No-one has ever been convicted.

Patterson was spirited out of the north to serve out the rest of his sentence in a Scottish jail before starting a new life in England.

In September last year coroner John Leckey, at a preliminary inquest into the prisoner's death, ordered all LVF inmates on the wing at the time to give evidence.

But speaking to The Irish News, Patterson said he will not cooperate.

"I have a new life and a family in England and have turned my back on the past," he said.

"I've a job and a family and there is no way I'm coming back to Northern Ireland to put my life at risk – at the end of the day it'll not help anyone and there is no good can come of it."

Stephen McClean and Noel McCready, both still behind bars in Maghaberry prison for the Poyntz-pass killings, are also expected to be called.

McClean was recently approved for release by the life sentence review commission but remained in jail after the secretary of state challenged the decision.

He is appealing the move but along with McCready could be called to give video link evidence.

"I haven't been in any trouble in years. I have a family and a life here and have no intention of returning to put myself in danger," Patterson said.

"I cant see the point of coming out of safety for an inquest that

will achieve nothing at the end of the day."

[print advertising](#) | [media pack](#) | [online advertising](#) | [privacy statement](#) | [about us](#) | [contact us](#) | [subscribe](#) | [login](#) | [archives](#) | [careers](#) | [home](#)