

Tragic toddler lay dead in cot 'for six months'

Forensic expert's evidence in court



Declan Hainey: Body found mummified

By Pamela Paterson

A TODDLER could have lain dead in his cot for six months before he was found, a fatal accident inquiry heard yesterday.

Declan Hainey's mummified remains were discovered at his mother Kim-

berley Hainey's flat in March 2010, eight months after he was last seen alive.

Hainey, 38, was found guilty of the 23-month-old boy's murder and jailed for life in 2012. She was

freed in April last year after appeal judges quashed her conviction, criticising the evidence of expert witnesses.

Yesterday, forensic scientist Dr John Manlove told Paisley Sheriff

Court that although he was unable to give an exact date of when Declan died, he was certain it was some time in autumn 2009.

This meant he estimated the child was lying dead in his cot for

'at least four months', and possibly up to six months or more, before being found by his horrified grandparents.

The 42-year-old entomologist was involved in the investigation in 2010 into Declan's death, collecting samples of insects at the scene in order to establish exactly when he died.

Dr Manlove said: 'I entered the scene with the remit of collecting any entomological evidence to find out

how long Declan's body had been in situ. Even when temperatures are cool, flies will lay eggs around the natural orifices in the hours of death. Flies live for weeks and most live on carrion.'

He said that Declan's death was 'at least in the months of autumn or before'. He added: 'It could have been earlier than September but I can't be sure.'

He explained that he was able to

'offer information on the minimum period of death' after collecting samples of a variety of flies and beetles from Hainey's house in Paisley, Renfrewshire.

These were taken from areas including the floor around Declan's cot, his mattress and the living room. He also took samples from Declan's body and his babygrow.

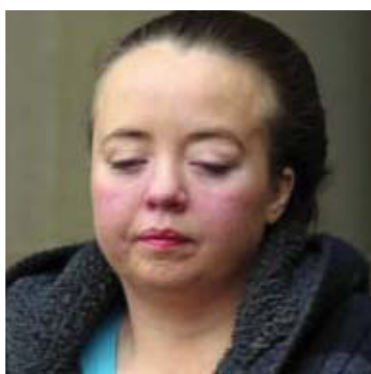
Dr Manlove said the flies present had gone through several life-cycles, leading him to conclude Declan's body had remained in his cot for 'at least four months, if not more'.

He said the toddler's body was at an 'advanced stage of decomposition'.

Earlier this week the inquiry heard how Hainey had been addicted to heroin while pregnant with her son and failed to attend several doctor's appointments and scans while expecting.

The inquiry continues.





Drug addict: Kimberley Hainey

