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Kenneway did not take own life says family

(Barry McCaffrey, [Irish News](#))

The family of a man found dead inside Maghaberry jail last week have postponed his funeral due to concerns about his death.

The body of John Kenneway, who was previously convicted of the murder of LVF leader Billy Wright, was discovered inside his prison cell shortly after 6pm on Friday.

The 45-year-old was thought to have died by suicide.

However, his family have refused to accept the claim and have now raised concerns with Prisoner Ombudsman Brian Coulter and the Northern Ireland Office.

The family have made a request for a second postmortem examination.

The former INLA prisoner had been returned to prison in February after being charged with making threats to kill, assaulting police and drink-driving.

He was understood to have been refused permission to join republican prisoners being held on a segregated wing.

Days before his death he was refused compassionate parole to attend the christening of a grandchild.

Solicitor Kevin Winters said the dead man's family had now instructed him to raise their concerns with the prisoner ombudsman and the NIO.

"John Kenneway's family do not accept at this stage that he took his own life," he said.

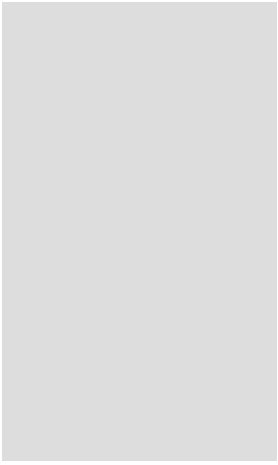
"They are concerned about the circumstances in which he was being held on a special unit inside the prison.

"The funeral has been postponed so that a second post mortem [examination] can be carried out to determine the full circumstances surrounding his death."

Mr Winters said he would continue to negotiate with the

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relevant authorities this morning for a second post-mortem examination to take place.

Meanwhile, Mr Winters confirmed that Mr Kenneway had not given evidence to the Billy Wright inquiry before his death.

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