

CUT ME A DEAL!

On the run from his €80m mortgage frauds and facing serious jail time, Michael Lynn is ready to bargain with gardaí... and blow the whistle on his banker buddies

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ROGUE solicitor Michael Lynn plans to offer gardaí a plea-bargain in which he would blow the whistle on corruption in Ireland in return for a lesser jail term, the Irish Mail on Sunday has learned.

Mr Lynn, who is still on the run three years after he fled debts of €80bn, has been discussing the possibility of coming home with Garda officers. Initially, gardaí insisted that any meeting take place in Ireland – a suggestion rejected by Lynn since he will be arrested as soon as he sets foot on Irish soil.

Now, however, negotiations about an initial meeting abroad are understood to be at an advanced stage. The move opens the prospect of Lynn turning whistleblower against bankers who may have authorised the mortgages that Lynn then used in his multiple mortgage fraud.

Gardaí are known to have closely questioned Irish Nationwide whistleblower Olivia Green about loans provided to Mr Lynn while the institution was in the control of Michael Fingleton.

In a High Court hearing, a second Nationwide whistleblower, Brian Fitzgibbon, has also accused Fingleton of scapegoating him over controversial loans to Mr Lynn.

According to Mr Fitzgibbon, loans above €1m were always personally authorised by Fingleton without any compliance

'I won't be made a scapegoat. I won't be the poster boy'

checks, including €4.1m loans to Mr Lynn. When he was tracked down by the MoS two years ago, Mr Lynn pledged: 'I won't be made a scapegoat for the Celtic Tiger.'

'I am not going to be used as an example for what was recognised as an acceptable form and practice of business by bankers, lawyers, accountants and auctioneers. I am not going to be the poster boy who ends up in prison to my cost alone.'

With experts estimating that he faces up to seven years in prison, Mr Lynn will be anxious to bargain his sentence down as possible.

The precise nature of the information that Mr Lynn could share with gardaí is unknown.

But an extensive MoS investigation into his activities in Bulgaria reveals a string of corrupt practices by his company, which if mirrored here, could lead to further prosecutions.

The MoS has uncovered documentary evidence that Mr Lynn's company, Kendar, bribed its way into Bulgaria by offering a €1.2m kickback to the family of a planning official and hiring a ruthless Chechen mafia lord to obtain a crucial rezoning.

Meanwhile, the 300 Irish investors who paid over their life savings to Mr Lynn's company, Kendar, for off-plan apartments in the Bulgarian ski resort of Bansko, have long since lost all hope of recovering their cash.

For another development in Shkopilovtzi on the Black Sea, Mr Lynn bought half the site from Yahiya Megomedovich Hashiev, a notorious Chechen gangster and mafia lord, now languishing in a Bulgarian jail for a massive VAT fraud.

The remainder was sold to Lynn by a local Varna politician, Cristo Danov, who has been arrested for running prostitution, money laundering and human trafficking rings. When Mr Lynn needed

rezoning and planning for his new site, he turned to Hashiev to push it through.

In his contract with Mr Lynn's company, the Chechen promises, for €138,000, to ensure that the land – a nature reserve – would be rezoned.

Hashiev then introduced Kendar to the chief architect of the area's local council, Simeon Saraliev, who contrived to have Kendar's design work completed by a company

owned by his architect daughter, Liana. DZZD Ecoconsult, signed a €1.2m contract with Kendar and issued a receipt for an initial payment of €40,000. Saraliev died in 2008. His daughter did not respond



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to a request for comment from the MoS this week.

The entire affair has been closely monitored by Bulgaria's notorious National Security Agency (DANS).

Meanwhile, Mr Lynn has moved all of his Bulgarian and Portuguese property into secret ownership in the Seychelles and Panama.

This investigation has been supported by the European Fund for Investigative Journalism.



LIFE OF LUXURY:
Michael Lynn and
his wife Brid

I want my son to be like Prince Charles, says Flatley

By Alex Marunchak

DANCER Michael Flatley is determined to have his son educated in London and wants him to grow up and be like Britain's heir to the throne Prince Charles.

The American-born Irishman, who was earning €1.5m a week at his peak, said he had made arrangements for his three-year-old son, Michael St James, to go to posh Hill House preparatory school in London's Knightsbridge.

It is the same school attended by Prince Charles when he was a toddler and it sends pupils for short boarding breaks at the Swiss mountain resort of Glion near Montreux on the banks of Lake Geneva.

There, pupils are taught how to make their own beds and the basics of cooking. Sporting activities include skiing and rambling.

But while at the day school in London, assemblies for pupils are held once a week in the nearby St Columba's Church of Scotland.

It is the same English school to which Sir Bob Geldof sent his daughters Fifi and Peaches.

Flatley, 50, said in a recent interview: 'My wife has already contacted Hill House School in London.'

'I want him to speak with the



DREAM: Michael Flatley

confidence that comes with the right education and I don't think he would get it in America.

'I sat next to Prince Charles and Camilla at a dinner and you couldn't meet nicer people in the world. He spoke with charisma, understated and glamorous at the same time.'

'It's my dream for my son Michael to end up like him.'

Flatley, was the first American ever to win the World Irish Dance Championships, after being taught and coached by legendary dance master Dennis Dennehy at the Irish School of Dance in Chicago.

Both his parents moved to America from Cork before he was born. Now Flatley has moved back and had the Freedom of Cork conferred on him in June 2007 by the Lord Mayor.

Despite being 50 years of age, the Lord of the Dance has embarked on a European tour with concerts in Belfast's Odyssey Arena and Dublin's 02 next month.

He said: 'I don't see age as a problem. Fifty is the new 30.' Flatley holds the record for the highest number of toe taps – a foot-flashing 35 taps in just one second.