



An Garda Síochána

Monthly Report for May 2024 to the Policing Authority

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

An Garda Síochána

Oifig an Choimisinéara
Gnóthaí Corparáideacha
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**



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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 report for May 2024, outlining the key aspects of the administration and operation of An Garda Síochána for the month of May 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**

21st June 2024

An Garda Síochána: Ag Coinneáil Daoine Sábháilte – Keeping People Safe

Message from the Commissioner

This month marked a significant step forward for An Garda Síochána as together with An Taoiseach Simon Harris and Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD, we launched the first phase of our 'Proof of Concept' for body-worn cameras as well as the supporting Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS). The rollout was launched on Friday 31 May 2024 at Store Street Garda Station, and marks the beginning of three phased introductions of proof of concepts stage. The first phase is now underway in Dublin where trained personnel in Pearse Street, Kevin Street and Store Street Garda Stations are now using body-worn cameras.

It is expected that by the end of June 2024, 350-400 frontline Gardaí in Dublin will be fully trained and have the cameras in use. The pilot roll-out will continue later this year in Limerick and Waterford, and when complete, the three-phased pilot will inform their introduction in Garda Stations nationwide.

A further development for the organisation this month involved the introduction of new systems enabling Gardaí to access the Irish Motor Insurance Database through our Garda mobility devices. In partnership with the Motor Insurers Bureau of Ireland and the Minister for Justice we launched this new capability. This change puts us in a stronger position to detect those breaking the law by driving without insurance.

Meanwhile this month An Garda Síochána implemented a policing operation in respect of the Europa League Final, which saw 48,000 local and international fans attend the Aviva Stadium for the major soccer event. This operation involved the deployment of approximately 1,800 Garda personnel for the event. Work conducted included the implementation and communication of a traffic management plan, policing and community engagement activities at fan zones, in Dublin City Centre, Dublin Airport and on location at the Aviva Stadium.

Furthermore, An Garda Síochána conducted a May 2024 Bank Holiday road safety campaign, as well as highlighting general road safety advice, this campaign had a focus on motorcycle safety. It also looked to highlight to the public that "We don't want to be knocking on your door this bank holiday weekend".

Other activities this month saw improvements for the Gaeltacht Community in An Spidéal, Contae na Gaillimhe, where I was joined by the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD, and Minister of State for the OPW Kieran O'Donnell TD on 16 May 2024 to reopen An Spidéal Garda Station to the public. This investment in a block built permanent structure in An Spidéal reaffirms our commitment to providing an Irish Language service to Gaeltacht communities.

Lastly, An Garda Síochána gathered together in Dubhlinn Gardens at Dublin Castle on May 18, to remember and honour our 89 fallen Gardaí, who lost their lives in the course of their duties at our annual Memorial Day event. They are forever in our thoughts.

J A Harris
Commissioner

1. Finance

Financial Expenditure and Receipts

	2024 Allocation €'000	Expenditure/Receipts end May €'000	Remaining €'000	Remaining %
Gross Total	2,355,516	964,265	1,391,251	59%
Appropriation in Aid (receipts)	104,206	54,059	50,147	48%
Net Total	2,251,310	910,206	1,341,104	

The total gross 2024 allocation for An Garda Síochána is €2.36b and net allocation is €2.25b. At the end of May 2024, the total combined gross expenditure is €964.27m (59% of allocation) which is more than the end of May 2024 profiled spend by €21.14m, with further detail below on specific areas of over/under profile.

Current Allocation and Expenditure

The gross current allocation for 2024 is €2.19b which includes pay of €1.47b (including pay for the Garda College). Expenditure on pay in May 2024 was €173.11m and year to date is €652.6m. Expenditure on the salaries, allowances, Employer PRSI elements in May 2024 was €144.4m and year to date is €563.43m, which is €1.31m under budget profile. Expenditure on overtime in May 2024 was €28.72m and year to date is €89.17m, which is €24.52m over budget profile. Overall, pay and overtime is over the profiled budget by €23.21m at the end of May 2024.

In respect of superannuation of €458.05m, expenditure in May 2024 was €35.53m and year to date is €176.22m, which is €10.58m under profile at the end of May 2024. Other non-pay subheads of €259.23m (including for the Garda College). Expenditure on non-pay in May 2024 was €17.47m and year to date is €90.31m. Overall, non-pay expenditure is €1.77m under profile at end May 2024, considered in the main due to timing of receipt of goods/services.

Capital Allocation and Expenditure

The gross capital allocation for 2024 is €165.86m (excluding deferred capital). €15m of deferred capital has been carried in to 2024. Expenditure on capital (including the Garda College) in May 2024 was €11.68m and year to date is €45.15m. The capital subheads have a combined over profile spend of €10.29m to the end of May 2024.

Appropriations in Aid

Appropriations in Aid were €54.06m at the end of May 2024, €10.55m ahead of the estimated profiled receipts.

Estate Management May 2024

There continues to be meaningful engagement with the OPW to address accommodation needs impacting the roll-out of the Operating Model. An Spidéal Garda Station in the Gaeltacht Community, Contae na Gaillimhe was formally opened by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD and Minister for State for the OPW Kieran O'Donnell on 16 May 2024.

Cell Refurbishment Programme:

Cell refurbishment works at Athy Garda Station were completed and handed back to An Garda Síochána on 31 May 2024.

2. Human Resources and People Development

Workforce Planning

The Operating Model implementation continues to rollout nationwide with staff at all grades being allocated to divisional functional areas. This allocation of personnel is prioritised.

The Headcount Plan, Workforce Planning Annual Report and Horizon Scan Report are in progress and will support the significant work undertaken by An Garda Síochána to optimise workforce planning. A Garda Personnel Demand Prioritisation meeting took place on 20 May 2024.

Garda Appointments/Recruitment:

The Garda Trainee competition (2024) has closed for applications and the first phase of interviews has completed. An Garda Síochána are progressing the next intake of students to the Garda College on 1 July 2024. Since 2022, 1,025 Garda Trainees have commenced in the Garda College.

The Garda Reassignment Initiative has seen the reallocation of five (5) Garda members to operational roles in 2024. Their previous roles were assigned to Garda Staff.

Additionally, two members were promoted to the rank of Superintendent and allocated to duties in May 2024.

Ongoing Garda Member Competitions:

There are a number of competitions to fill vacancies with 27 national, four regional, six overseas and 48 divisional competitions underway. A competition is ongoing for a new contingent who will commence UN duties in Cyprus in October 2024 and April 2025.

Garda Staff Resourcing:

There are currently 29 Garda Staff internal and open recruitment competitions in progress across the organisation. This includes a Clerical Officer competition for which interviews and offers are currently ongoing.

The Executive Officer competition (2022) is anticipated to conclude shortly. There are ongoing Higher Executive Officer and Assistant Principal Officer competitions (2024). Additionally, competitions for a Principal Officer for ICT and an Employee Assistance Officer are progressing. There were 56 Garda Staff assigned in May 2024.

Garda Internship Programme

A graduation for An Garda Síochána Internship 2023/2024 took place on 27 May 2024, which included a presentation of certificate to each intern by Commissioner Harris.



Human Resources and People Development Analytics and Data

On 31 May 2024, the Garda member strength stood at 13,982 (WTE 13,940.5) and the Garda Staff strength stood at 3,542 (3,355.2 WTE). A full breakdown by rank, grade and gender is outlined below.

2.1 Garda Member Strengths

Rank	As at 31 May 2024	Male	%	Female	%	WTE
Commissioner	1	1	100	0	0	1
Deputy Commissioner	1	0	0	1	100	1
Assistant Commissioner	8	4	50	4	50	8
Chief Superintendent	48	37	77	11	23	48
Superintendent	166	139	84	27	16	166
Inspector	466	369	79	97	21	466
Sergeant	2,152	1,619	75	533	25	2,150
Garda	11,140	7,822	70	3,318	30	11,100.5
Total	13,982	9991	71	3,991	29	13,940.5

Of which	As at 31 May 2024	Male	%	Female	%
Career Breaks (incl. ICB)	35	20	57.1	15	42.9
Work-sharing	41.5	1.5	3.6	40	96.4
Secondments	56	37	66	19	34
Maternity Leave	35	0	0	35	100
Unpaid Maternity Leave	25	0	0	25	100
Paternity Leave	16	16	100	0	0
Available Strength	13,773.5	9,916.5	72	3,857	28

Garda Reserve Strength

Garda Reserves Strength As at 31 May 2024	<i>Total*</i>	Male	%	Female	%
	329	255	78	74	22

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

Grade	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
CCO	1	1	0	0	1	100	0	0
Executive Director	3	3	1	33	2	66.7	0	0
Chief Medical Officer	1	1	1	100	0	0	0	0
Director	3	3	1	33	2	66.7	0	0
PO	28	28	14	50	14	50	0	0
AP	91	91	41	45	50	54.9	0	0
HEO	205	203.8	78	38	127	62	0	0
AO	17	17	9	53	8	47.1	0	0
EO	853	842.4	266	31	587	68.8	0	0
CO	1,972	1,905.3	521	26	1,451	73.6	0	0
Total	3,174	3,095.5	932	29	2,242	70.6	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 **	3173	3094.5	931	29.3	2242	70.7	0	0
Industrial/Non Industrial	310	202.1	98	32	212	68.4	0	0
Total	3,542	3,355.2	1,062	30	2,480	70	0	0
Of which	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
Maternity Leave	15	15	0	0	15	100	0	0
Unpaid Maternity Leave	9	9	0	0	9	100	0	0
Paternity Leave	2	2	2	100	0	0	0	0
Secondment/Exchange	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Available Total	3,516	3,329.2	1,060	30.1	2,456	69.9	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	%
	286	78.7	9	3	277	97	0	0

*** Work-sharing figure excludes industrial/non-industrial staff, as many such posts are part-time.

* Rounding applied to WTE.

Career Breaks****	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
	22	20	5	23	17	77	0	0

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

Parental Leave

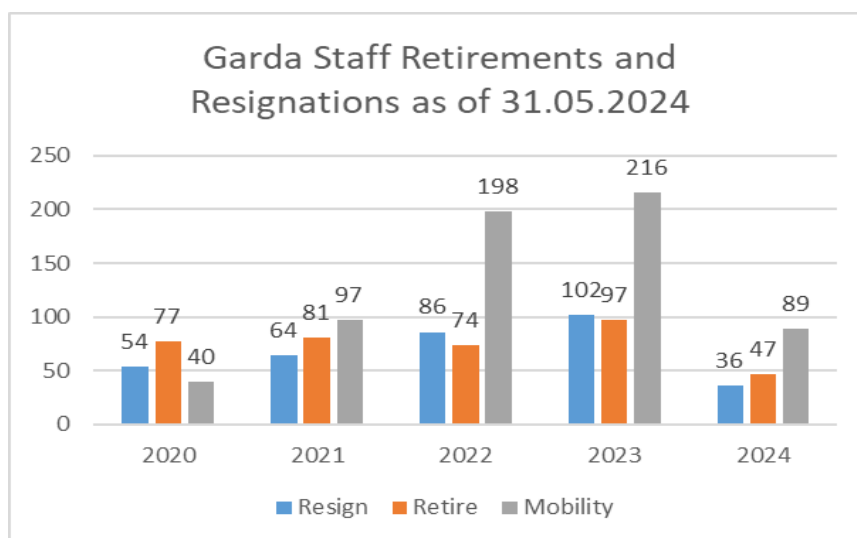
01.5.2024–31.5.2024	Garda Members	Garda Staff
	155	78

Garda Staff assigned and commenced – as at 31 May 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								323

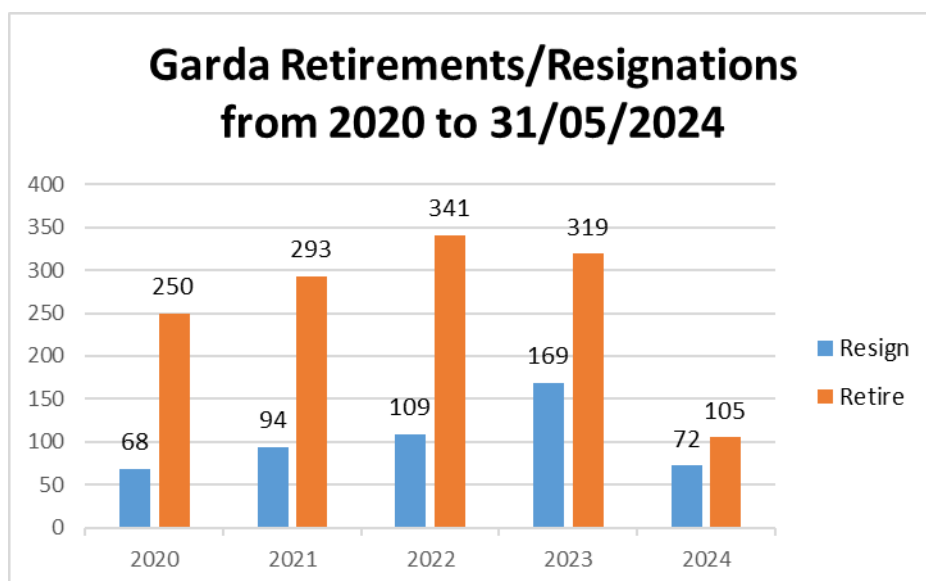
*Adjustments to figure previously reported above may occur when promotions are notified at a later date. These include: backfills, new, reassignments and fractional reassignments.

Garda Staff Exits by Type



The table above which captures mobility refers to Garda Staff who have transferred out on promotion and those who 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).

Compulsory Retirements from An Garda Síochána to 2034

The information furnished herein is representative of the current retirement age set out in legislation. The number of retirement exits are anticipated to increase steadily over the next 10 years. Presently, this reflects historical recruitment patterns and shows that there will be up to 2,509 exits based on service in the coming years irrespective of any other factors. The proposed introduction of legislation to increase the age of retirement may have an impact on these.

Rank	31-Dec-24	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-26	31-Dec-27	31-Dec-28	31-Dec-29	31-Dec-30	31-Dec-31	31-Dec-32	31-Dec-33	31-Dec-34
DC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
AC	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	0
CS	4	1	3	4	0	3	9	2	4	6	4
SU	3	4	8	5	10	11	12	14	17	11	15
IN	5	13	10	8	12	19	19	28	35	32	44
SG	15	20	25	23	40	51	69	85	97	95	112
GD	22	33	39	52	73	116	138	187	251	279	303
Grand Total	49	71	87	92	135	202	248	317	407	423	478

(Actual compulsory retirements figures correct as of 16/05/2024 for 31/12/2024 to 31/12/2034)

Applications to Extend Service

Between 2021 and through 2024 (YTD), 188 applications were received pursuant to the provisions of An Garda Síochána (Retirement) (No.2) Regulations 1951, (S.I No. 335/1951), to extend service to An Garda Síochána. These applications are broken down as follows:

Applications to Extend Service				
Year	Total Applications	Approved	Declined	Withdrawn
2021	29	13	16	
2022	25	18	4	3
2023	62	55	6	1
2024	72* (25 pending - HRPD)	40	5	2

In May 2024, seven members had applications to extend their retirement date approved. There were no applications for extension of service from Garda Staff.

Garda Staff transfers out of An Garda Síochána (up to 31/05/2024)

The record includes figures up to 31 May 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 from 06/01/2023 to 06/07/2023).

Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Mobility	42	115	131	46
Promotion	47	66	65	23
Open Comp.	0	6	14	16
Totals	89	187	210	85
<i>*Year to date</i>				

Grade	2022	2023	2024*
CO	115	129	50
EO	59	51	14
HEO	6	11	11
AO	2	6	2
AP	4	11	7
PO	1	2	1
Totals	187	210	85

Open Competition = Grade equivalent to role external role

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	2	14	6	0	20

CURRENT SUSPENSIONS & CORE ISSUES INVESTIGATED BY AGS & GSOC	
Suspension (Ended / Ongoing)	Ongoing
Main Reason	Total
Theft / Forgery / Fraud / Dishonesty	14
Sexual Assault / Sexual Misconduct	12
Driving under Influence of Intoxicant	13
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	5
Drugs / Drug Related	5
Other	9
Grand Total	92

Employee Assistance Service (EAS)

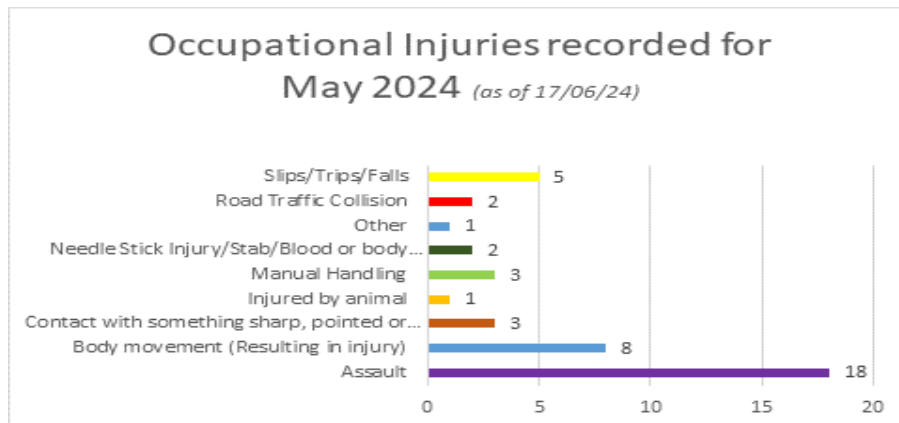
During the month of May, the Employee Assistance Service carried out 16 various activities nationally in support of colleagues. This included:

- Pre-tour briefings x3
- Probationer Presentations x3
- CPD Presentation x1
- Family Liaison Officer (FLO) Course x1
- Safe Talk Training Course x1
- Mental Health First Aid Training x1
- Peer Support Discussion x1
- Wellness Days x2
- Promotion Course EAS Presentation x1
- Employee Assistance Officer Information Session x2
- Senior Management PAF Meeting Attendance x1

During the month of May, Garda personnel continued to access the INSPIRE Wellbeing Service, which supports colleagues through challenging times in either their professional or personal lives.

Health & Safety

Occupational Injuries were recorded for May (as of 17/06/24).



3. Information and Communications Technology

As per Policing Plan target E5.1, ICT is continuing 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 and enhance the operational needs of the organisation both 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.

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

The Office of Corporate Communications facilitated a media briefing at Store Street Garda Station with An Taoiseach Simon Harris, Commissioner Drew Harris and Justice Minister Helen McEntee TD on 31 May 2024, to formally launch the proof of concept for the roll out of body-worn cameras.

Three Dublin stations – Store Street, Pearse Street and Kevin Street have commenced the use of BWCs for operational policing duties. 200 BWCs and their associated infrastructure have been installed in Kevin Street (50), Store Street (100) and Pearse Street (50) with further installations to support the proof of concept initiatives scheduled for Limerick (200) and Waterford (200) in Q3 this year.



(L-R) Commissioner Drew Harris, Taoiseach Simon Harris and Minister for Justice Helen McEntee

Media were invited to a technical briefing in Store Street the previous day, facilitated by Chief Information Officer Andrew O'Sullivan, and members of the body worn camera team. During this event media were given an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the cameras and how they operate. This briefing was well attended, and resulted in further media attendance at the launch event with the Taoiseach the following morning. This launch received wide media coverage including reports carried by RTÉ; Virgin Media; Journal.ie; The Irish Times; The Irish Independent; The Irish Daily Star; The Herald; The Irish Daily Mail; The Irish Daily Mirror; The Sunday World; The Sun; Belfast Telegraph.



Garda Sarah Fay and Garda Gerard Dunne

Since the launch date of 31 May 2024 the public can expect to see Gardaí, initially in the three Dublin locations, wearing BWCs to the front of their uniform. These cameras have a 160-degree field of vision, have 12 hours of battery life, which provides the capability to record more than five hours of footage. The cameras will be used in a way that is compliant with human rights and data protection requirements. This is a phased roll out, and to date over 100 members have completed training, with further Gardaí attached to the proof of concept stations continuing to complete online and classroom training.

Mobile App Development – Vehicle Insurance

On 24 May 2024, there was a media launch by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee supported by Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman and representatives from Motor Insurers Bureau of Ireland. Since November 2023, the Motor Insurers Bureau of Ireland (MIBI) has begun providing motor insurance details to An Garda Síochána on a daily basis. The data-sharing agreement covers three million vehicles, with the provision to share information a key element of the enacted Road Traffic and Roads Act (2023).



Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman, Minister for Justice Helen McEntee and representatives from the Motor Insurers Bureau of Ireland

The availability of vehicle insurance details provides a valuable tool for frontline members in improving road safety for everyone and the numbers of vehicles seized for non-compliance with insurance obligations has increased significantly. Currently only private insurance policy data is available with fleet policy data expected to be piloted in the coming months, once the fleet data has been made available by the insurance companies. ICT is currently preparing the necessary software changes to handle the fleet policy data, as part of the planned fleet policy pilot.

ICT Workstream to enable and support the new Garda Operating Model:

The DMR West Division is the fourteenth division to formally commence all four Functional Areas under the Operating Model (Community Engagement, Crime, Performance Assurance and Business Services). This is a key milestone for An Garda Síochána as the four Functional Area Structure has now been implemented in two thirds of all divisions.

On 26 May 2024, the DMR West Division replaced its former district structures to form the Community Engagement Functional Areas. All Garda personnel in the division are now formally aligned to one of the four Functional Areas. Planning continues for further deployments throughout 2024.

Additional ICT Information:

The GardaSAFE project was awarded the prestigious accolade of 'IT Project of the Year (Public Sector)' at the recent Tech Excellence Awards 2024. The new system, along with the mobility app which integrates with it, was recognised for its contribution to the digitalisation and modernisation of An Garda Síochána. This again highlights ICT's commitment to deliver information-led policing.



(L to R): Feargal McLoughlin, Tim Willoughby, Aeneas Leane, Thomas Campbell, Andrew O'Sullivan, Fintan Brady, Amy Bohan, Stephen Smith, Gerry White, Martin Walsh, Andrew McGrath

4. Corporate Communications

Throughout the month of May 2024, the Office of Corporate Communications continued to communicate internally and externally on a broad range of policing activities undertaken by An Garda Síochána nationwide in our mission to keep people safe.

The Office of Corporate Communications supported a number of high-level communications and campaigns including media briefings and the issuing of press releases promoting the launch of the proof of concept rollout of body-worn cameras; national road safety efforts during the May bank holiday period, the new system enabling Garda access to the Irish Motor Insurance Database through our Garda mobility devices, the reopening of An Spidéal Garda Station in Galway, communications around the Europa League Final, the live broadcast of Garda Memorial Day; and the publication of the 2023 Hate Crime Data.

The Office of Corporate Communication continued to support investigators in highlighting the work being carried out by An Garda Síochána, including providing updates this month in respect of the investigation into the explosion in Creeslough, Co. Donegal on 7 October 2022; the serious public disorder incident in Dublin City Centre on 23 November 2023; and arrests in the ongoing Lee Slattery murder investigation of May 2023; and the seizure of 27 vehicles and over €200,000 cash during a CAB search operations in five counties on 30 May 2024.

Europa League Final – Atlanta v Leverkusen - 22 May 2024



Chief Superintendent Tony O'Donnell



Gardaí and fans from both teams at the Dublin Castle Fan Zone

On 22 May 2024, the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), Europa League Final was held in the Aviva Stadium. As part of the significant policing operation, there was coordination of communications regarding the traffic management plan, notification of fan zones and promoting our community engagement activities during the event. The final attracted 48,000 fans to the Aviva Stadium. Support from our office included the holding of a media briefing with Chief Superintendent Tony O'Donnell who outlined the key messages for those attending the match, and also to those living and commuting in the vicinity of the stadium, the issuing of a press release, content creation and the sharing of images capturing Garda activities and engagement during the event on our social media platforms.

Irish Language Activity: Oscailt Fhoirmiúil Stáisiún Gardaí An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe, 16 Bealtaine 2024 / The formal opening of An Spidéal Garda Station County Galway 16 May, 2024.



Commissioner Drew Harris at the official reopening of An Spidéal Garda Station



Garda Micheál Ó Ráinne, Garda Áine Ní Fhlatharta, Commissioner Drew Harris, Minister for Justice Helen McEntee and Minister for State Kieran O'Donnell

On 16 May 2024, Commissioner Harris together with the Minister for Justice formally reopened An Spidéal Garda Station following a programme of works resulting in a move from a prefab to a permanent structured station on Mountain Road in An Spidéal. This office facilitated a media briefing at the opening with Commissioner Harris, prepared a video of the proceedings, issued a press release and social media content in Irish and English.

Internal Communications

In May 2024, An Garda Síochána Internal Communications team delivered 10 comprehensive Newsbeat updates including an issue dedicated to body-worn cameras, as the first phase of our Proof of Concept for body-worn cameras launched in Store Street Garda Station this month. There was also a leadership update on supporting safer road networks from Commissioner Harris. Readership of Newsbeat remained consistently strong at around 60% throughout the month.

Key highlights from regular Newsbeat updates include:

- Updates on new legislation, including: New Detention of Personal Powered Transporters Regulations; Amendments to the Road Traffic Act 2024 and in particular Part 4 of the Act which amends Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2010; and Amendments to Section 10 of the Road Traffic Act 2010.
- Annual commemoration of the Garda Memorial Day.
- Information on the May Bank Holiday Road Safety Enforcement Operation.
- The establishment of An Bord An Gharda Síochána as part of the enactment of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024.
- A thank you to all Garda personnel who took part in UEFA Europa League Cup final held in Dublin.
- Formal re-opening of An Spidéal Garda Station.
- Remembrance of the Dublin Monaghan Bombings.
- Information on further learning opportunities available within the organisation.
- Community policing updates from around the country.



Collectively Supporting Safer Road Networks

Colleagues,



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 were:

- Invitation inviting all personnel to the annual Garda Memorial Day.
- Information on injection naloxone and nasal spray naloxone.
- Screensaver focusing on road safety.
- Update on the Operating Model.

Awards

There was positive news for this office this month following the nomination of our Internal Communications team for awards in the Internal Communications and Engagement Awards 2024, run by Communicate Magazine, and the 2024 Awards for Excellence in Public Relations (PRII- the Public Relations Institute of Ireland).









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:

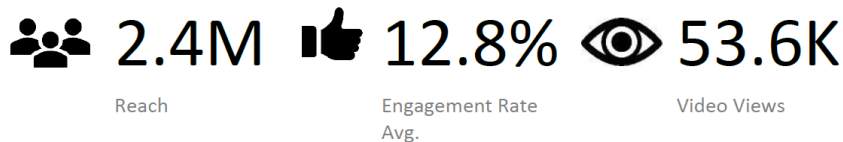
- The number of followers / individual users who have subscribed to each account.
- The rate of engagement with the account. A high percentage indicates we are producing compelling posts that resonate with our audience. Typically, a good engagement rate is in the region of 1-5%.
- The number of engagements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

Social Media Channel	Number of Followers	Engagement Rate
 Facebook - @AnGardaSíochána	402,765	1.57%
 Instagram - @GardaInsta	192,919	3.06%
 X- @GardaInfo	289,845	5.88%
 X - @GardaTraffic	619,393	3.86%
 LinkedIn – An Garda Síochána	49,478	25.2%
 TikTok – @GardaInfo	29,838	46.51%

Social Media Reach

14-22 May 2024

Combined Average National Reach Across All Social Media Activity



5. Implementation of Cultural Change

Culture Reform Programme

Leading Ireland's Future Together (LIFT) was launched in 2018 and is a 'social enterprise initiative aimed at increasing the level of positive leadership in Ireland'. In May, Assistant Commissioner Roberts, Governance and Accountability and Superintendent Stephen Keane, Garda Ethics and Culture Bureau (GECB), presented an opportunity for a potential partnership between LIFT and An Garda Síochána. This will develop over the coming weeks.

A wellbeing stakeholder's forum took place on 23 May 2024 and was attended by Superintendent GECB. The Wellbeing Office forwarded an update on the implementation plan initiative 'Establishment of a Garda National Wellbeing Office' to GECB.

As of 1 June 2024, 98% of An Garda Síochána personnel have affirmed their commitment to the Garda Code of Ethics. The Garda Ethics and Culture Bureau continue to monitor, maintain and record Code of Ethics declarations/reaffirmations and submit bi-annual reports to senior management on sign-up rates.

Enhancing Professional Conduct

The Lessons Learned Working Group met on 15 May 2024 to progress Edition 6 of 'Learning the Lesson' for Newsbeat publication on the Garda Portal. The theme for this edition has been decided as 'Neglect of Duty'.

6. 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).

The last meeting of the Risk and Policy Committee took place on 27 May 2024. All updates to corporate risks were discussed and agreed as outlined below.

Following extensive work carried out by Assistant Commissioner Eastern Region, Corporate Risk 'CRR 1/23: Implementation of Garda Safe (CAD2) and Improved Governance Arrangements Surrounding all Calls for Service' has been removed from the Corporate Risk Register for management at regional level.

During the month of May 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.
- Delivered a risk management briefing as part of the Executive Officer development course.
- Superintendent GRMU delivered a risk management briefing as part of the Inspector's development course.
- Conducted a Risk Action Plan Workshop surrounding the Corporate Risk 'CRR1/24: Challenges Surrounding the Introduction and Commencement of the Policing, Security & Community Safety Act 2024 to An Garda Síochána'.

7. Data Quality and Operational Value of Data

Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) Update

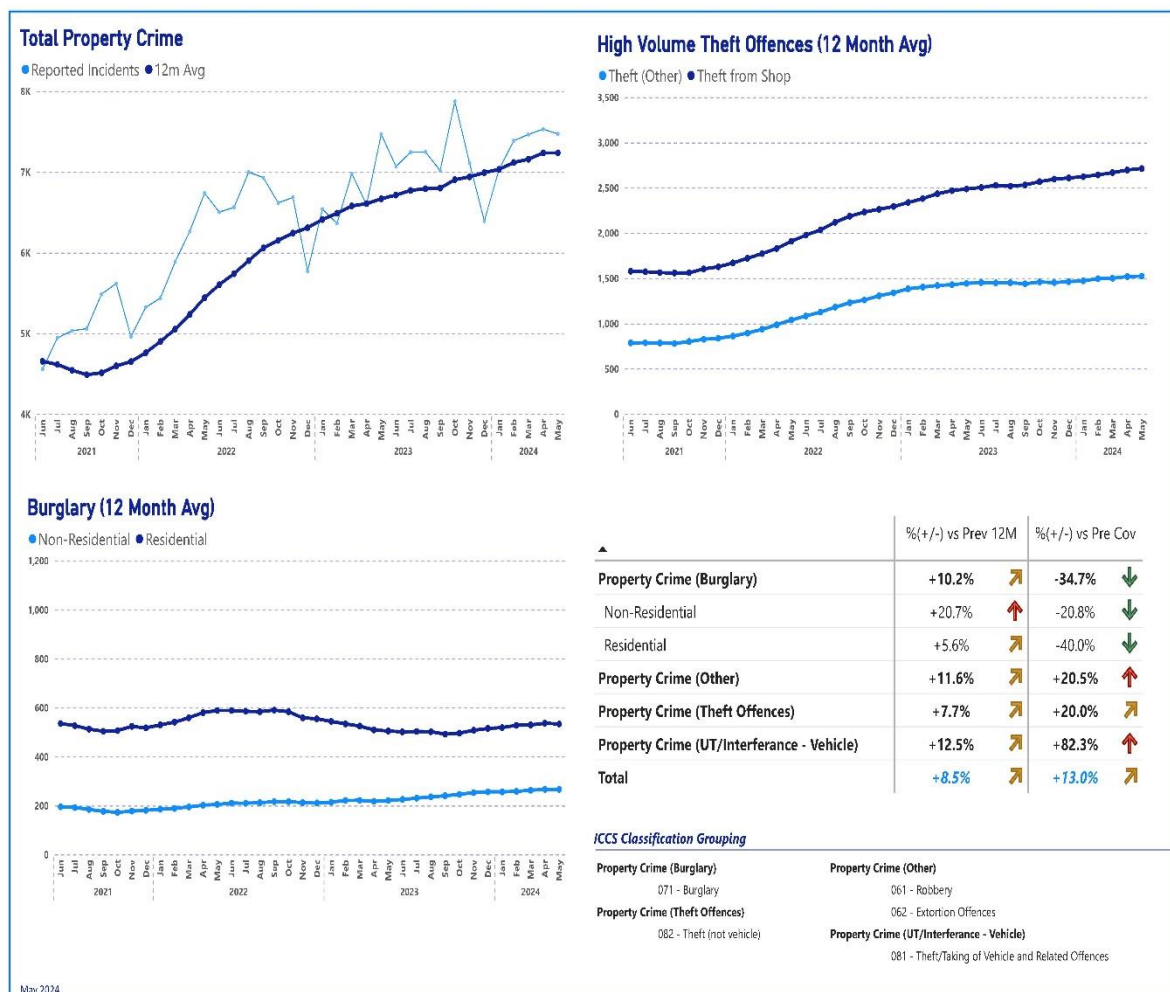
Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) carried out work on coherency checks in relation to PULSE data concerning road traffic collisions. GISC has apprised the Road Safety Authority of its work in this regard. Regional briefings on incident outcomes took place on 1 May 2024 in the Southern Region and on 27 May 2024 in the Eastern Region.

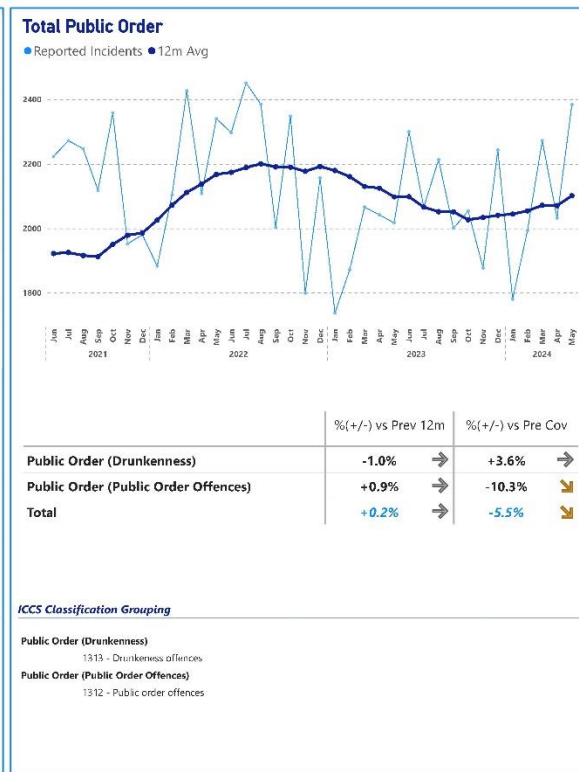
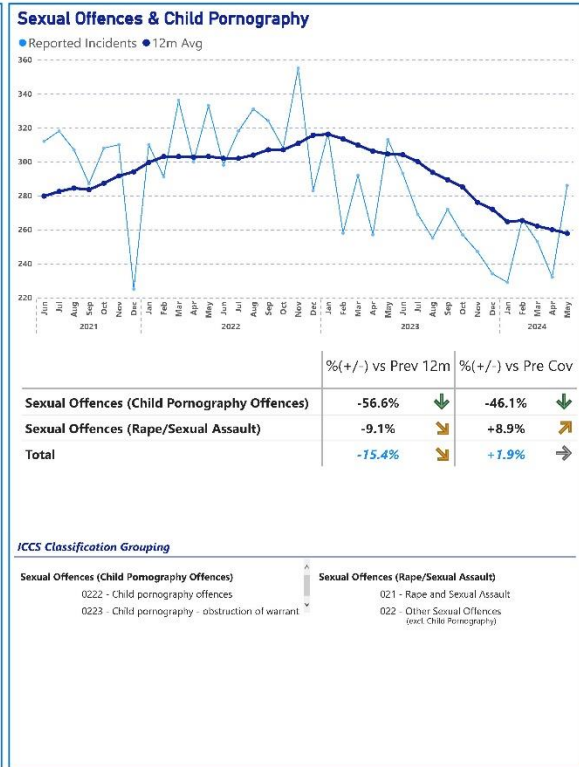
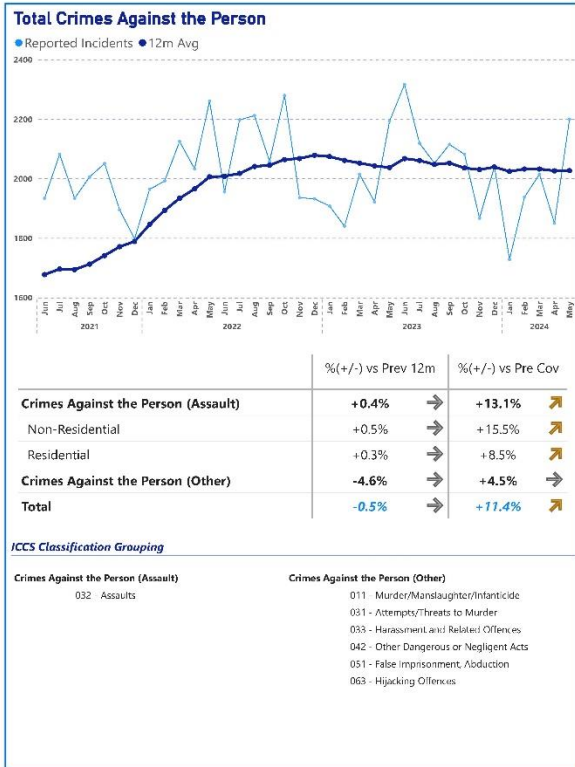
The May 2024 data quality metrics are available at the link below.

Link: [AGS Crime Incident Data Quality Metrics 31 May 2024 \(garda.ie\)](https://garda.ie/AGS-Crime-Incident-Data-Quality-Metrics-31-May-2024)

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.





Garda National Vetting Bureau Update

Vetting

Garda standard vetting average turnaround times continue at their long-term figure of six working days once an application is received. 266,740 Garda vetting applications have been received to the end of May 2024. There was a 7.8% year on year increase on vetting applications received to end of May 2024.

European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

Forty-five requests from Garda members for criminal record information in respect of nationals of EU member states who are being investigated/prosecuted by An Garda Síochána were processed by the ECRIS section of the Garda National Vetting Bureau in May 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

Use of Force Comparison – April/May 2024		
Category	April 2024	May 2024
Total UOF for Month	934	1065
Civilians Injured	19	22
Garda Members Injured	18	26
Pepper Spray Deployed	85	123
Batons	20	33
Handcuffs	864	1005
Anti-spit guard	1	0
Unarmed Restraint	160	213
Taser	1	3
Less Lethal Firearm	0	1
Firearm	0	0
Gender Subject to Force - Male	759	887
Gender Subject to Force - Female	116	130
Drugs Involved	253	293
Alcohol Involved	541	638

* NC Percentage figure of 0 is not calculable

8. Policing Challenges

8.1 Roads Policing

An Garda Síochána continues to respond to road safety challenges. In May 2024, 10 people died in fatal collisions. There were 86 serious injury collisions which resulted in 96 road users being seriously injured. There was an increase in motorcyclist fatalities in the past two months which is indicative of approximately 55% of motorcyclist fatalities and serious injuries occur between the months of May and September.

An Garda Síochána continues to implement the thirty minute roads policing initiative which was introduced in April 2024 to increase visibility on our roads. In May 2024, there were 5,126 MIT checkpoints conducted. There was an average of 10 arrests per day nationally for drug driving and there were over 3,100 vehicles seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act in May 2024.

	May 2024	YTD 2024
Mobile Phone FCNs	2,102	9,366
SEAT BELT FCNs	596	2,409
Intercept Speed FCNs	4,325	19,191
Non-Intercept Speed FCNs	7,622	36,970
Total Speed FCNs	11,947	56,161

Drink-Driving	435	2,074
Drug-Driving	301	1,379

	May 2024	YTD 2024
Section 41 Detentions		
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)	3,166	14,413
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no ins.	1,863	8,187
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax	1,251	6,093
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT	554	2,550
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers	627	2,902

	May 2024	YTD 2024
MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests		
MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed	19,161	85,968
MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed	710	2,738

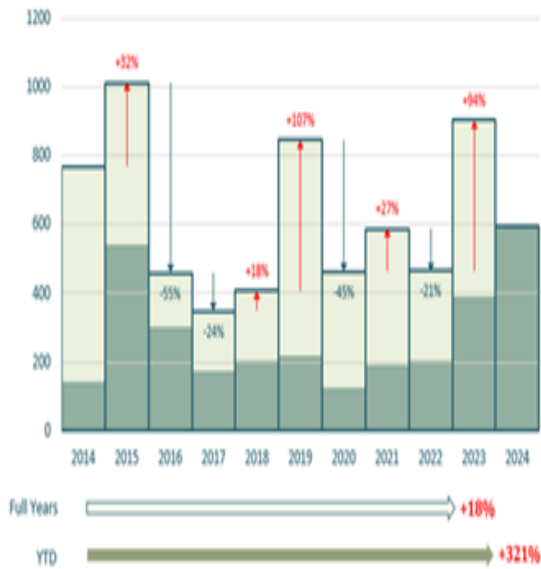
*2024 YTD figures cover the time period from 01/01/2024 to 05/06/2024, inclusive.

*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 05/06/2024 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.

8.2 Demonstrations Overview - Increase of demonstrations over the last two years

Demonstrations (Non-Crime)



This type of incident can be particularly resource intensive in terms of policing due to the potentially large numbers of people involved. It is often closely linked to world events and politics which can result in large increases/decreases year to year.

2023 reported an increase of 93% from the previous year and 2024 has reported the highest levels (Year to Date) across the last 11 years.

9. Immigration Policing

An Garda Síochána continue to respond to immigration policing challenges. The Garda National Immigration Bureau continues to work cohesively with other stakeholders in this area.

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

Every person arriving in the State (over 16 years) is required to present at Immigration Control with a valid passport or other equivalent document which establishes his/her identity and nationality, to the satisfaction of an Immigration Officer.

A non-national who arrives in the State and presents with no travel document or with an invalid/false travel document, commits an offence contrary to Sections 11 and 12 of the Immigration Act, 2004.

In response to an identified emerging trend whereby increasing numbers of non-nationals are arriving at Dublin Airport on a daily basis with a false travel document or with no travel document, having disposed of same on the aircraft or in the terminal prior to presenting at Immigration Control, the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) commenced a pilot operation on 7 February 2024 at Dublin Airport, arresting such offenders and taking them before the courts on foot of the summary offences. Since the commencement (up to 30 May 2024) of the operation, GNIB have arrested and charged 109 non-nationals, preferring a total of 176 charges and have taken all such persons before the District Court, as outlined in the below table.

Convicted & Sentenced	84
Facts heard and case Struck Out/Dismissed	14
Remanded in Custody	6
Bench Warrant issued	4
Convicted & Fine	1

10. Community Engagement and Organisational Initiatives

Throughout the month of May 2024, An Garda Síochána were involved in a number of initiatives to improve interagency cooperation with international partners and the successful policing of the UEFA Europa League Final. A number of proactive awareness initiatives also took place highlighting the services available from the organisations in line with our mission of “Keeping People Safe”. A synopsis of some of those initiatives that occurred during the month of May 2024 are set out hereunder.

Symposium on Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) involved in people smuggling

On 1 May 2024, the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) held a symposium on the investigation of OCGs involved in people smuggling and related offences on ferry routes into the State. The primary focus of the symposium was the upskilling of Garda members on the investigation of OCGs involved in smuggling offences on ferry routes into the State. The secondary focus was building intelligence on criminality associated with the haulage industry, across all commodities and developing a network of persons across the organisation with expertise in the investigation of smuggling offences.

Two of the key presentations provided included a presentation from Detective Chief Inspector Louise Metcalfe from the Serious Crime Directorate in the Essex Police UK, the Senior Investigating Officer in the 2019 Essex investigation where 39 Vietnamese nationals died in the back of a refrigerated container having arrived to the UK on a ferry from Zeebrugge; and a presentation from Inspector Kurt Van De Castele, Belgian Federal Maritime Police, based in the port of Zeebrugge, who has investigated a number of incidents in Belgium where there have been fatalities.

Detective Superintendents from the Regional Tasking Units, along with key Detective Superintendents, Senior Investigating Officers and Detective Sergeants with responsibility for serious and organised crime investigation at our principal ports were in attendance. Representatives from various bureaus within Organised and Serious Crime, An Garda Síochána, PSNI and UK National Crime Agency were also involved. The Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) is the central point of contact for all.

Safe Participation in Political Life Forum

On 1 May 2024, the Garda National Community Policing Unit assisted Liaison and Protection in hosting its Safe Participation in Political Life Forum, attended by Crime Prevention Officers and Liaison Inspectors from all over the country. The forum discussed the prevention of abuse, including online abuse, of those in political life which is escalating and corrosive, threatening democratic and political systems, and acting as a barrier to participation in public life.



Chief Superintendent Padraic Jones, Garda National Community Engagement Bureau

'May Bank Holiday Weekend

From 2 – 7 May 2024, An Garda Síochána implemented a national information-led roads policing operation for the May Bank Holiday Weekend, containing a direct appeal to motorists to “Think Bike”. This is due to the May Bank Holiday occurring at a time of the year when motorcyclists return to the road in larger numbers owing to improving weather and road conditions.

Members conducted high visibility patrols with a focus on the enforcement of lifesaver offences; speeding, holding a mobile phone while driving, seatbelt use and driving while intoxicated. National and divisional official social media accounts were utilised to highlight enforcement activity and reinforce road safety messages over the course of the weekend.

Over the course of the operation, there were 1,090 mandatory intoxicant testing checkpoints conducted where 5,182 breath tests and 255 oral fluid tests were performed, and 237 persons were arrested on suspicion of driving for under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. There were 272 detections for using a mobile phone, 122 detections for seatbelt offences and in excess of 2,300 speeding offences detected.

'Go Purple Day'

On 3 May 2024, Garda personnel from all over the country participated in our 'Go Purple Day' initiative to highlight domestic violence and the local support services available to those affected by it in Ireland. Nationwide, An Garda Síochána linked in with our domestic abuse services to organise amazing events locally to reaffirm positive working relationships and to highlight pathways of support for victims who may suffering in silence in our towns and villages.

Day of Action – Tyre Safety

On 16 May 2024, a national campaign to raise public awareness on the importance of properly checking the condition of their tyres took place. This day of action involved members from across the country setting up checkpoints with a specific aim to check the condition of tyres for legal compliance, educate motorists to regularly check the wear and condition of their tyres and where detections occurred, initiate prosecutions for tyre and other road traffic offences.

As well as operational engagements with motorists, An Garda Síochána used our social media channels to issue updates on detections throughout the day and offer advice to motorists. In excess of 85 Fixed Charge Penalty Notices for tyre related offences have been recorded for the day of action.



Presentation on Diversity, Hate Crime and Hate Related Incidents

On the 16 May 2024, the Garda National Diversity Unit delivered a presentation at a seminar in Dún Laoghaire County Council, organised by the local Community and Cultural Development Department, in conjunction with the Dún Laoghaire Integration Forum. The seminar was attended by representatives of local organisations developing projects and partnerships with Migrant Communities, International Protection Applicants, the Ukrainian Community, the Traveller Community and other minority communities. The presentation focused on promoting diversity; hate crime and hate related incidents; development of policy, guidelines and training, as well as work in the community.



Garda Sudita Zalli, Garda National Diversity Unit

Garda Memorial Day May 18, 2024 Dubhlinn Gardens



Our Annual Garda Memorial Day to honour and remember those killed in the line of duty took place on Saturday, 18 May 2024 at Dubhlinn Gardens, Dublin Castle. An Garda Síochána were represented by Commissioner Harris and Minister for Justice Helen McEntee was in attendance.

Our Garda Memorial Day is an important day of the year for our policing family to unite, remember and acknowledge the courage, dedication and sacrifice made by our colleagues who gave their lives in active service.

Thermal Arc Cutting

From 27 – 29 May 2024, three members of the Emergency Response Unit travelled to the Clucas training wing in Hull, UK to re-certify as instructors in thermal arc cutting. This is an advanced method of entry skill which uses pressurised oxygen to burn through steel and other metals commonly used in fortification of target premises. The certification allows the three instructors to train and certify other level three method of entry team members in the use of Clucas thermal cutting equipment.



The Greentown Programme

From 22 – 23 May 2024, the Garda National Youth Diversion Bureau participated in a research visit to the Ministry of Justice, The Hague, Netherlands, as members of a delegation from the Greentown Programme. The Greentown Programme is an evidence-informed and design-led targeted community intervention, which aims to reduce the influence of criminal networks on children. The programme was designed by the Research Evidence Policy Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Team in the University of Limerick, with the assistance of international experts.

The purpose of the visit was to learn about the implementation of a similar programme in the Netherlands – ‘Prevention with Authority’. The visit facilitated a knowledge exchange between researchers and practitioners involved in both programmes where challenges and solutions to the implementation of the respective programmes were discussed.



The Traveller Pride Awards

On 23 May 2024, the Garda National Diversity Unit attended the Traveller Pride Awards ceremony at the Lighthouse Cinema in Dublin and engaged with the members of the Travelling Community. The Traveller Pride Awards recognise traveller talents, achievements and creativity. They celebrate the contributions travellers make to their own community and to Irish society in the areas of education, music, arts and culture, youth, sport, enterprise and innovation.



Safety Briefings provided by the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit

Throughout the month of May 2024, the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit (GNPCU) provided safety briefings to a number of media groups, including RTÉ, Newstalk and the Irish Examiner. GNPCU provided crime prevention and safety advice, and the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau provided information on online safety. The briefings were followed by Q&A sessions where questions relating to personal safety, protests and online harassment and abuse were discussed. The reporting process for the Media Engagement Group was further discussed and all those present were reminded that An Garda Síochána encourage the reporting of crimes.

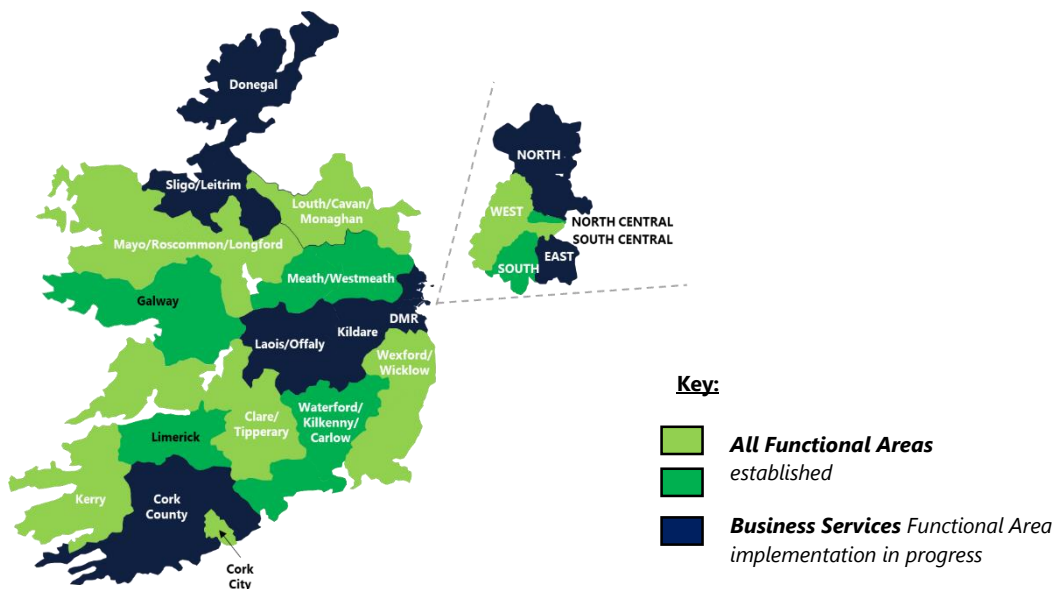
11. Operating Model

The implementation of the Operating Model structure in the DMR West on Sunday, 26 May 2024 brings the number of divisions that have commenced the four functional area structures (Business Services, Performance Assurance, Crime and Community Engagement) to 14.

Two-thirds of all divisions have now implemented the Operating Model structure, with only seven divisions remaining under the district model structure.

The Operating Model Central Implementation Team continues to monitor, liaise, support and engage with these divisions following implementation in an effort to provide the organisational support to the respective Divisional Management Teams in managing the transitional and post-implementation phases.

Implementation Overview May 2024



Current Emerging Issues

Across all divisions, the mobility/retirements/promotions of Garda Staff at all grades is impacting on the implementation of the Functional Areas due to the increasing number of sanctioned and backfill vacancies. There is an internal competition underway for Assistant Principals and HEOs, which should resolve these vacancies.

There is ongoing work by An Garda Síochána to ensure the optimum number of Superintendents and Inspectors are assigned to each division to support successful implementation. There are five divisions where accommodation works are required. This is having an impact on the implementation of areas such as Business Services in a number of these divisions.



Garda Occupational Health and Wellbeing (GOHW)

garda.ie



An Garda Síochána

An Garda Síochána Mental Health First Aid Programme



The first and second cohort of participants in the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructor Training course, under the Garda Síochána Mental Health First Aid Programme, have commenced delivering the required standard two-day MHFA training to Garda personnel.

In May 2024, 12 MHFA courses were delivered to approximately 216 Garda personnel nationwide.

#KeepingOurPeopleSupported

Meeting of the Joint Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Opening Statement by Assistant Commissioner Justin Kelly, Organised & Serious Crime

Tuesday 21st May 2024

Good afternoon Cathaoirleach and members of the Committee. On behalf of the Garda Commissioner, I wish to thank the Committee for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Justin Kelly and I am the Assistant Commissioner with strategic responsibility for tackling organised and serious crime. One of the Bureaus under my remit is the Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB). Our organisational response to sexual crimes against children is the responsibility of this specialist unit. My colleague, Detective Chief Superintendent Colm Noonan who heads up that that section joins me today.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is one of the most important undertakings placed on society, and as you may know, Keeping People Safe is the mission statement of An Garda Síochána. Considerable work is currently being undertaken within Tusla, the HSE, Children's Health Ireland and An Garda Síochána under the Barnahus project. An Garda Síochána are committed partners to the implementation of the Barnahus model in Ireland. We have representatives on the various Barnahus governance and oversight committees. A senior Garda officer, a Detective Superintendent, sits on Barnahus National Agency Steering Committee (BNASC), a highly experienced Detective Inspector sits on the Barnahus Interdepartmental Group (IDG) and a number knowledgeable Detective Inspectors represent An Garda Síochána on the various regional steering groups.

The principles of the Barnahus model have been operating in Galway since its launch in September 2019. The Barnahus West centre became fully operational at its current permanent location in Galway in January 2022. The Barnahus project team hold twice weekly multi-disciplinary case review meetings to triage, allocate and discuss cases. Key professionals in child protection, health care and An Garda Síochána meet regularly to review cases of child sexual abuse and plan the steps that need to be taken. Currently a Sergeant performs the role of Garda liaison to Barnahus West and is core-member of the team there.

The development and implementation of the Barnahus model of service in Ireland is a cross Government, multi-Agency project, which is a significant initiative to help victims and survivors of childhood sexual abuse. As you have heard, the national roll-out of the Barnahus model of services involves four agencies that are involved in the delivery of services, these are:

- Tusla
- Children's Health Ireland
- The Health Service Executive
- and An Garda Síochána

Also involved are three Government Departments:

- The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- The Department of Health
- and The Department of Justice

The introduction of the Barnahus model into Ireland, adapted from Iceland to an Irish context, aims to strengthen our response to child sexual abuse by placing the best interests of the child at its centre, ensuring greater inter-agency collaboration and case management, and ensuring the removal of undue delays. The overarching aim is that all children who are victims in such cases, and their families, benefit from child-friendly access to justice and healthcare.

One of the pillars of the Barnahus model is to enhance inter-agency coordination. This gives rise to the appointment of dedicated Garda personnel as regional co-ordinators to each of the three Barnahus centres. These role holders will be required to be the dedicated point of contact to our partner agencies within Barnahus. They will attend the Barnahus bi-weekly meetings, and at these be in a position to provide an update regarding ongoing Garda investigations and the specialist interviewing of victims. A key role for them will be their liaison with Child Specialist Interviewers, to ensure that the key task of interviewing children coming under Barnahus is managed efficiently.

An Garda Síochána are currently in the process of finalising role profiles in order to advertise internally for Gardaí to be attached on a permanent basis to each Barnahus location. While this will be a draw on resourcing given the increasing and completing demands on the policing

service we provide, these will, in our view be vital positions to ensure the efficient operation of the project.

To conclude, An Garda Síochána is fully supportive of the Barnabus project, and is playing an active role in the current locations and the future planning. I welcome any questions the Committee may have for Detective Chief Superintendent Noonan or me.

Thank you.

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA OPENING STATEMENT TO
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
WEDNESDAY 15 MAY 2024

Chairman, Committee members, Good Afternoon.

Thank you for the invitation to attend here today to discuss this very important issue.

I am joined today by Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman, who has responsibility for Roads Policing and Community Engagement within An Garda Síochána.

Let me begin by saying that I share your deep concern in respect of the current level of road traffic fatalities, and I want to reassure you and the public that An Garda Síochána remains committed to road safety and to reducing the number of fatalities on our roads.

To date, 72 people have lost their lives on Irish roads this year. Their families are grieving and missing a loved one, their lives changed forever.

To those families I would like to extend my deepest sympathies, and I want to reiterate that for An Garda Síochána, any death on our roads is one too many.

This is why road safety is a matter we take very seriously, and we are committed to working with our partners and communities to ensure our roads are a safer place for all.

We want to acknowledge that we cannot solve this alone, and we continue to work in partnership with the Road Safety Authority and with other statutory bodies and inter-agency partners to strengthen our collaboration and to achieve Vision Zero under the Road Safety Strategy 2021 to 2030.

As you will know, the Road Safety Strategy Phase 1 Action Plan (2021-2024) involves 186 actions for delivery by the partners to the strategy under the seven safe system priority intervention areas: safe roads and roadsides, safe speeds, safe vehicles, safe road use, post-crash response, safe and healthy modes of travel, and safe work-related road use.

While it is to be acknowledged that we are facing pressures in terms of resourcing across An Garda Síochána, I want to reassure this committee and the public, that there is certainly no organisational policy to reduce numbers in our Roads Policing Units.

As Garda recruitment continues and accelerates, additional Garda members are becoming available and are being deployed to priority areas.

We plan to add 75 Gardaí to Roads Policing this year and a further 75 in 2025. And working towards this, we are proactively recruiting into our Roads Policing Units. Currently, we have advertised a competition for new allocations to Roads Policing Units in the Eastern, North-Western and Southern Regions. Meanwhile, allocations to Roads Policing Units in the Dublin region have already commenced from an existing panel.

In recognition of the upward trend in road fatalities, we are also implementing a number of key measures which have proven success in curbing poor driver behaviour.

This includes the recent road traffic enforcement measure which calls for 30 minutes of high visibility roads policing duty during every uniform tour of duty. This has had the effect of increasing Garda visibility which, in turn, works to moderate driver and road user behaviour, as well as increase enforcement.

In the first four weeks of the 30-minute operation, which commenced on the 12th of April, we saw increases in detections based on a comparable period in March.

This included a 55% increase in fixed charge notices being issued for Mobile Phone use (2,148 issued); a 40% increase in the number of breath tests conducted at MIT checkpoints (19,100 in total); a 17% increase in those detected driving under the influence (736 incidents); and led to a 30% increase in the number of vehicles seized under Section 41 of the Road Traffic Acts as amended (3,111 vehicles).

All frontline members of An Garda Síochána, even those outside of full time roads policing units, have a role to play in the enforcement of road traffic legislation and do so on a daily basis.

For instance, in 2023, non-roads policing allocated personnel were responsible for 70% of Driving under the Influence detections and 24.5% of the enforcement of Mobile Phone, Seatbelt and Speeding offences.

This latest initiative has been introduced and adapted from the highly successful Swedish Road Safety Strategy. Their 'Vision Zero' strategy has successfully halved the number of deaths on Swedish roads since the turn of the millennium.

By using this model towards roads policing in Sweden, research has shown that the presence of a police officer in a visible position for a period of 30 minutes collectively alters driver behaviour and reduces speed, which in turn plays a vital role in reducing fatal or serious injury road traffic collisions.

We are all aware that speed kills, but just to provide some context to this, it has been shown that if a pedestrian is struck by a vehicle travelling at 50km/hour, they have a 50% chance of surviving the collision. However, that reduces significantly to just 10% if they are struck by a vehicle travelling at 60km/hour. So this small change in speed can and does have a huge impact.

In relation to our enforcement activity in this area, we have issued 45,951 fixed charge notices for speeding so far this year [up to 9th of May 2024].

Of those, approximately 70% were detected via the use of mobile safety cameras.

There are currently 55 mobile safety cameras operational nationwide. This is set to increase to 58 in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, following the successful roll-out of two average speed safety camera systems on the N7 and at the Dublin Port Tunnel, three more will be added in Quarter 3 of this year along the N3, N5 and N2.

Working from our own Garda budget, we will supplement the existing mobile safety cameras and average safety cameras with new static safety cameras, which will begin being installed along nine national routes in other locations across the country in Quarter 4 of this year.

These nine static speed cameras will cost approximately €2.4 million over the next 18 months. Their locations have been selected based on fatal and serious injury collision data from the last seven years and speed data, as well as feedback from stakeholders.

But looking beyond that, I have requested that Assistant Commissioner Hilman develop a business case for the introduction of a further substantial increase in static speed cameras. This business case will then form part of An Garda Síochána's application for its overall funding in 2025 as part of the Estimates Process.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge that Garda members have been working hard in the area of Road Safety and we are seeing the impact of this in terms of our enforcement statistics and also in the development and expansion of our education activities within communities.

We have issued 7,557 fixed charge notices in respect of mobile phone use so far this year. This again is about reminding the public that it only takes a split second for the unthinkable to happen, and that it is essential that drivers keep their eyes on the road at all times and stay alert.

As of 9th of May 2024, there were 2,870 incidents of driving whilst intoxicated (under the influence of alcohol or drugs). Since the introduction of the Securetec® Drugwipe in December 2022, An Garda Síochána now has better capabilities to detect drug driving. The Drugwipe test is not only portable but delivers faster results, and it works to detect the presence of Cannabis, Cocaine, Benzodiazepines, Opiates, Amphetamine and Methamphetamine.

Based on last year's data, we have seen that drug driving detections account for over one third of driving while intoxicated detections.

This test is one of the many advances that have been made to support Gardaí in their roads policing efforts. We have also improved our road side breath test devices; have improved speed detection equipment; and we have increased the number of ANPR (Automated Number Plate Recognition) equipped vehicles.

In addition, An Garda Síochána has deployed enhanced SMART policing technologies. For instance, all frontline Gardaí can now issue Fixed Charge Notices and check vehicle data, person data and insurance data directly through their personal mobility device on the side of the road.

Since the introduction of the insurance data app on mobility devices, we have seen a steady increase in the number of vehicles detained where the reason included no insurance, with 6,675 vehicles detained this year

to the 9th May 2024. This represents a 70% increase on the same period in 2023, when 3,936 vehicles were detained where the reason included no insurance.

Of course, for our roads to be safe, we cannot solely rely on enforcement. A more complete approach that incorporates education and the engineering of both roads and vehicles is crucial to addressing road safety concerns.

We recognise that educating people of all ages has the potential to help keep more people safe on or near our roads. To that end, we actively engage in workplace briefings, deliver road safety talks in schools and third level institutions, as well as delivering primary schools and transition year road safety programmes.

Further to this activity, An Garda Síochána rolled out the 'Lifesaver Project" nationally in October 2023. This is a hard hitting interactive road Safety talk which can be delivered to school groups, industry professionals, or community groups and highlights the impact of road traffic collisions.

We continue to carry out high profile 'days of action', such as our recent National Slow Down Day, which work to highlight and promote road safety.

And we utilise communications tools such as our social media channels and our flagship TV programme Crimecall to highlight road traffic enforcement and safety advice to the public.

In April, we launched a series of TikTok videos which focussed on distracted driving and to date this series has received 2.8 million views. Of those who engaged with the series, almost 44% were aged between 18 and 34; and a further 25% were aged between 35 to 44.

To conclude,

I want to take this opportunity to advise anyone getting behind the wheel of any vehicle today to consider carefully how your actions could impact others. I urge you to please slow down, put the phones away and give your full attention to the road.

Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.