



An Garda Síochána

Monthly Report for July 2024 to the Policing Authority

In accordance with Section 41A of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 (as amended)

An Garda Síochána

Oifig an Choimisinéara
An Garda Síochána
Páirc an Fhionnuisce
Baile Átha Cliath 8
D08 HN3X



Luaigh an uimhir tharaghta seo a leanas le do thoil:
Please quote the following ref. number: **CMR_86-28711/24**



Office of the Commissioner
Garda Headquarters
Phoenix Park
Dublin 8
D08 HN3X

Láithreán Gréasáin/ Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomhpost/E-mail:
commissioner@garda.ie

Ms. Helen Hall
Chief Executive
The Policing Authority

RE: Commissioner's Monthly Report to the Policing Authority

Dear Helen,

I am pleased to provide the Commissioner's monthly report, outlining the key aspects of the administration and operation of An Garda Síochána for the month of July 2024, in accordance with Section 41A of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005, as amended.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Thelma Watters'.

**THELMA WATTERS
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

StH September 2024

Message from the Commissioner

This month saw unacceptable attacks take place on Gardaí; criminal damage and other offences of serious public disorder occur outside a premises on the Malahide Road and surrounding areas of Dublin 17. In what were very difficult circumstances, Gardaí acted courageously and professionally over the course of a prolonged period on Monday 15 July 2024 and again during other flash points later that week. Personnel were subjected to unacceptable levels of verbal and physical abuse, which escalated into rocks, fireworks and other objects being launched towards them.

I would like to commend and thank all Gardaí who worked diligently to keep people safe and bring offenders before the courts. By the end of July 2024 more than 30 arrests were made in relation to the disorder in Coolock.

In also emphasising my utter condemnation of the attacks and violence directed towards Gardaí dealing with these matters on scene, I also want to acknowledge that threats and disparaging comments were made against Gardaí on social media. Such actions are equally intolerable and will be subject to investigation and reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions, where appropriate.

Further to this activity, Gardaí right around the country were involved in a number of positive policing activities including three separate operations targeting organised criminal activity in Louth, the Southern and Eastern regions; and in Galway.

As well as these operations, this month also yielded significant drug seizures - most notably, the seizure of more than €9,500,000 worth of drugs, together with €1,000,000 in cash on 19 July 2024 as part of an operation in North County Dublin. Meanwhile earlier in the month over €6.8m of suspected cannabis was seized as part of a collaborative operation by GNDOCB and Revenue in Dublin on 5 July 2024.

Further progress was made this month in respect of the Garda Operating Model, with the DMR North Division becoming the fifteenth Garda Division to commence the four Functional Area structures (Business Services, Performance Assurance, Crime and Community Engagement) on 14 July 2024. Progress continues in the remaining six divisions in respect of the implementation of the Business Services Functional Area and Performance Assurance Functional Area.

Regrettably, July 2024 was another devastating month on our country's roads with a further 21 fatalities recorded this month, bringing the total road deaths to 114 by the end of July 2024. A number of road safety media briefings took place during the month urging motorists to drive safely, including a collaborative press briefing with Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman; the Road Safety Authority and Minister of State James Lawless, T.D. on 31 July 2024 in advance of the August Bank Holiday weekend.

Any fatality on our roads is one too many, and I want to extend my sympathies to all those tragically bereaved this month. We will continue our policing efforts aimed at promoting safer driver behaviour, and continue to urge motorists to reflect on their actions behind the wheel.

J A Harris
Commissioner

1. Finance

Estate Management July 2024

The following projects are currently on site and are the subject of active engagement between the OPW and An Garda Síochána;

Redevelopment of Portlaoise Garda Station:

Preliminary Business Case submitted to Department of Justice for final approval, which is awaited by An Garda Síochána.

Main Redevelopment: The external enabling works at Portlaoise Garda Station have been completed. Tenders for the project were published by the OPW on 21 December 2023. A letter of Intent was issued by the OPW to the preferred contractor on 8 July 2024. Reserved Specialist tenders were received by the OPW on 24 July 2024 and are being assessed.

Temporary Decant Sites for duration of Main Redevelopment: A number of temporary decant options have been agreed between An Garda Síochána and the OPW. Part IX planning application was lodged by the OPW on 11 July 2024 for the temporary Public/Immigration Offices. This is a 6 week process. The costs for fit-outs of Pavilions A and B, Grattan House were approved by An Garda Síochána. Dates confirmed by Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) for vacant possession of both buildings, which will allow works to commence on site.

Other projects at earlier stages of development, which continue to be progressed in conjunction with the OPW include the following:

Drogheda PEMS and Locker Room/Tallaght PEMS/Naas PEMS: Drogheda PEMS at Contract Award Stage. Tallaght and Naas to follow subsequent to the main works contract starting onsite in Drogheda.

Newcastle West Garda Station (New Station): The main tender assessment is completed by the consultant architect. Reserved Specialist tenders for mechanical and electrical (M&E) are issued and OPW are due to advise on final costs in the coming weeks.

Cell Refurbishment Programme: A large-scale refurbishment is ongoing at Abbeylax Garda Station to upgrade cells and custody area, including some minor works to the office accommodation. Tender preparations are ongoing by OPW for two additional cell projects at Wicklow and Thurles.

Development of New Garda Stations at Clonmel and Macroom: The OPW have issued the main tenders for both of these project in July 2024. The contract award is expected in early Q4 2024.

2. Human Resources and People Development

RDMS (Roster Duty Management System)

A85s (record of duty and claim form for overtime and other allowances) continue to be retired, recently in DMR Regional Office on 8 July 2024. Preparation is underway for retiring of A85s for Eastern Regional Office, Deputy Commissioner Strategy, Governance and Performance, Deputy Commissioner, Policing Operations from 5 August 2024. Operating Model go live due to be completed on RDMS for DMR North from 5 August 2024.

Workforce Planning

The next Clearing House Meeting with Department of Justice, Policing Authority and Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform is due to be held in September 2024.

Resourcing

There are currently 23 Garda Staff internal and open recruitment competitions in progress across the organisation. This is inclusive of Temporary Clerical Officer and Clerical Officer competitions. Offers for the 2022 Executive Officer competition are ongoing, while preparation is underway for a 2024 Executive Officer competition. The 2024 competition for Assistant Principal Officer is in progress. Psychometric testing is expected to commence in Q3 for the 2024 Higher Executive Officer competition. Interviews for the Principal Officer, ICT, competition were held on 24 July 2024, and a successful candidate has been identified.

Garda Appointments/Recruitment

1,181 trainees have commenced in the Garda College since the 2022 Trainee Competition closed. There were 157 new Garda Trainees whom commenced in July 2024.

There are currently 27 National, 4 Regional, 4 Overseas and 56 Divisional Member competitions underway.

Resource Allocation

Promotions in July 2024: Superintendent – 4

Garda Reserve Recruitment

An Garda Síochána Garda Reserve Recruitment Campaign launched on 5 June 2024 and closed on 4 July 2024.

Recruitment Strategy

The Strategic Recruitment team ensure the delivery of services via our recruitment partner for end-end recruitment services, Staffline. Staffline support An Garda Síochána in recruiting talent across multiple fields: including Finance and Services; Occupational Health and Wellbeing; Data and Technology; Human Resources and People Development; Strategy and Transformation; Legal; Communications; Administration; and, Management.

The following competitions have been advertised to date:

- Digital & ICT Manager (AP)
- AP Data Engineer
- Occupational Health Nurse Manager
- Occupational Health Nurse
- Technical Architect (AP)
- PO Corporate Service Function
- Audit Manager (AP)

Professional Accountant Grade 1
EO Communications
HEO Museum
HEO ICT Senior Specialist
Incident Creation Representative (CO)
AP HR & Finance
HEO Internal Auditor
Professional Accountant Grade 2

Garda College

During July 2024, the Garda College welcomed Inga Konning from the Duisberg Police Service and Lilian Patrikainen from the Dusseldorf Police Service, who attended the Garda College for one week under the International Police Association (IPA) Programme.



Ms. Alice Leahy, accompanied by Garda Alan O'Dowd, spoke to Trainees about the Alice Leahy Trust and their work with homeless people.

Garda College Social Media

Post reach – 526,000 (number of people who saw a specific post from the Garda College Facebook account in their Facebook feed). Engagement – 135,000 (number of people who engaged with the posts ie, likes, comments, shares and clicks on the Garda College post content). Net followers – 32,547 (includes 683 additional followers in the previous 28-day period). Second video views – 461,000 (number of times the Garda College videos were viewed, the 3 second view is a barometer for videos as it usually indicates how many videos were viewed through to the end). The Press Office also recently opened an Instagram Garda College account which currently has 3,779 followers, with several videos already amassing over 50,000 views each.

Gardaí at The Olympic Games 2024 in Paris

Garda Paul Clancy (pictured below) from the Garda National Health and Safety Policy Unit was one of the 42 Gardaí deployed to Paris for the duration of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.



(L-R) Garda Paul Clancy, Garda Anne Gabbett, Garda Elaine Kavanagh, Garda Martina Venneman

Human Resources and People Development Analytics/Data

On 31 July 2024, the Garda member strength stood at 14,064 (WTE 14,023) and the Garda staff strength stood at 3,601 (3,417.8 WTE). A full breakdown by rank, grade and gender is outlined below.

2.1 Garda Member Strength

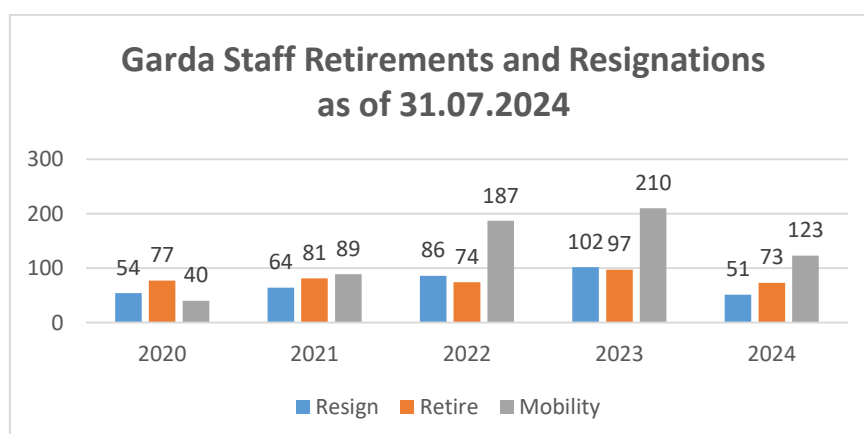
Rank	As at 31 July 2024	Male	%	Female	%	WTE
Commissioner	1	1	100			1
Deputy Commissioner	1			1	100	1
Assistant Commissioner	8	4	50	4	50	8
Chief Superintendent	47	37	78.7	10	21.3	47
Superintendent	166	138	83.1	28	16.9	166
Inspector	471	374	79.4	97	20.6	471
Sergeant	2,173	1,633	75.1	540	24.9	2,171
Garda	11,197	7,844	70.1	3,353	29.9	11,158
Total	14,064	10,031	71.3	4,033	28.7	14,023

Of which	As at 31 July 2024	Male	%	Female	%
Career Breaks (incl. ICB)	33	18	54.5	15	45
Work-sharing	41	1.5	3.7	39.5	96
Secondments (Overseas etc.)	54	36	67	18	33
Maternity Leave	45	0	0	45	100
Unpaid Maternity Leave	21	0	0	21	100
Paternity Leave	18	18	100	0	0
Available Strength	13,852	9,957.5	71.9	3,894.5	28.1

Garda Reserves Strength

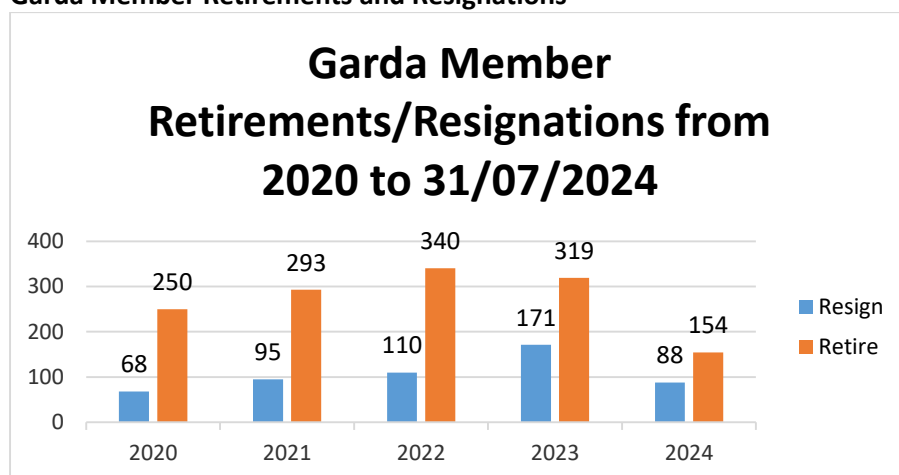
Garda Reserves Strength As at 31 July 2024	Total*	Male	%	Female	%
	323	250	77	73	23

Garda Staff Exits by Type



The table above which captures Garda Staff departures refers to Garda Staff who have transferred out on promotion and those who have transferred through Civil Service Mobility.

Garda Member Retirements and Resignations



* Retirement figures include those that retire on compulsory, voluntary retirements, Cost Neutral Early Retirement (CNER).

Applications to Extend Service

Between 2021 and 2024 (year to date), 195 applications were made pursuant to provisions of An Garda Síochána (Retirement) (No.2) Regulations 1951, (S.I No. 335/1951), to extend service to An Garda Síochána, broken down as follows:

Applications to Extend Service				
Year	Total Applications	Approved	Declined	Withdrawn
2021	29	13	16	0
2022	25	18	4	3
2023	62	55	6	1
2024	84 (20 pending - HRPD)	51	9	4

Extension of Compulsory Retirements in 2020 Due to the Outbreak of COVID-19

- 47 applications
- 42 approved
- 5 declined

Garda Staff transfers out of An Garda Síochána (up to 31/07/2024)

Record includes figures up to 31/07/2024. Figures pertaining to Year to Date transfer out via Promotion, Civil Service Mobility and Open Competition (equivalent grade transfer). Please note that CO mobility outbound was paused for a six-month period between from 06/01/2023 to 06/07/2023.

Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Mobility	42	115	131	72
Promotion	47	66	65	33
Open Comp.	0	6	14	18
Totals	89	187	210	123

Grade	2022	2023	2024*
CO	115	129	74
EO	59	51	21
HEO	6	11	15
AO	2	6	3
AP	4	11	8
PO	1	2	2
Totals	187	210	123

Persons suspended from An Garda Síochána

Suspensions					
Year	New Suspensions	Lifted	Ended (Resignation /Retirement)	Dismissal	Total (Lifted/ Ended/ Dismissal)
2019	26	4	5	10	19
2020	41	6	9	0	15
2021	44	13	8	1	22
2022	44	11	7	1	19
2023	27	19	13	0	32
2024	7	17	8	0	25

CURRENT SUSPENSIONS & CORE ISSUES INVESTIGATED BY AGS & GSOC	
Suspension (Ended / Ongoing)	Ongoing
Main Reason	Total
Theft / Forgery / Fraud / Dishonesty	15
Sexual Assault / Sexual Misconduct	12
Driving under Influence of Intoxicant	12
Disclosure of Information / Data Protection / Abuse of PULSE	9
Fixed Charge Notice (FCN) Interference	9
Domestic Violence / Coercive Control	8
Corruption / Criminal Association	8
Assault / Assault Causing Harm	7
Drugs / Drug Related	5
Other	6
Grand Total	91

2.3 Garda Staff Strengths (Administrative and Civil Service and Chief Medical Officer)

Grade	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
CCO	1	1.0	0	0	1	100	0	0
Executive Director	3	3.0	1	33.3	2	66.7	0	0
Chief Medical Officer	1	1	1	100	0	0	0	0
CIO	1	1	1	100	0	0	0	0
Director	3	3	1	33.3	2	66.7	0	0
PO	27	27	14	51.9	13	48.1	0	0
AP	92	92	40	43.5	52	56.5	0	0
HEO	195	194.4	72	36.9	123	63.1	0	0
AO	16	16	9	56.3	7	43.8	0	0
EO	877	866.3	277	31.6	600	68.4	0	0
CO	2,021	1,957	539	26.7	1,482	73.3	0	0
Total	3,237	3,161.7	955	29.5	2,282	70.5	0	0
	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
Professional/Technical (including Chief Medical Officer)	59	58.6	33	55.9	26	44.1	0	0
Administrative **	3,236	3,160.7	954	29.5	2,282	70.5	0	0
Industrial/Non Industrial	306	198.5	97	31.7	209	68.3	0	0
Total	3,601	3,417.8	1,084	30.1	2,517	69.9	0	0
Of which	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
Maternity Leave	16	16	0	0	16	100	0	0
Unpaid Maternity Leave	8	8	0	0	8	100	0	0
Paternity Leave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secondment/Exchange	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Available Total	3,577	3,393.8	1,084	30.3	2,493	69.7	0	0

* Whole time equivalent – Garda Staff work on a number of different work-sharing patterns.

** Civil Service grades and other administrative posts.

Work Sharing ***	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
	290	78.7	10	3	280	97	0	0

*** Work-sharing figure excludes industrial/non-industrial staff. Many posts are part-time. *Rounding applied to WTE.

Career Breaks****	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
	23	23	6	26	17	74	0	0

**** Staff on career breaks are not included in total numbers above.

Parental Leave

01.07.2024–31.07.2024	Garda Members	Garda Staff
	184	89

Garda Staff assigned and commenced – as at 31 July 2024.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	Total number of vacancies filled since 01/01/2024*	84	50	74	59	56	93	83					

*Adjustments to figures previously reported above may occur when promotions are notified at a later date. These include: backfills, new, reassignments, fractional reassignments.

Employee Assistance Service (EAS)

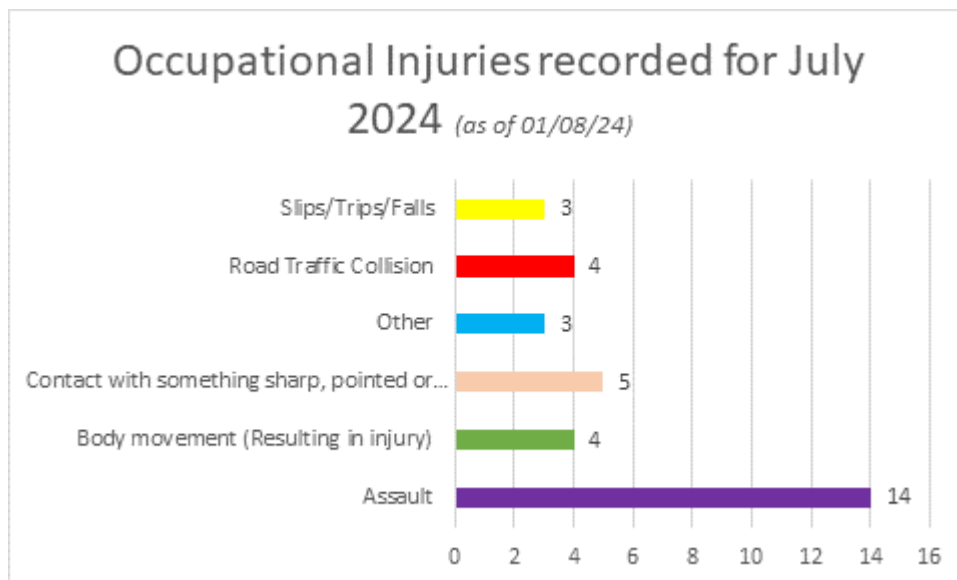
During the month of July 2024, the Employee Assistance Service carried out various activities nationally in support of colleagues. This included Wellness Days/Walks, Welfare Presentations, Meetings, UN Redeployment Training Course, Retired Members presentation, Peer Support, Probationers Presentation, Mental Health First Aid Training, Psychological Support Programme (PSP) Group Information Sessions and station visits.

Additionally, the EAS held a number of debriefs/welfare sessions with colleagues following tragic incidents which took place nationally. During the month of July 2024, 570 Garda personnel accessed the INSPIRE Wellbeing Service, which supports colleagues through challenging times in either their professional or personal lives.

- 138 personnel attended Psychological Supervision
- 119 personnel attended Trauma Counselling
- 313 personnel attended Standard Counselling

Health and Safety

33 Occupational Injuries were recorded for July 2024 (as of 01/08/24)



The number of National Incident Management System (NIMS) incidents created in July 2024 is 121. Fire Warden Training was carried out by the Health and Safety Unit in July 2024. 12 personnel were trained as Fire Wardens in the Cork Division.

3. Information and Communications Technology

As per Policing Plan target E5.1, ICT continues to deliver the key projects in the 2024 roadmap in line and in support of An Garda Síochána strategic goals and our Data and Technology Vision of 'Information-Led Policing'. ICT also continue to support the operational needs of the organisation in the office, on the frontline and working remotely by enabling An Garda Síochána personnel access Garda information systems in a secure manner where needed, particularly in the use of digital collaboration tools for desktop and mobile.

Human Resource Information System (HRIS)

The project from an ICT perspective involves the procurement of a Human Capital Management (HCM) system. This in turn is part of a wider modernisation of HR business processes as part of the HR Information System (HRIS). Consultation with the wider Garda Organisation and relevant stakeholders is ongoing. There have been 49 workshops held to date as part of the requirements gathering phase and preparation of an RFT document will commence at the end of September 2024.

GardaSAFE – The new Garda Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System:

GardaSAFE is now live across the entire organisation and based on feedback, a new 'Police Unit History Report' has been added to the functionality of the system. This is an auditable report. This new feature enables personnel to access the historical data of any unit within GardaSAFE. Detailed instructions for using the report, along with a brief demo and sample report, are available on the An Garda Síochána internal intranet system. Longer term planning remains high especially around the areas of reports / dashboards, Community Policing, web client and Incident Response App. The deployed system remains in a stabilisation period with continued support from ICT and the external supplier.

Body Worn Cameras (BWC) & Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS):

The (3 station) DMR phase has progressed well with positive feedback from Garda members and good examples of BWCs positively affecting policing outcomes. Implementation on future phases is ahead of schedule and will result in a launch in Limerick (one station) in early August 2024 and followed by Waterford (one station) in early September 2024.

The ability of An Garda Síochána to securely acquire and process digital evidence is a key feature of modern policing. The implementation of the Proof Of Concept (POC) for BWCs and the supporting Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) is an important milestone for An Garda Síochána towards the implementation of Information-Led Policing. The POC enables us to quickly deploy this new technology now, and ensure the experience and feedback will inform the approach to the design of the national system. By conducting this limited POC is to learn and adapt as required the approach for An Garda Síochána. The POC system was not designed to scale beyond the five stations in scope. The POC will be replaced in time by a full national DEMS and will require underpinning legislation to process BWC, citizen uploaded footage and CCTV and other forms of video evidence at the scale required. The legislation is currently being progressed by the Department of Justice. Once enacted, procurement of the national DEMS and BWC solution will commence, followed by a phased implementation.

Investigation Management System (IMS) Deployment

A number of planned changes to IMS were deployed on 3 July 2024. This release includes, summary offences and indictable offences not requiring a direction from the DPP, will now create only one mandatory IMS job. This change offers significant efficiencies in the management of such offences, while still maintaining high standards of investigation. A review of the changes will be conducted after three months. Another milestone in the national roll-out of IMS was achieved this month, July 2024, when Laois/Offaly Division went live on 31 July 2024.

4. Corporate Communications

Throughout the month of July 2024, the Office of Corporate Communications continued to communicate internally and externally on a broad range of policing activities undertaken by An Garda Síochána.

July 2024 saw unacceptable attacks on Gardaí, criminal damage and offences of serious public disorder outside a premises on the Malahide Road and surrounding areas of Dublin 17. The Office of Corporate Communication developed and implemented an external communications strategy based on this evolving situation.

Internally the office was also involved in communicating senior leadership messages from the Garda Commissioner to personnel highlighting the brave and commendable work carried out by teams on the ground to bring the situation under control in the face of deplorable verbal and physical abuse. These communications also directed personnel to available welfare support services, should they be required.

Media briefings were conducted by Garda Press Officer Superintendent Liam Geraghty on 3 July 2024 in Castlepollard following three separate fatal road traffic collisions which took place in a 24-hour period in Mullingar, Swinford, and Castlepollard; and again on 29 July 2024 at Garda Headquarters in respect of four separate fatal road traffic collisions which occurred on 27 and 28 July 2024. The Office of Corporate Communications also supported a press briefing with Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman together with the Road Safety Authority and Minister of State James Lawless on 31 July 2024; promotion of the Garda Reserve Recruitment Campaign.

Ongoing promotional activity included communications of operational activity such as the good work carried out by members in the Dublin Metropolitan Region who conducted a planned, intelligence-led search of a premises in North County Dublin yielding a seizure of more than €9,500,000 worth of drugs, together with €1,000,000 in cash on 19 July 2024. Furthermore, cars, designer branded items and other quantities of cash were seized by Gardaí during follow-on searches in Dublin on 20 July 2024.

Media Briefing and Associated Communications: Serious Public Disorder Malahide Road, Dublin 17, 15 July 2024



Since earlier today, Gardaí have been responding to serious public order incidents outside a premises on the Malahide Road as well as surrounding areas of Dublin 17.

Over 200 members of An Garda Síochána were deployed to the scene including frontline uniformed Gardaí, supported by a number of Public Order Units and the Garda Air Support Unit. Gardaí remain at the scene tonight.


Throughout today, they have been subject to both verbal and physical abuse - and have had rocks, fireworks and other objects thrown at them. A number of fires were lit and official Garda vehicles seriously damaged.

As the situation intensified, members of An Garda Síochána used force to defend themselves as part of an escalated response to the situation. The use of force included the use of incapacitant spray and deployment of Gardaí in public order helmets and shields.

An Garda Síochána is unaware of any injuries at this time.

15 people have now appeared before a special sitting of the Criminal Courts of Justice in Dublin tonight.

www.garda.ie
In an emergency call 999 / 112

 An Garda Síochána
Ag Coimeád Daoine Sábháilte - Keeping People Safe

Commissioner Harris media doorstep in Phoenix Park, Monday 15 July, 2024

Following serious public disorder outside a premises on the Malahide Road and surrounding areas of Dublin 17 the Office of Corporate Communication worked to develop and implement a communications strategy based on this evolving situation. Mitigating against the unrest, Commissioner Harris conducted a piece to camera on the evening of Monday July 15 2024 in Phoenix Park, while media queries dealt with and press releases providing updates were issued to media throughout the week. These highlighted arrests made, together with the graduated policing actions being taken and were aimed at providing reassurance to the public and preventing further escalation of criminal activities.

Launch of An Garda Síochána Missing Person's Page 1 July 2024



On 1 July 2024 the Office of Corporate Communications launched its latest Facebook Page, An Garda Síochána Missing Persons. The page provides a dedicated social media platform for publishing appeals of persons reported missing to An Garda Síochána. The page has already garnered significant traction in its first month, with more than 5,000 followers gained; and approximately 1.64million impressions in respect of the 61 posts issued on the channel for the month of July 2024.

Update on the Garda Podcast



On 25 June 2024, The Garda Podcast launched on all major podcast platforms including Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Amazon Music. Six Garda Podcast episodes have been released up to 29 July 2024. The podcast has consistently featured in the top Irish podcast charts since its launch. The average listening consumption per episode stands at 84%. With an average episode of 30 minutes, this figure is very strong against industry standards. And in respect of the number of hours spent listening to all episodes, this figure stands at 8,400 hours.

Garda Reserve Campaign - Closed to Applications on 4 July 2024



Promotional content for the Garda Reserve Recruitment Campaign featuring Garda Reserves Ravinder Singh Oberoi and Sabrina Murphy.

The Garda Reserve Recruitment Campaign closed to applicants on 4 July 2024. In the run up to this deadline, this office continued to share and promote campaign materials across our various social media channels. This included testimonial videos from serving Garda Reserves and sharing of advertising materials linking to the application form and process.

Garda Press Office Activity

The Garda Press Office operates 7am-11pm seven days a week responding to hundreds of queries, co-ordinating external communications and media relations, and regularly updating our social media platforms. Further to those already outlined this month's activity included:

The issuing of 225 of press releases – 107 missing person appeals relating to 49 missing persons; 27 in respect of witness appeals; together with those related to successful operations undertaken by the organisation. These included drug and cash seizures such as €8m in drugs and €1m in cash seized at The Ward, Dublin 11 on 19 July 2024; over €6.8m in suspected cannabis seized in a joint Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau (GNDOCB) and Revenue Operation in Dublin on 5 July 2024; €3m

in suspected cocaine seized in Clondalkin, Dublin on 9 July 2024; and the seizure of €1.6m in suspected cannabis herb at Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 on 4 July 2024.







Social Media Activities

The Office of Corporate Communications oversees five official social media channels for An Garda Síochána: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn and X (Formerly Twitter). These channels are used to promote activity within the organisation, highlighting the good work that is being done nationwide.

They are also used to provide key communications to the public on behalf of An Garda Síochána. These communications may include public information regarding traffic disruption, public appeals for information, alerts i.e. CRI alerts, and campaigns.

The Office of Corporate Communications measure the success of these communications by capturing:

1. The number of followers / individual users who have subscribed to each account.
2. The rate of engagement with the account. A high percentage indicates we are producing compelling posts that resonate with our audience. Typically, a good engagement rate is in the region of 1-5%.
3. The number of engagements with the content / posts we produce.

Social Media Channel	Followers	Engagement Rate
 Facebook - @AnGardaSíochána	404,619	1.38%
 Instagram - @GardaInsta	195,829	3.48%
 X- @GardaInfo	291,678	4.7%
 X - @GardaTraffic	621,455	5.3%
 LinkedIn – An Garda Síochána	53,843	22.4%
 TikTok – @GardaInfo	35,290	43.6%

Internal Communications

In July 2024, An Garda Síochána's internal communications team delivered nine comprehensive Newsbeat updates and one leadership update regarding the Serious Public Order Incident in Coolock.

The average Newsbeat open rate is 62%, which is higher than the industry standard open rate 57.6% for internal newsletters and the 49.5% average within Government and Public Service organisations.

Key highlights from regular Newsbeat updates include:

- An update on Body Worn Cameras
- Graduation of nine more Garda personnel as accredited Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training Facilitators.
- Awareness on the rise in COVID-19 cases
- Updates on the Garda Podcast and newly released episodes
- Well wishes and updates for the 56 colleagues deployed to France for the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in July, August and September.



NEWSBEAT

23 July 2024

Serving Irish speaking communities

We are dedicated to improving our services for the Irish-speaking community and welcome correspondence from the public in both Irish and English.

Under the Official Languages Act 2021, public bodies are required to respond in the in the same language used in the written communication (English or Irish).

For more detailed information, please refer to the [Official Languages Act 2003](#), [An Comisínéir Teanga 2023 report](#) and [HQ Directive 064/2010](#).

If you require translation services, our external translation company, Translit, is available to assist. [HQ Directive 049/2023](#) provides further information. For questions regarding the implementation of the Official Languages Act, please contact ATO@Garda.ie

The Official Languages Act 2003

Garda Portal

The Garda Portal and digital signage received ongoing content updates, and these digital displays, including screensavers and portal banners, were visible on desktops across the organisation. Notable updates provided to personnel during this period included:

- Update on the end of this season's Crimecall
- Information on the list of offence codes now available for E-scooter
- Details on how to request Operation NEXUS vehicle
- Awareness for the new Garda Podcast



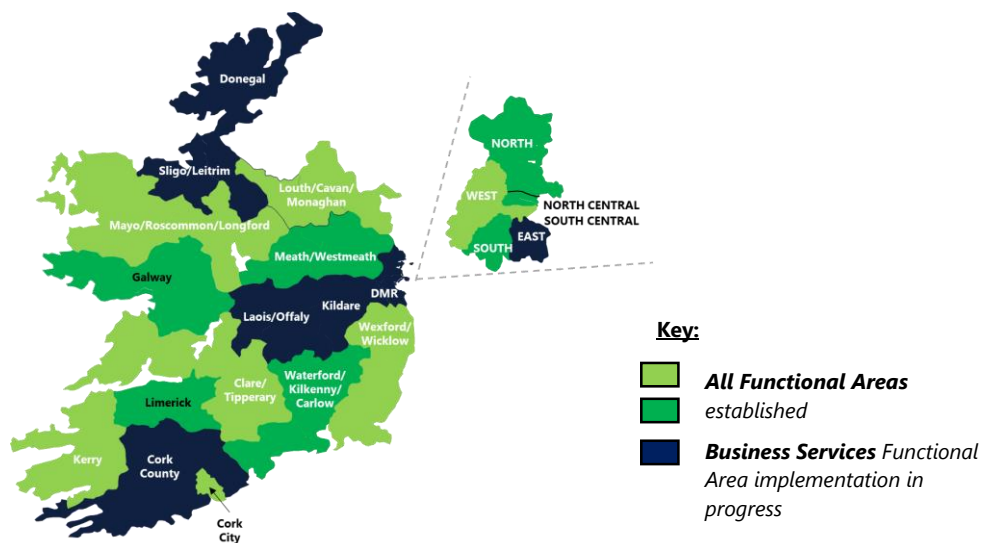
5. Operating Model

The DMR North Division, on 14 July 2024, became the fifteenth Division to commence the four Functional Area structures (Business Services, Performance Assurance, Crime and Community Engagement).

The Operating Model Central Implementation Team continues to engage with these 15 Divisions following implementation to provide support to the respective Divisional Management Teams in managing the transitional and post-implementation phases.

Progress continues with Business Services Functional Area and Performance Assurance Functional Area implementation across the remaining 6 Divisions.

Implementation Overview 31 July 2024



Current emerging issues

Across all Divisions, resourcing continues to have an impact on the implementation of the Functional Areas with continued engagement with relevant stakeholders. Work is also ongoing with OPW colleagues to resolve accommodation dependencies to support the Operating Model deployment to all Divisions by year end.

6. Implementation of Cultural Change

Culture Reform Programme

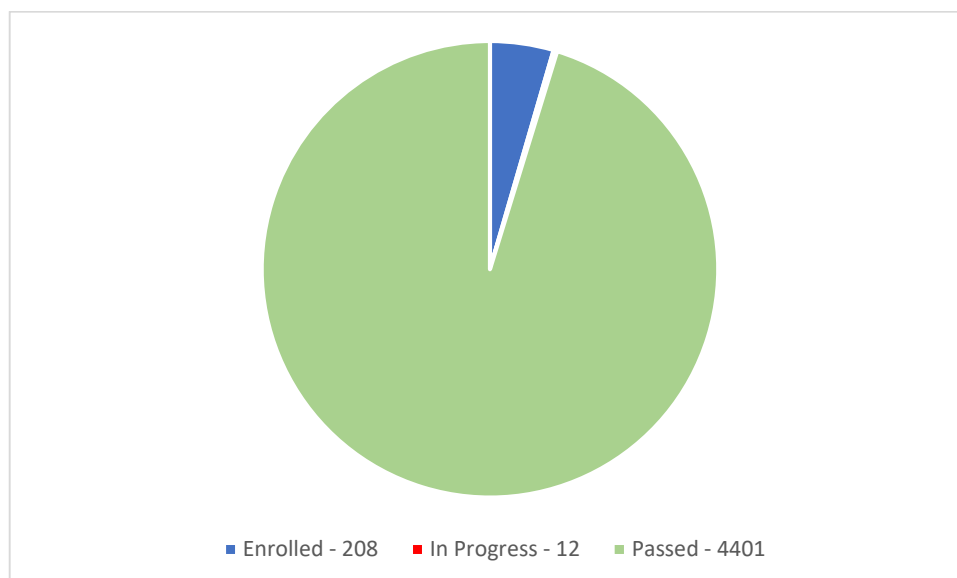
Superintendent Garda Ethics and Culture Bureau (GECB) met with the Head of Internal Communications on Monday 29 July 2024 to progress a Communications Strategy for the Culture Audit Implementation Plan.

Internal Communications will issue an Implementation Plan piece on Newsbeat. This will focus on the Implementation Plan and outline the themes, measures and initiatives identified following the 2022 Culture Audit. It will provide a broad overview of measures taken by the whole organisation to make cultural and ethical improvements. Following this, Internal Communications will include “deep dive” articles in further Newsbeat publications focussing on specific measures related to the Implementation Plan and progression made as a result of the Implementation Plan. These articles will run in Newsbeat from now until the 2025 Culture Audit later in 2024. All information in relation to the progress of the Implementation Plan will also be published on the Garda Ethics and Culture Bureau Portal Page. A link to the page will be published with the Newsbeat Articles.

Approval has been granted by Deputy Commissioner, Strategy, Governance and Performance for the initiation of a Culture Audit of An Garda Síochána in 2025. Funding has been sanctioned and approval granted for a direct award contract to engage the University of Durham to conduct the Culture Audit 2025 on behalf of An Garda Síochána. A draft Collaboration Agreement has been prepared by the Garda Ethics and Culture Bureau and was forwarded to the University of Durham on 4 July 2024.

Enhancing Professional Conduct

The Garda Ethics and Culture Bureau (GECB) have reviewed the online Garda Code of Ethics ‘Refresher’ Course which is available to all Garda Personnel online via the Garda Education and Training System (GETS). On 1 July 2024 the Director of Training and Continuous Professional Development provided GECB with the following statistics. 4,401 personnel had completed the online course, 208 personnel had enrolled in the course and 12 personnel were in the progress of completing the course in Q1 and Q2 2024.



7. Risk Management

An Garda Síochána Corporate Risk Register captures 10 principal risks currently facing the organisation. An Garda Síochána corporate risks are being managed effectively by their assigned corporate risk owners, overseen by the Chief Risk Officer, Risk and Policy Committee, and supported by the Garda Risk Management Unit (GRMU).

During the month of July 2024, the Garda Risk Management Unit (GRMU):

- Held one-to-one meetings with all corporate risk owners/support staff, to assist in the review and update of their risk registers.
- Issued a 'Risk Champion Network' bulletin.
- Superintendent GRMU attended an Executive Review of the Corporate Risk Register.
- Reviewed the Local Risk Registers with the Organised Serious Crime Region.
- Conducted a Risk Register development workshop with the Eastern Region.

8. Data Quality and Operational Value of Data

Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) Update

An Garda Síochána signed a revised MOU with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in Q2 2024 following the lifting of the reservation on the Quality of Recorded Crime Statistics in October 2023. This includes a transfer of responsibility for measuring and reporting on crime data quality from the CSO to An Garda Síochána.

In July 2024, An Garda Síochána published the first such Review of the Quality of PULSE Crime Data for Q2 2023, available at the following link: [AGS Review of the Quality of PULSE Crime Data for Q2 2023 \(garda.ie\)](#). This review was carried out by the Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) with the support of the Garda Síochána Analysis Service (GSAS), and it examines key aspects of data quality, including, *inter alia*, the timeliness of the recording of crime incident records on PULSE, adherence to crime counting rules and the recording of victims in PULSE incidents.

Among the positive findings of the review were:

- 99% of sampled non-crime PULSE incidents that were examined were deemed to have been correctly classified as non-crime incidents.
- 100% of sampled PULSE cases were found to comply with the crime counting rules.
- In the review of the extent to which an injured party had been recorded in incidents, it was found that an injured party was associated with 100% of sampled homicide offences, 99% of sampled physical and sexual assault offences, 99% of sampled Robbery from the Person incidents, and 99% of sampled Theft from Person incidents.

Seven new Call Taker commenced training at GISC in July 2024.

The July 2024 data quality metrics are available at the link below.

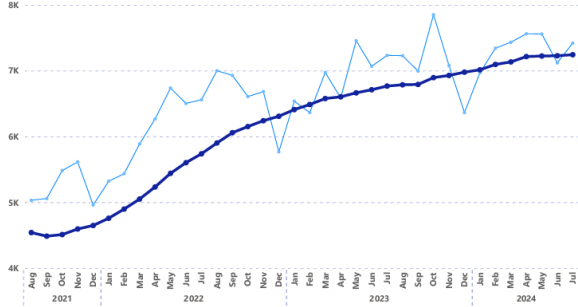
Link: [Microsoft Word - AGS Crime Incident Data Quality Metrics 31 July 2024 \(garda.ie\)](#)

Crime Trends

GSAS closely monitors crime trends and disseminates analysis on a regional and divisional basis. This feeds directly into planning operational activities aimed at reducing and preventing crime. Crime incident figures and the associated trends are based on provisional data and are subject to change following review. The CSO publications represent the official crime statistics. These are carried in the CSO's quarterly publications of crime trends and in their annual reports.

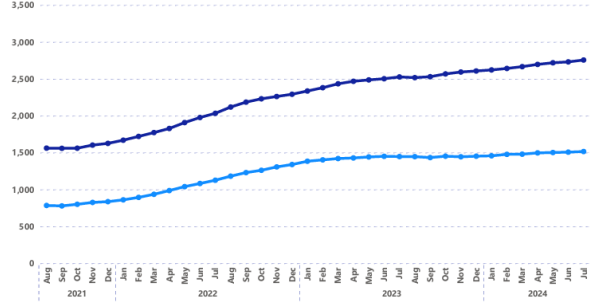
Total Property Crime

Reported Incidents 12m Avg



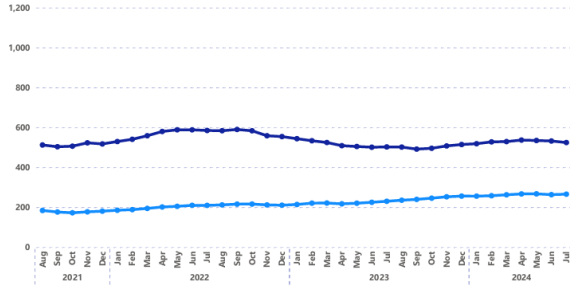
High Volume Theft Offences (12 Month Avg)

Theft (Other) Theft from Shop



Burglary (12 Month Avg)

Non-Residential Residential



	%(+/-) vs Prev 12M	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
Property Crime (Burglary)	+7.8% ↗	-30.5% ↓
Non-Residential	+15.4% ↗	-13.6% ↓
Residential	+4.4% →	-36.7% ↓
Property Crime (Other)	+2.0% →	+20.3% ↑
Property Crime (Theft Offences)	+7.2% ↗	+26.6% ↑
Property Crime (UT/Interference - Vehicle)	+6.3% ↗	+90.1% ↑
Total	+7.0% ↗	+19.3% ↗

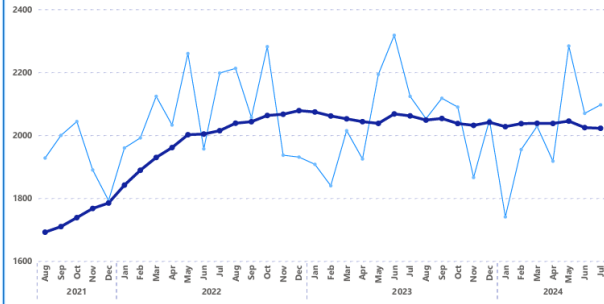
ICCS Classification Grouping

Property Crime (Burglary)	Property Crime (Other)
071 - Burglary	061 - Robbery
Property Crime (Theft Offences)	062 - Extortion Offences
082 - Theft (not vehicle)	Property Crime (UT/Interference - Vehicle)
	081 - Theft/Taking of Vehicle and Related Offences

Jul 2024

Total Crimes Against the Person

Reported Incidents 12m Avg



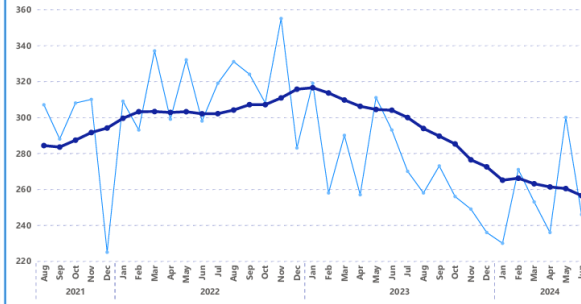
	%(+/-) vs Prev 12m	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
Crimes Against the Person (Assault)	-1.3% →	+15.8% ↗
Non-Residential	-0.8% →	+23.4% ↑
Residential	-2.4% →	+2.7% →
Crimes Against the Person (Other)	-4.5% →	+2.1% →
Total	-1.9% →	+13.1% ↗

ICCS Classification Grouping

Crimes Against the Person (Assault)	Crimes Against the Person (Other)
032 - Assaults	011 - Murder/Manslaughter/Infanticide
	031 - Attempts/Threats to Murder
	033 - Harassment and Related Offences
	042 - Other Dangerous or Negligent Acts
	051 - False Imprisonment, Abduction
	063 - Hijacking Offences

Sexual Offences & Child Pornography

Reported Incidents 12m Avg



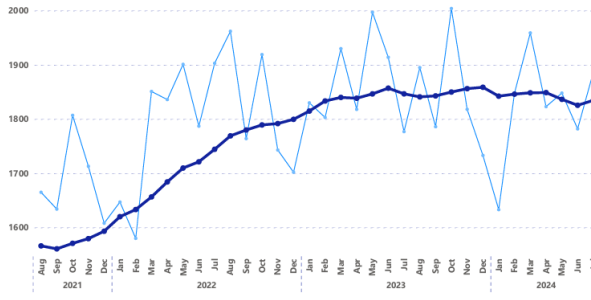
	%(+/-) vs Prev 12m	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
Sexual Offences (Child Pornography Offences)	-51.4% ↓	-45.7% ↓
Sexual Offences (Rape/Sexual Assault)	-8.7% ↓	+8.8% ↗
Total	-13.8% ↓	+1.9% →

ICCS Classification Grouping

Sexual Offences (Child Pornography Offences)	Sexual Offences (Rape/Sexual Assault)
0222 - Child pornography offences	021 - Rape and Sexual Assault
0223 - Child pornography - obstruction of warrant	022 - Other Sexual Offences (excl. Child Pornography)

Criminal Damage

● Reported Incidents ● 12m Avg



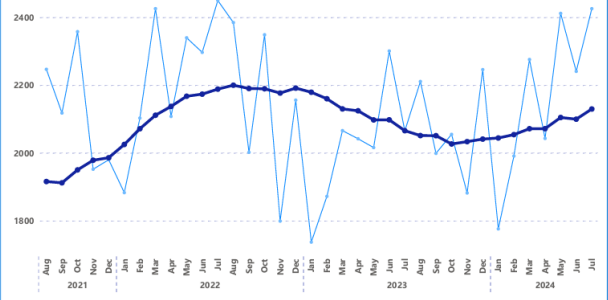
	%(+/-) vs Prev 12m	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
Criminal Damage	-0.6% →	+9.2% ↗
Non-Residential	-2.3% →	+5.4% ↗
Residential	+1.6% →	+14.7% ↗
Total	-0.6% →	+9.2% ↗

ICCS Classification Grouping

Criminal Damage
 1211 - Arson
 1212 - Criminal damage (not arson)

Total Public Order

● Reported Incidents ● 12m Avg



	%(+/-) vs Prev 12m	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
Public Order (Drunkness)	+0.8% →	+6.9% ↗
Public Order (Public Order Offences)	+4.5% →	-5.9% ↘
Total	+3.7% →	-1.5% →

ICCS Classification Grouping

Public Order (Drunkness)
 1313 - Drunkenness offences
Public Order (Public Order Offences)
 1312 - Public order offences

Garda National Vetting Bureau (GNVB) Update

Vetting

There were 356,710 Garda Vetting Applications received to end of July 2024, which is a 4.7 % year on year increase on vetting applications received. Garda Standard Vetting average turnaround times continue at their long-term figure of 5 working days once an application is received.

Compliance

1,745 Role Relevancy Checks were carried out by our Compliance Team in July 2024 leading to 9 vetting applications being rejected as they did not meet the criteria of Relevant Work or Activities as set out in Schedule 1 of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016. The GNVB carried out 8 Compliance Inspections in Relevant Organisations in the month of July 2024.

European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

69 requests from operational Garda Members for criminal record information in respect of nationals of EU member states and the UK who are being investigated/prosecuted by An Garda Síochána were processed by the ECRIS section of the GNVB in July 2024. This criminal record information is significant in the successful investigation/prosecution of individuals here and also allows courts to make more informed sentencing decisions.

Use of Force July 2024

Category	July 2024
Total UOF for Month	1,052
Civilians Injured	16
Garda Members Injured	16
Pepper Spray Deployed	127
Batons	16
Handcuffs	966
Anti-spit guard	0
Unarmed Restraint	213
Taser	5
Less Lethal Firearm	3
Firearm	0
Gender Subject to Force - Male	844
Gender Subject to Force - Female	120
Drugs Involved	305
Alcohol Involved	624
Division with highest level UOF - DMR South Central	192
Percentage of UOF Deployments occurring Friday, Saturday & Sunday	43%

* NC Percentage figure of 0 is not calculable

9. Policing Challenges

Demonstrations

An Garda Síochána continue to provide a policing response, including traffic management, to a great number of protests nationally. This type of incident can be resource-intensive due to potentially large numbers of people involved. The Israel/Palestine conflict, and Anti-Immigration/Housing of Refugees, continue to be the main causes for protests/demonstrations.

An Garda Síochána are attending fortnightly meetings with IPAS and the Department of Justice regarding the provision of new locations to accommodate international protection applicants. In addition, local Gardaí continue to liaise with communities and the relevant stakeholders in respect of any proposed developments.

An Garda Síochána also continues to assist multi agency operations with the removal of tents and the transportation of international protection applicants to relevant IPAS centres. It is anticipated these operations will continue to take place with a continuous draw on Garda resources.

Demonstration (Non Crime) July 2024

Region	July-24
Dublin Region	54
Southern Region	14
Eastern Region	19
North Western Region	5
Grand Total	92

Roads Policing

An Garda Síochána continues to respond to road safety challenges. In July 2024, 20 people died in fatal collisions. There were 84 serious injury collisions reported in July 2024. There were 8 motorcyclist fatalities (including one pillion passenger) in the past three months, which is indicative of approximately 55% of motorcyclist fatalities and serious injuries which occur between the months of May and September 2024.

An Garda Síochána continues to implement the 30 minute roads policing initiative which was introduced in April 2024 to increase visibility on our roads. In July 2024, there were 4,154 MIT checkpoints conducted. There was an average of 20 arrests per day nationally for intoxicated driving (drugs and alcohol) and there were over 2,600 vehicles seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act in July 2024.

	July 2024
Mobile Phone FCNs	1,797
SEAT BELT FCNs	479
Intercept Speed FCNs	3,122
Non-Intercept Speed FCNs	8,427
Total Speed FCNs	11,549

Drink-Driving	370
Drug-Driving	261

	July 2024
Section 41 Detentions	
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)	2,663
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no ins.	1,453
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax	948
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT	425
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers	515

	June 2024
MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests	
MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed	13,673
MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed	490

**It is important to note that vehicles may be detained under S.41 of the Road Traffic Act for more than one reason.*

Information contained in this section is based upon operational data from the Pulse and FCPS systems as was available on 02/08/2024 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.

Slow Manoeuvring Motorbike Event

On 30 June 2024, the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) in Limerick and colleagues from Clare/Tipperary RPU, conducted a hugely successful slow manoeuvring motorbike event at Open Road Motorcycles, Dock Road, Limerick, where more than 200 motorcyclists had the chance to test and enhance their skills of slow manoeuvring, guided by advanced Garda motorcyclists. This free event was well subscribed. Along with the RPUs, the local Community Policing Units took the opportunity to engage with motorcyclists on road safety and the potential dangers when out on a motorcycle. The event gained much traction on local social media channels.

Cross-Border Drug Driving Operation

On 19 July 2024, Gardaí in the North Western Region, in liaison with the PSNI, conducting a Cross-Border Drug Driving Operation, in preparation for the introduction of Drug Wipe roadside tests by the PSNI on 1 August 2024. Four Constables from Northern Ireland's police service were afforded the opportunity to observe Gardaí perform Oral Fluid Roadside tests in a live environment. Two arrests were effected as a result of the operations.

Mobile Phone/Distracted Driving National Day of Action

On 19 July 2024, a national day of action took place, focusing on the offence of holding a mobile phone while driving. This national day of action called on all operational members to proactively engage with motorists regarding this offence type and social media was used to highlight the enforcement activity around the country. There was 174 Fixed Charged Notices issued for the offence of 'Holding a Mobile Phone While Driving' on the day, which is an increase of 190% on the daily average for this offence type.

10. Immigration Policing

Undocumented arrivals at Dublin Airport (Section 11 & 12 Immigration Act 2004)

An ongoing operation at Dublin Airport continues to target persons arriving illegally in the State, with false travel documents or no travel document, (having disposed of same on the aircraft or in the terminal prior to presenting at Immigration Control). This operation focuses on arresting persons arriving in the State illegally (Section 11 & 12 Immigration Act 2004) and taking them before the courts on foot of the summary offences. Since the commencement of the operation, GNIB have arrested and charged 118 non-nationals, as outlined in the below table.

Convicted & Sentenced	91
Facts heard and case Struck Out/Dismissed	17
Remanded in Custody	3
Bench Warrant issued	4
Convicted & Fine	3

Operation Fern Day of Action

Operation Fern is an ongoing operation targeting persons who are illegally residing in the State and are the subject of Deportation Orders. A Deportation Order is an order from the Minister for Justice to leave the State. On 4 July 2024, members of the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB), assisted by uniformed Garda and Public Order resources from within the DMR, executed an operation at Citywest International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) Centre. Six non-nationals were arrested on foot of deportation orders. All six non-nationals were detained in custody at a place of detention pending their removal from the State. The Public Order Unit was on standby at Citywest throughout the operation, but it was not necessary to call on their assistance. The operation was executed without incident or any disruption to other occupants.

Commission of the Future of Policing in Ireland (CoFPI)

In line with the CoFPI recommendations regarding the transfer of the immigration registration and border control functions from An Garda Síochána to Immigration Service Delivery (ISD), the registration function in Kildare, Meath and Wicklow was transferred to ISD on 8 April 2024. This transition resulted in a total of 7 Garda Immigration Officers, across the three counties being redeployed on essential immigration enforcement function, including the execution of deportation orders, people smuggling investigations and inspections of work premises for immigration and exploitation offences.

As of 8 July 2024, the first time registration of Irish residence permissions for applicants residing in counties Cork and Limerick will now be carried out by Immigration Service Delivery (ISD), Department of Justice at the ISD Registration Office, 13-14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2, with renewal application submitted online by the applicant and processed by ISD. This transfer is the third step by ISD to assume responsibility for the registration of all non-EEA nationals, with approximately 80% of all national registrations and renewals (based on 2023 figures) transferred from An Garda Síochána to the ISD from 8 July 2024. This transfer is part of the ongoing work by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) with the Department of Justice to implement the CoFPI recommendation on transferring administrative immigration functions to ISD.

Airline Liaison Officer

The Garda National Immigration Bureau have allocated a Detective Garda as an Airline Liaison Officer (ALO) assigned to Madrid Airport, Spain, who was recently presented with a Certificate of International Co-operation by US Customs and Border Protection at Madrid (Barajas) Airport, Spain. The ALO has been deployed to Madrid (Barajas) Airport since March 2023 and works closely with airline ground crew and international partners in preventing and detecting incidents of illegal immigration into the State and across Europe.

11. Community Engagement and Organisational Initiatives

Throughout the month of July 2024, An Garda Síochána were involved in a number of initiatives to improve interagency cooperation with international partners. A number of proactive awareness initiatives took place, highlighting the services available that align with our mission of 'Keeping People Safe'. A synopsis of some of those initiatives that occurred during the month of July 2024 are set out hereunder.

French Research Visit

On 3 July 2024, the Garda National Youth Diversion Bureau hosted a research visit from the French National Academy for Youth Protection and Juvenile Justice. The French National Academy for Youth Protection and Juvenile Justice (ENPJJ) has developed a wide expertise in social work, and provides training for people working in the juvenile justice system which ensures training of professionals in charge of juvenile justice, legal training and continuing education of the ENPJJ's public service agents, and multi-institutional courses, opened to professionals from other institutions related to child protection. The visit was to learn about the system of youth Justice in Ireland and facilitate a comparison of the both nations systems of youth justice.

Etherium Crypto Tracing Training

On 3 July 2024, the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau (GNCCB) hosted a successful one-day certified Etherium Crypto tracing training program for members attached to GNCCB, Garda National Economic Crime Bureau and the Criminal Asset Bureau. This program was the latest in a series of training courses delivered to enhance the capabilities of An Garda Síochána in tackling the misuse of crypto currency by Organised Crime Groups in laundering the proceeds of crime.

Endangerment Conviction

The Sexual Crime Management Unit investigated reports of a number of young males who had undergone circumcisions. Following a lengthy and complex investigation, directions were received to prosecute the defendant on one count of Endangerment, Assault Causing Harm, Deception (Theft and Fraud Offences Act) and falsely representing himself as a Registered Medical Practitioner in respect of each of the seven young males, amounting to twenty-eight counts. The defendant pleaded guilty to the counts of Endangerment and Section 3 Assault and a nolle prosequi was entered in respect of all other counts on the indictment. On 8 July 2024, the offender was convicted on all seven counts of Endangerment with the remaining counts of Assault Causing Harm taken into consideration and imposed a custodial sentence of 6.5 years.

National Rural Safety Forum

On 11 July 2024, the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit represented the National Rural Safety Forum at the Bannow and Rathangan Agricultural Show with a marquee where they could engage with the public, provide practical, effective Crime Prevention advice and promote the National Rural Safety Forum. The National Rural Safety Forum comprises of organisations and people with a common purpose of ensuring rural safety by working to develop a nationwide network for the distribution of consistent, highly effective crime prevention advice while also increasing engagement within communities and reducing the opportunities for crime.

Operation Táirge

On 16 July 2024, the Eastern Region held a day of action under Operation Táirge, which is a national initiative designed to confront and disrupt organised retail crime by means of intelligence-led, community-orientated policing. This initiative was a great success due to the joint efforts of the Eastern Region Co-ordination and Tasking Unit, led and supported by the Liaison Inspectors of every Division. Multiple targets were identified, arrested and charged as a result of this 'Day of Action'. Both Adult Cautions and Informal Juvenile Cautions were administered along with the execution of a number of Bench Warrants. Table 1* shows the results from this Regional 'Day of Action'.

Division	Offenders	Charges	Adult Cautions	Summons	Youth Referrals
Waterford / Kilkenny / Carlow	34	25	6	5	8
Wexford / Wicklow	11	21	2	0	0
Meath / Westmeath	23	60	0	0	0
Kildare	15	43	0	0	0
Laois / Offaly	22	22	6	2	4
Total	105	171	14	7	12

Dedicated high-visibility beat patrols across the main retail areas in every Division have been effectively implemented as part of the co-operative approach between An Garda Síochána and the local stakeholders.

As a result of the launch of Operation Táirge, retail crime has received additional focus within An Garda Síochána. On 17 July 2024, that Garda National Crime Prevention Unit attended the National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) Single Point of Contact (SPOCs) Awareness Meeting. The National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) represents UK Police forces and works in partnership with the business community to tackle crimes against businesses. The unit gained valuable knowledge from our UK counterparts.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

On 18 July 2024, the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit recorded a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Presentation with Age Friendly Ireland. This will be utilised as part of a training programme involving CPTED. The course aims to further equip interested parties with essential knowledge and skills to maximise the age friendliness of their environment and to ensure effective planning for older people is adequately considered and addressed in housing policy, formulation and implementation.

Operation Realtscamall

On 19 July 2024, under Operation Realtscamall, Gardaí in the North Western Region seized a number of firearms. Disassembled suspected firearm components were discovered, together with a significant quantity of what is suspected to be 9mm and AR 15 ammunition. Preliminary Examination revealed possible component parts for a number of AR 15 type firearms and a number of 9mm handguns. Two males were arrested on suspicion of facilitating the possession of firearms by a criminal organisation.

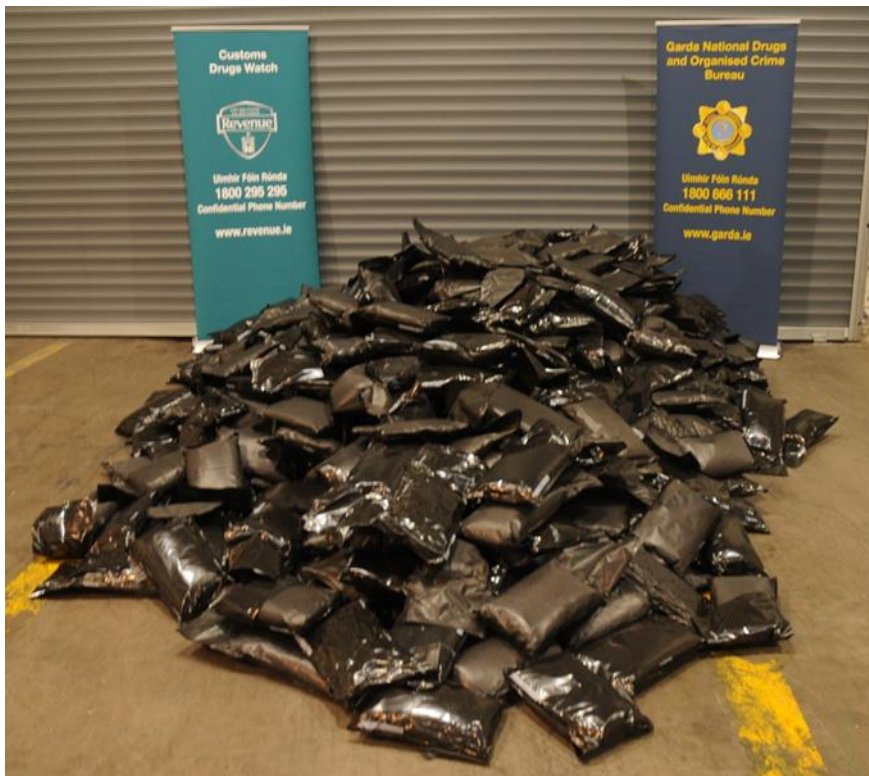
Firearms and Drugs Seizures

On 19 July 2024, as part of an ongoing intelligence-led operation, personnel from the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau supported by colleagues in Garda National Crime and Security Intelligence Service carried out an intensive operation which resulted in an orchestrated search of a business premises in the Northern Region. A number of firearm components in a disassembled state along with a significant quantity of ammunition were recovered and seized. Two males were charged with offences contrary to Section 27A Firearms Act 1964 as amended.



Firearms seized in Search Operation July 2024 – GNDOCB

On 5 July 2024, a controlled delivery was conducted in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. A search of a storage facility uncovered 343Kg of cannabis herb, valued at €6.8m, concealed within a consignment of artificial grass which was recovered and seized. Two males were arrested but subsequently released in order that a file be prepared for consideration by the Director of Public Prosecutions.



343Kg Cannabis Herb – Seized July 2024 GNDOCB

During July 2024, the total amount of controlled drugs destroyed by the Garda Technical Bureau was 3120KG. Two and a half tonnes of seized and surrendered ammunition was also delivered to the Firearms Stores for destruction.

Ireland's Sports Festival

On 27 July 2024, the Garda National Diversity Unit and Blanchardstown Community Policing Unit attended Ireland's Sports Festival hosted by the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG). The RCCG includes 99 Christian churches around Ireland whose members all come together annually to compete in various sports including soccer, running, basketball and long jump among other activities. This year Ireland's Festival was held at the National Aquatic Centre in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Coastal Watch Initiative

During July 2024, the Kerry Division implemented a new Coastal Watch Initiative with patrols organised along the Wild Atlantic Way within the Kerry Division every weekend. There are two routes included in this patrol taking in Killarney, Molls Gap, Kenmare, Sneem, Caherciveen, Killorglin, Castlemaine and Inch Beach in north Kerry and Tarbert, Ballybunion, Ballyheigue, Banna, Fenit, Tralee, Castlegregory, Conor Pass, Dingle and Sleah Head in South Kerry.

Secure Qualifiers on PEMS 2

The Kerry Division, through the Performance Assurance Functional Area, are currently examining the introduction of Secure Qualifiers to support the real time tracking of exhibits and property on the PEMS 2 System. Plans to pilot the system at Listowel Garda Station are well advanced and it is envisaged the system will be up and running in Q3 2024. Secure Qualifiers will allow An Garda Síochána to show in real time the location of exhibits and property and remove the existing anomaly where such items can appear to be 'checked out' to members until they are placed in the PEMS Store. This system will support increased governance and accountability and most importantly support our members by introducing an independent person to the lodgement process, thus reducing the risk of items being unaccounted for.

Wellness Days

During July 2024, Operational Support Services and the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau ran a number of very successful Wellness Days. These Wellness Days afforded members the opportunity to rebalance and refocus on supports that will benefit their social, mental, and physical wellbeing and to promote healthy and balanced work practices. Members and Staff also undertook the first of the Mental Health First Aid courses which was very positively received. Plans are in place to expand this and the number of Peer Supporters.

Criminal Assets Bureau Search Operations

During July 2024, CAB conducted two search operations as part of investigations into the assets of persons involved in criminal activity, including international drug trafficking, resulting in the seizure of twelve high value watches, €70,000 in cash and documentation and files. Large sums were also frozen in bank accounts.

Also during the month of July 2024, the Criminal Assets Bureau secured Orders pursuant to Section 2, Proceeds of Crime Act 1996, in respect of financial accounts, cash, high value items, and electronic devices.

Additionally, orders under Section 3 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1996 as amended were granted by the High Court in respect of a house and adjacent land along with €48,886 in funds, cash amounting to €18,500, five vehicles, three Louis Vuitton bags, a car trailer and a tow dolly.



Garda Occupational Health and Wellbeing (GOHW)

garda.ie



An Garda Síochána

An Garda Síochána Mental Health First Aid Programme



Programme Update

An Garda Síochána Mental Health First Aid Training Facilitator Accreditation Ceremony

- The accreditation ceremony for the second cohort of An Garda Síochána Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training Facilitators was held on Monday, 1 July 2024, in The Officers Club, Garda HQ. The ceremony formally honoured this second cohort of exceptional Garda personnel who successfully completed the Mental Health First Aid Instructor Course under the An Garda Síochána MHFA Programme.
- By completing the course, the An Garda Síochána MHFA Training Facilitators have demonstrated their commitment to promoting mental health awareness and support for health and wellbeing in An Garda Síochána.
- From January 2024 to end of June 2024, the first two cohorts of MHFA Training Facilitators have delivered MHFA to over 1000 Garda personnel across the organisation.
- In May 2024, the Garda National Wellbeing Office in Garda Occupational Health and Wellbeing opened an Expression of Interest to the whole organisation for Garda personnel to become Garda Síochána MHFA Training Facilitators.
- Applications were encouraged from all Ranks and Grades in An Garda Síochána to become Garda Síochána MHFA Training Facilitators to ensure a diverse and inclusive panel of MHFA Training Facilitators, with a variety of career levels or specialty areas of service delivery.
- The closing date for receipt of applications was Friday 12 July 2024.
- All completed applications, received by the application deadline, were processed by MHFA Ireland, who reviewed and identified individuals for inclusion on the An Garda Síochána Mental

Health First Aid Programme, based on meeting the selection criteria set out in the Application Form.

- There was great interest in the programme with 176 applications received.
- 60 applicants were shortlisted, based on the specific selection criteria.
- 32 Garda personnel have been offered places on the September 2024 course (16 participants) and November 2024 (16 participants) course.

#KeepingOurPeopleSupported