

Ms Justice Tara Burns said on Monday at the Special Criminal Court that Daniel O'Callaghan (32) took part in an "audacious" operation on behalf of a "well-oiled" criminal organisation that committed a series of ATM thefts and an attempted theft which was thwarted by gardaí in 2019.

She said O'Callaghan had control over an "eye-watering" sum of stolen money, some €700,000.

Gardaí recouped €429,930 from a premises at Tullypole, Moynalty, Co Meath, which prosecution counsel Anne-Marie Lawlor SC said is the subject of Criminal Assets Bureau proceedings.

O'Callaghan played a central role, the judge said, as a planner and active member of the gang. She said he contested the charges despite being caught "red-handed" at the scene of an attempted ATM theft in Virginia, Co Cavan.

Three of his accomplices were jailed last week for their roles in the ATM thefts.

Stephen Duffy (35), of Tullynahinera, Castleblayney, Co Monaghan, was sentenced to four years imprisonment for possessing stolen cash at The Yard in Tullypole. His brother Gerard Duffy (31), of Loughnamore, Co Monaghan, was jailed for seven years and nine months for the attempted theft of an ATM at the Riverfront Restaurant on Main Street, Virginia.

A third brother, Ciaran Duffy (28), of Loughnamore, Co Monaghan, was sentenced to seven years and nine months for the attempted ATM theft and participating in the movement in cash on behalf of a criminal organisation. All three had pleaded guilty.

Sixteen offences

O'Callaghan, of Monog Road, Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, who won three All-Ireland club medals playing for Crossmaglen Rangers, was convicted after a trial last month of 16 offences relating to the series of ATM thefts in Meath, Cavan and Monaghan in 2018 and 2019.