



An Garda Síochána

Monthly Report for September 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**



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

Yours sincerely,

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

24 October 2024

Message from the Commissioner

During the month of September 2024, An Garda Síochána was pleased to report on a major success under Operation Clothespin, an international law enforcement action against encrypted communication platform Ghost. Working with our partners in Europol and Eurojust, together with law enforcement and judicial authorities from around the world, we have successfully dismantled an encrypted communication platform that was facilitating serious and organised crime.

On 16 September 2024, as part of this international investigation, a coordinated international law enforcement day of action was carried out, and An Garda Síochána searched 27 premises across Dublin and counties in the Eastern Region. Over 300 Gardaí were deployed and representatives from Europol, the Australian Federal Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were also in Ireland in support of the ongoing operation. The result yielded the seizure of €15,200,000 in suspected cocaine, €350,000 in cash, €320,000 worth of suspected cannabis, €100,000 in suspected heroin, Crypto Currency, 42 suspected Ghost Elliptical Curve Cryptography (ECC) encrypted devices and 153 other electronic devices. Eleven arrests were made.

This serves as a reminder to the criminals that An Garda Síochána remains committed to dismantling transnational organised crime groups and will work with its partners to that end. It takes a network to defeat a network and on this occasion we have seen the fruits of this partnership approach.

During September, we had cause to initiate a Child Rescue Ireland (CRI) alert, in response to the hijacking of a vehicle with a five-month old baby in the rear. The incident occurred on 24 September 2024 in Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1. Initiating such an alert requires careful consideration. This is the tenth time an alert has been issued in the 12 years that the system has been in place. Thankfully the baby was located safe within two hours of initiating the CRI alert and an arrest was made in the following days.

Also in September 2024, the last phase of the proof of concept for body-worn cameras was rolled out in Waterford City. This means that body-worn cameras are now in use at five Garda stations across three Garda divisions – Dublin's Pearse Street, Kevin Street and Store Street Garda Stations; Henry Street Garda Station in Limerick; and Waterford Garda Station. Three different cameras are in use in the stations and we will continue to monitor feedback as the proof of concept progresses.

On 20 September 2024, we welcomed 108 new Gardaí to the organisation, following an attestation and passing out ceremony in the Garda College in Templemore, Co. Tipperary.

Meanwhile, the bravery and courage of eight Gardaí was recognised with the presentation of Scott Medals in honour of deceased, retired and serving members of An Garda Síochána at Walter Scott House, on 9 September 2024. The Scott Medal is the highest award that can be bestowed by the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and is awarded for the 'most exceptional bravery and heroism involving the risk of life in the execution of duty'. The presentation of these Scott Medals serves as another reminder of the incredible work done by our dedicated Gardaí every day to keep people safe.

Drew Harris
Commissioner

1. Financial Expenditure and Receipts

	2024 Allocation €'000	Expenditure/Receipts en August €'000	Remaining August- Dec €'000	Remaining %
Gross Total	2,361,266	1,751,087	610,179	26%
Appropriation in Aid (receipts)	104,206	100,498	3,708	4%
Net Total	2,257,060	1,650,589	606,471	

Total full-year 2024 gross allocation is €2.36 billion and the net allocation is €2.26 billion. At the end of September 2024, the total gross expenditure for the nine months' year to date is €1.75 billion (74% of allocation) and receipts are €100.5 million (96% of allocated). An Garda Síochána Senior Leadership Team continues to place a significant focus on cost management, in particular in relation to oversight and management of overtime.

Estate Management

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

Bailieboro Garda Station (new station): The OPW have advised substantial completion is expected in Q2 2025.

Redevelopment of Portlaoise Garda Station:

Feedback was received from the Department of Justice and a final business case is being progressed internally in An Garda Síochána. This business case will be resubmitted to the Department of Justice for approval imminently.

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. A pre-contract award meeting was held by the OPW on 25 September 2024. The start date for commencement of works is to be confirmed shortly.

Temporary Decant Sites for duration of Main Redevelopment:

Costs for fit-outs of pavilions A and B, Grattan House were approved by An Garda Síochána. Pavilion A and pavilion B were fully vacated, and works commenced on 17 September 2024. An updated programme of works is awaited from the OPW.

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 is on site, where the principal contractors took ownership of the site on 3 September 2024. Tallaght and Naas PEMS will follow, subsequent to the main works contract starting on site in Drogheda. Tallaght PEMS: Stage 2 tendering is expected to issue in early October 2024, with the intent of having a contract awarded before year end. Naas PEMS: It is envisaged that a construction contract will be awarded in late Q1 2025.

Newcastle West Garda Station (New Station): The main contractor has been issued the letter of intent and the standstill period has now passed. Reserved specialist tenders for mechanical and electrical have been issued and the OPW are finalising the reserved specialist's submissions. Once complete, the OPW will advise on final costs in the coming weeks to feed into the final business case.

Development of New Garda Stations at Clonmel & Macroom: The OPW issued the main tenders for both of these projects in July 2024 with a closing date of 30 September 2024 for submission of tenders.

2. Human Resources and People Development

Roster Duty Management System (RDMS)

Transfer to the Midlands Roster on RDMS is now complete with post go-live support still being maintained. RDMS configuration for Operating Model go-live is underway for DMR East with a go-live date for the Operating Model scheduled for 4 November 2024. A85s (record of duty, and claim form for overtime and other allowances) continue to be retired, most recently in the North Western Regional Office, Liaison and Protection, and the Garda Press Office from 30 September 2024. Preparation for retiring A85s is in progress with the Office of Deputy Commissioner Strategy, Governance and Performance, and the Office of Deputy Commissioner Policing Operations.

Workforce Planning

The next clearing house meeting with the Department of Justice, the Policing Authority and the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan, Delivery and Reform is scheduled for 29 October 2024.

Resourcing

There are currently 24 internal Garda Staff recruitment competitions in progress across the organisation. Interviews for the Clerical Officer competition took place between 16 and 27 September 2024 in Dublin, Laois, Leitrim, Tipperary and Waterford. The Executive Officer 2024 Competition was advertised on 26 September 2024, with a closing date of 11 October 2024. The online testing window for Assistant Principal closed in July 2024. The shortlisting process was completed on 30 September 2024, with results to issue in October 2024. The results of the online assessments for the Higher Executive Officer 2024 competition will issue in October 2024.

A significant number of Clerical Officers have been recruited into the organisation and the Senior Leadership Team is working to ensure that the current Clerical Officer numbers are now optimised. This will consider the ongoing efforts of An Garda Síochána to increase civilianisation of roles.

Resource Allocation

There were 15 promotions in September 2024. 14 members were promoted to the rank of Inspector and one member was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Recruitment Strategy

The Strategic Recruitment Team ensure the delivery of services, via our recruitment partner for end to 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 and 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 Human Resources and Finance
- HEO Internal Auditor
- Professional Accountant Grade 2
- AP Legal Professional
- AP Head of Records Management
- AP Employee Relations Manager
- Fleet Technical Manager
- Forensic Accountant Grade 2
- Crime and Data Analyst (EO)

Overseas Office

An Garda Síochána currently has 15 members on UN Mission in Cyprus.

Dignity Policy Administration Office

In September 2024, the Dignity Policy Administration Office facilitated the training of 42 members of Chief Superintendent, Superintendent and Inspector ranks in the Southern Region in Investigator Training for the Working Together to Create a Positive Working Environment Policy.

Garda College

Gardaí from Intake 235 were attested as sworn members of An Garda Síochána at a ceremony on 20 September 2024. This office was involved in promoting the passing out ceremony. This included the issuing of a press release, live stream from the ceremony, associated photography and video content, together with a press briefing with Commissioner Drew Harris and newly attested Gardaí at the Garda College in Templemore. These activities served to highlight the current strength of personnel in An Garda Síochána; that being a Garda is a job worth doing; and ongoing efforts in the area of recruitment. The new personnel will be allocated as follows: Dublin Region (74), Eastern Region (16), Southern Region (10) and North Western Region (8).



(Left): Newly sworn members of An Garda Síochána at attestation ceremony.

(Right): Commissioner Harris at the attestation ceremony.

To support the recruitment of Garda Trainees, the Garda College continue to focus on sharing training and Garda College updates on their social media presence.

Other HRPD Activities

On 27 September 2024, the HRPD Charitable Activities Committee hosted a table quiz and raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses, in aid of the Little Blue Heroes Foundation. A fantastic night was had by all who took part, with €2,500 being raised for the foundation at the event.



(L-R) Committee members Sarah Langrell, Garda Stephen Moloney, Sergeant Eoin Twomey and Jodie Dempsey



Prizes donated by local businesses in aid of Little Blue Heroes

Human Resources and People Development Analytics/Data

As at 30 September 2024, the Garda member strength stood at 14,125 (WTE 14,091.5) and the Garda Staff strength stood at 3,649 (3,468.2 WTE). A full breakdown by rank, grade and gender is outlined below.

2.1 Garda Member Strength

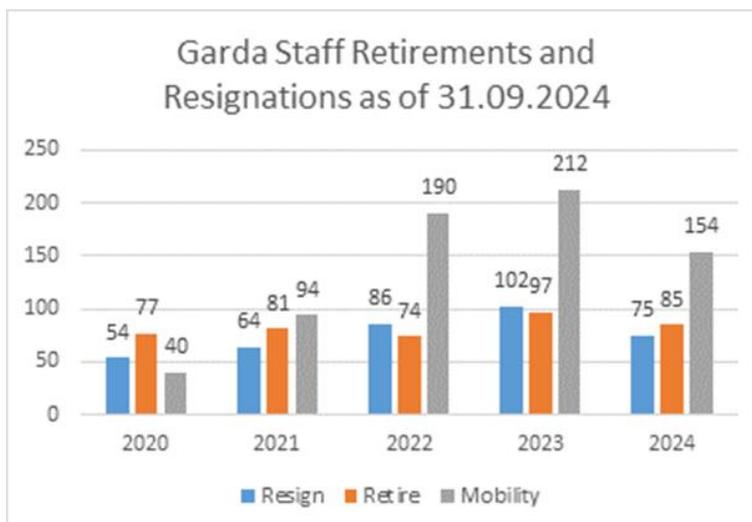
Rank	As at 30 September 2024	Male	%	Female	%	WTE
Commissioner	1	1	100	0	0	1
Deputy Commissioner	1	0	0	1	100	1
Assistant Commissioner	8	4	50	4	50	8
Chief Superintendent	48	38	79	10	21	48
Superintendent	168	140	83	28	17	168
Inspector	464	367	79	97	21	464
Sergeant	2,168	1,629	75	539	25	2,167
Garda	11,267	7,896	70	3,371	30	11,234.5
Total	14,125	10,075	71	4,050	29	14,091.5

Of which	As at 30 September 2024	Male	%	Female	%
Career Breaks (incl. ICB)	31	16	52	15	48
Work-sharing	33.5	0.5	1.5	33	98.5
Secondments (Overseas etc.)	54	37	69	17	31
Maternity Leave	49	0	0	49	100
Unpaid Maternity Leave	35	0	0	35	100
Paternity Leave	6	6	100	0	0
Available Strength	13,916.5	10,015.5	72	3,901	28

Garda Reserves Strength

Garda Reserves Strength As at 30 September 2024	Total*	Male	%	Female	%
	323	250	77	73	23

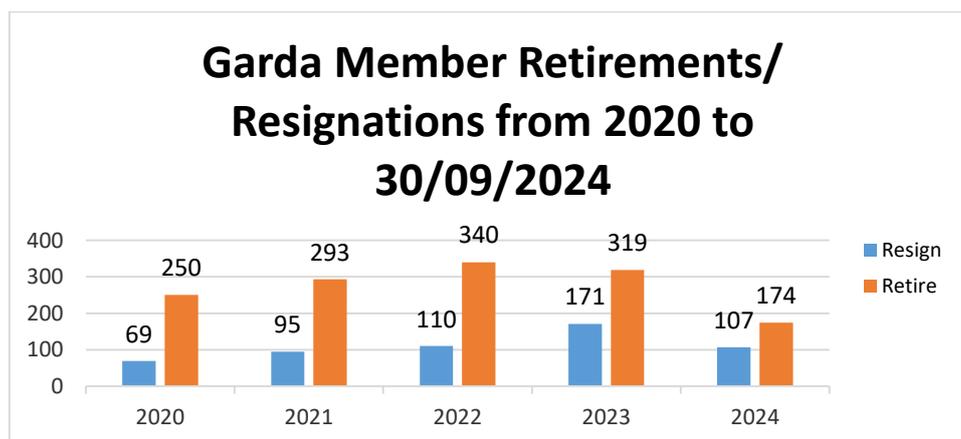
Garda Staff Exits by Type



**Following a data reconciliation exercise, the number of departures on mobility for 2021, 2022 and 2023 have been adjusted versus previous monthly reports.*

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

Garda Member Retirements and Resignations



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

Applications to Extend Service

On 3 September 2024, Taoiseach Simon Harris and Minister for Justice Helen McEntee signed regulations which increase the mandatory retirement age for Garda members from 60 to 62.

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	9	18	10	1	29

CURRENT SUSPENSIONS & CORE ISSUES INVESTIGATED BY AGS & GSOC	
Suspension (Ended / Ongoing)	Ongoing
Main Reason	Total
Theft / Forgery / Fraud / Dishonesty	16
Sexual Assault / Sexual Misconduct	10
Driving under Influence of Intoxicant	12
Disclosure of Information / Data Protection / Abuse of PULSE	9
Perverting the Course of Justice	8
Domestic Violence / Coercive Control	9
Corruption / Criminal Association	8
Assault / Assault Causing Harm	7
Drugs / Drug Related	5
Other	6
Grand Total	90

2.3 Garda Staff Strengths as at 30 September 2024 (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	2	2	0	0	2	100	0	0
Chief Medical Officer	1	1	1	100	0	0	0	0
CIO	1	1	1	100	0	0	0	0
Director	4	4	2	50	2	50	0	0
PO	28	28	14	50	14	50	0	0
AP	94	93.8	42	45	52	55	0	0
HEO	204	203.4	80	39	124	61	0	0
AO	19	19	10	53	9	47	0	0
EO	886	874.5	282	32	604	68	0	0
CO	2,052	1,987.9	554	27	1,498	73	0	0
Total**	3,292	3,215.6	986	30	2,306	70	0	0
	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
Professional/Technical (including Chief Medical Officer)	56	55.6	30	57	26	43		
Administrative ***	3,291	3,214.6	985	30	2,306	70		
Industrial/Non Industrial	302	197	96	32	206	68		
Total	3,649	3,467.2	1,111	30.5	2,538	69.5		
Of which	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
Maternity Leave	19	19	0	0	19	100	0	0
Unpaid Maternity Leave	2	2	0	0	2	100	0	0
Paternity Leave	1	1	1	100	0	0	0	0
Secondment/Exchange	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Available Total	3,627	3,445.2	1,110	31	2,517	69	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	%
	270	76.8	6	2	264	98	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	%
	26	26	8	31	18	69	0	0

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

Parental Leave

1.09.24 – 30.09.24	Garda Members	Garda Staff
	150	68

Garda Staff assigned and commenced – as at 30 September 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	58	93	86*	63*	109			

* Numbers adjusted following reconciliation exercise.

Employee Assistance Service (EAS)

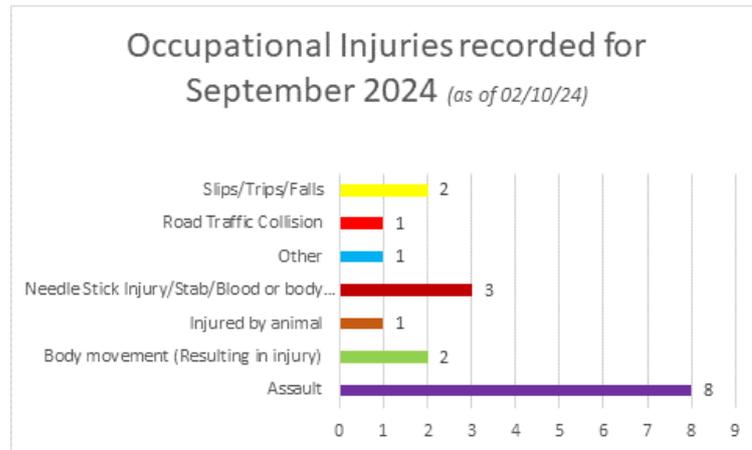
During the month of September 2024, the Employee Assistance Service carried out various activities nationally in support of colleagues, including group welfare interventions (critical incident stress management), sharing and listening sessions, wellness walks, applied suicide intervention skills training, Family Liaison Officer Course, presentations to probationers, intakes 241 and 243, and to newly promoted members and staff, and specialist interviewers training.

During September 2024, 602 Garda personnel accessed the INSPIRE Wellbeing Service, which supports colleagues through challenging times in either their professional or personal lives;

- Psychological Support Programme: 164
- Psychological Support Group Information Sessions: 30
- Standard Counselling: 316
- Trauma Counselling: 92

Health and Safety

18 occupational injuries were recorded for September 2024 (as of 02/10/24).



The number of National Incident Management System (NIMS) incidents created in September 2024 was 107.

3. Information and Communications Technology

As per Policing Plan target E5.1, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) continues to deliver the key projects in the 2024 roadmap, in line with and in support of An Garda Síochána strategic goals, and our data and technology vision of ‘information-led policing’. ICT also continues to support the operational needs of the organisation in the office, on the frontline and working remotely, by enabling Garda personnel access to Garda information systems in a secure manner where needed, particularly in the use of digital collaboration tools for desktop and mobile.

ICT Capacity

An external recruitment agency has been contracted to provide additional recruitment capacity in addition to Garda participation in PAS led recruitment campaigns. Two campaigns have taken place since February 2024 at Assistant Principal and Higher Executive Officer level, and we are now beginning to see successful candidates being on-boarded into a number of vacant roles in ICT from these competitions. ICT also have a number of vacancies at Executive Officer level. A number of associated recruitment competitions are near completion, and are due to launch in October 2024 and November 2024.

The second and subsequent phases of the workforce plan are also pending. As part of the second phase, a business case to boost our Cyber Security Team has been drafted and is being finalised with support from the Chief Corporate Officer. These vacancies continue to impact ICT’s ability to support current systems and services, as well as impacting on the pace of delivery of the ICT roadmap, including projects on corporate support systems, cyber security, new mobile applications and planning for a major custody management system.

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

The Incident Response App has been updated to display photos attached to incidents, for example missing persons. Incident narrative updates are now also pushed to the responder’s device. The root cause of the underlying infrastructure issue was uncovered recently and a remedy is planned for the beginning of November 2024.

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

The third phase of the proof of concept (PoC) went live on 5 September 2024 in Waterford Garda Station. Speaking about the launch in Waterford, Commissioner Drew Harris said: *“Today’s launch marks the final stage in our proof of concept phase which brings us one step closer to the implementation of Information-Led Policing”*. It follows extensive consultation with over 20 other police services around the world and the commencement of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023, which includes the Codes of Practice for their operation.

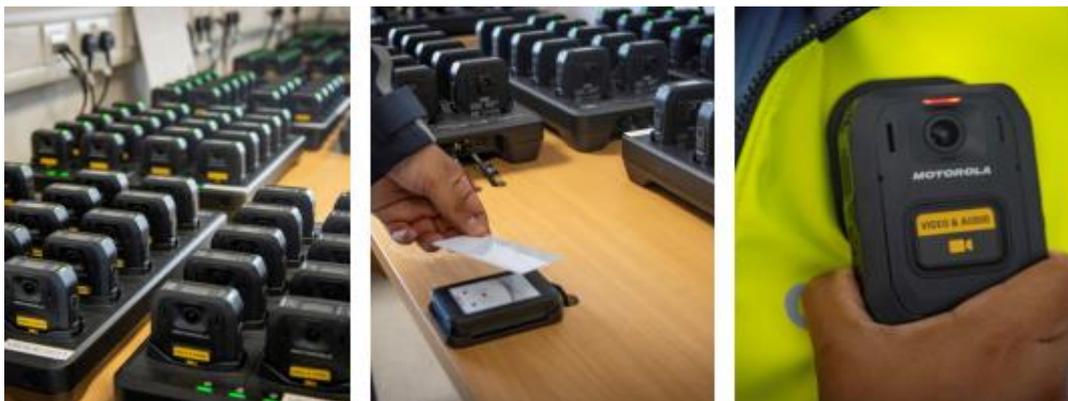
Five Garda stations were selected to be part of the PoC phase for body-worn cameras, which will continue to run only in these five Garda stations until early 2025. The PoC will continue with a period of analysis and engagement with frontline Gardaí, to understand and evaluate the cameras and Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS), and the effectiveness of the production of video in the courts and engagement with the DPP.

The Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, confirmed in September 2024 that the first Garda body-worn camera conviction had been secured. Minister McEntee mentioned in a debate on the new criminal justice legislation that Gardaí reported feeling safer with body-worn cameras on their uniforms. Minister McEntee said, in the case concerned, bodycam footage had demonstrated to a court how an accused person was being aggressive, *“That bodycam [material] resulted in a three-month sentence that I think otherwise would not have been received”*.

To date, feedback from the participating Garda stations has been positive, with Gardaí noting situations that might ordinarily escalate, have actually de-escalated due to the presence of a Garda with a body-worn camera. Gardaí have also noted that the public are meeting the cameras use positively.



Garda Jordan Quinn, Waterford



New IT System at the Extradition Unit

On 3 September 2024, a newly designed IT system went live for the Extradition Unit at the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation. The new IT system provides the Extradition Unit with a policing platform which allows for data capturing and case file management, while enabling the real-time sharing of information within the Garda organisation, as well as our judicial partners. This new system is integrated into the current systems in place at the Extradition Unit, which will allow for all correspondence received by the unit to be automatically processed and recorded within the system. The new system allows for an advanced search engine and a reporting module for the Extradition Unit which will automatically generate a variety of reports, reducing the need for manual reporting practices. The system will support a more effective and efficient management of the caseload of the unit, including the management of all incoming and outgoing warrants.

Investigation Management System (IMS) Deployment

In September 2024, the ICT IMS team began preparations for the deployment of IMS to the Galway Division in early 2025. This included the provision of new equipment and preparatory work to allow the Garda College to train members in Galway. On the software side, the IMS R2.1 release is progressing well and on track for a go-live in late November 2024. This will align the system with the new Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) Policy. In parallel, design work on the next iteration of IMS has been continuing with our various stakeholders.

ICT Workstream to enable and support the new Garda Operating Model

The Cork County Division is the sixteenth division to formally commence all four Functional Areas under the Operating Model (Community Engagement, Crime, Performance Assurance and Business Services).

Other ICT Activities – Coffee morning for Hospice

On 26 September 2024, the ICT Centre, Phoenix House held a coffee morning as part of the Bewley's Big Coffee Morning for Hospice. It received great support and personnel showed off their home baking skills bringing in a range of cakes and savoury delights on the day. It was a very successful coffee morning with over €800 raised through donations.



4. Corporate Communications

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

On 24 September 2024, the Garda Press Office initiated a Child Rescue Ireland (CRI) alert, following the hijacking of a vehicle in Mountjoy Square in Dublin 1 and report that a five-month-old baby was a rear seat passenger at the time the car was taken. The infant was located safe and well within two hours of initiating the CRI alert.

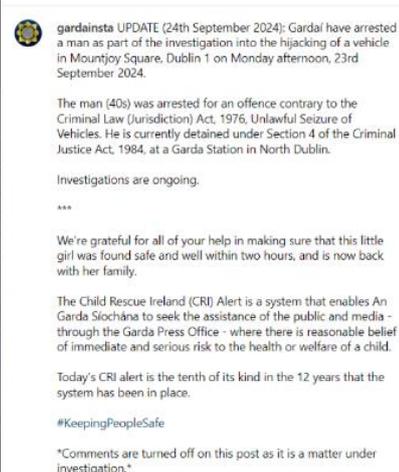
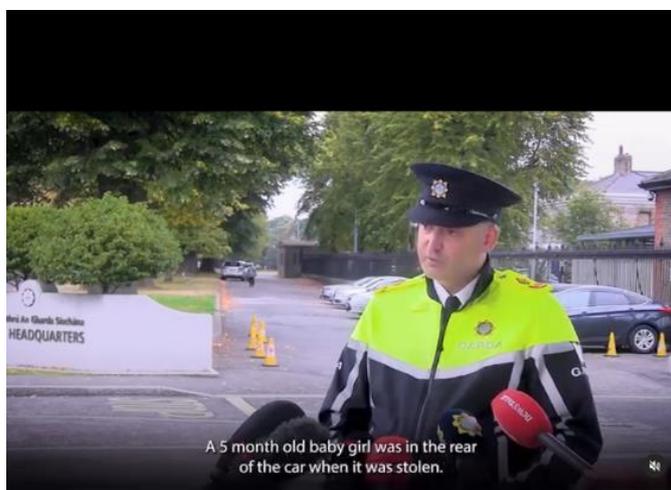
The team were involved in many significant policing events throughout the month, including Operation Clothespin, where we worked in collaboration with our international colleagues on policing associated with the encrypted communication platform Ghost.

This month, RTÉ aired two separate series, which provided insight into the work of An Garda Síochána. This office was responsible for liaising with the two production companies in respect of the new television series *On The Beat* and the latest series of *The Case I Can't Forget*.

Also during the month of September 2024, this office worked to promote community engagement activities around Operation Dearóil, our policing plan for the Ireland vs England, UEFA Nations League soccer match on 7 September 2024 and the National Ploughing Championships. Work also continued in the area of road safety awareness and this month this office supported National Slow Down Day on 2 September 2024.

Office of Corporate Communications Activities: Media Briefing – Child Rescue Ireland (CRI) Alert on 24 September 2024

On 24 September 2024, An Garda Síochána initiated a Child Rescue Ireland (CRI) alert in respect of a hijacking of a vehicle where an infant was a rear passenger. The CRI alert is a system that enables An Garda Síochána to seek the assistance of the public and media, through the Garda Press Office, where there is reasonable belief of immediate and serious risk to the health or welfare of a child. Initiating such an alert requires careful consideration and an abduction CRI alert will only be launched when all the following criteria exist: the child is under the age of 18; there is a reasonable belief that the child has been abducted; there is a reasonable belief that there is an immediate and serious risk to the health or welfare of a child; and there is sufficient information available to enable the public to assist An Garda Síochána in locating the child.



Garda Press Office Superintendent Liam Geraghty speaking to media following the issuing of a CRI Alert – video and text of the appeal shared to An Garda Síochána social media accounts

Media and Promotional Activity: RTÉ Television Productions

The Office of Corporate Communications worked with OddBoyMedia in the production of a new three-part RTÉ series entitled *On the Beat*, which aired during September 2024. The series offers an inside look at the daily lives of serving Gardaí in Ireland, follows Gardaí on duty and highlights successes, challenges and issues faced in the policing of districts in Waterford, Longford and Dundalk.



Garda Neechal Ramah, Dundalk, who features in the series

An Garda Síochána Scott Medal Awards Ceremony on 9 September 2024

This office supported communications around the presentation of eight Scott Medals in respect of the valiant and brave efforts of Gardaí in the line of duty. This office issued a press release, highlighting those honoured by the Garda Commissioner at the awards ceremony, which was held at Walter Scott House, Military Road, Dublin 8 on 9 September 2024.



Garda Timothy McSweeney a recipient of a Silver Scott Medal Award on September 9, 2024.

Garda Press Office Activity

The Garda Press Office operates 7am-11pm, seven days a week, responding to hundreds of queries, coordinating 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 233 press releases, 98 missing person appeals relating to 55 missing persons, 11 in respect of witness appeals, together with those related to successful operations undertaken by the organisation. Other activities this month included support and promotion for Operation Dearóil; the Ireland V England UEFA Nations League Soccer Policing Plan over the course of 6 to 8 September 2024; the Association of Garda Superintendents Annual Conference on 25 September 2024; and Roads Policing Operation Enable National Make Way Day on 27 September 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	Number of Followers	Engagement Rate
 Facebook - @AnGardaSíochána	408,905	2.68%
 Facebook – Missing Persons	10,154	8.12%
 Instagram - @GardaInsta	199,629	2.76%
 X- @GardaInfo	293,724	5.23%
 X - @GardaTraffic	624,114	5.21%
 LinkedIn – An Garda Síochána	59,980	15.3%
 TikTok – @GardaInfo	36,634	45.14%

Internal Communications

In September 2024, An Garda Síochána internal communications team delivered eight comprehensive Newsbeat updates. The average Newsbeat open rate is 62%, significantly higher than the industry standard open rate of 57.6% for internal newsletters and the 49.5% average within Government and Public Service organisations.

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:

- Details on the relaunch of Traffic Watch.
- Introduction of a new Facebook page dedicated to missing persons.
- Contact information for submitting cases to Crimecall.
- Update from the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau on a new guidance document they have published.

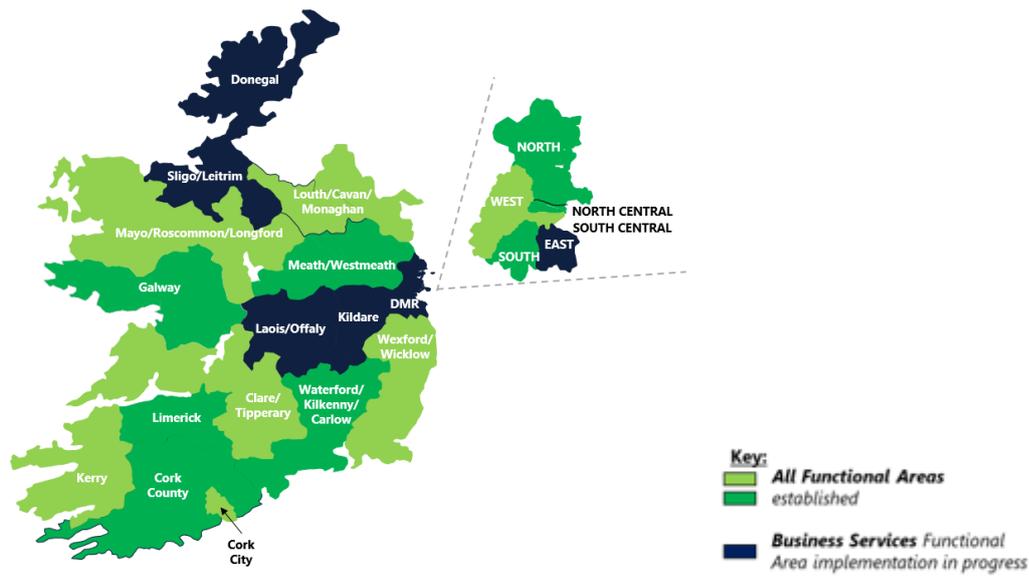


5. Operating Model

16 divisions have transitioned to the Operating Model Structure and have commenced the four Functional Area structures (Business Services, Performance Assurance, Crime and Community Engagement). The Operating Model Central Implementation Team continues to engage with these 16 divisions following implementation, to provide support to the respective Divisional Management Teams in managing the transitional and post-implementation phases.

Across the remaining five divisions to transition to the Operating Model, progress is continuing with Business Services and Performance Assurance implementation.

Implementation Overview 30 September 2024



Key Dependencies

Across all divisions, resourcing continues to be a key dependency for the successful implementation of the Functional Areas.

Work is continuing with Garda Estate Management and the OPW to address Operating Model related accommodation dependencies in divisions.

6. Implementation of Cultural Change

Culture Reform Programme

On 17 September 2024, the Garda Ethics and Culture Bureau (GECB) and Garda Professional Standards Unit delivered a training presentation to the new Operational Model team (PAFA) Wicklow/Wexford Division in New Ross, as part of the Quarter 3 Governance and Accountability 'Roadshow' to the Eastern Region. Superintendent Keane and Higher Executive Officer Sinead Brady, GECB presented a briefing on the role of the Ethics and Culture Bureau, and a questions and answers session was held, which received positive feedback.

On 20 September 2024, Superintendent GECB met with Superintendent Brian Murphy, Training and Development, Garda College, and discussed the training courses available at the college relevant to supportive leadership. As a result, GECB will now be provided with full statistics of how supportive leadership training has been implemented within the organisation since the Culture Audit 2022.

On 25 September 2024, Superintendent GECB attended the Human Rights, Ethics and Culture Management Board meeting. Updates were given to the Board on the quarterly progress made by GECB in its implementation of ethics as the core of Cultural Reform for the organisation.

Enhancing Professional Conduct

On 11 September 2024, the Lessons Learned Working Group convened to progress the next edition. An 'end of year' theme was decided where an emphasis will be given to reminders of proper behaviour by Garda personnel throughout the Christmas period. It will also contain an overview of the previous Learning the Lessons editions published in 2024.

7. Risk Management

An Garda Síochána Corporate Risk Register captures 10 principle 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 September 2024, GRMU:

- Held one-to-one meetings with all corporate risk owners/support staff, to assist in the review and update of their risk registers.
- Superintendent GRMU attended a meeting of the Risk and Policy Committee, at which the recent review of the Corporate Risk Register by the Executive Review Board (consisting of the Garda Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner Policing Operations, and the Chief Corporate Officer) was further discussed.
- Conducted a risk management workshop with Organised and Serious Crime.
- Superintendent GRMU attended the Audit and Risk Committee meeting.
- Delivered risk management presentations as part of the Inspectors development course.
- Delivered a briefing on the 'e-Risk' system to members of the DMR North Central Division and ICT.
- As part of an initiative to improve and embed risk management in the Operating Model Divisions, risk management training was delivered to members of the DMR South Central Division.
- Continue to engage with the Institute of Public Administration on their current review of risk management processes in An Garda Síochána.

8. Data Quality and Operational Value of Data

Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) Update

GISC held two data quality workshops in September 2024. One focused on HR corporate data with colleagues from HRPD, Corporate ICT and the Garda Síochána Analysis Service (GSAS), alongside another with colleagues from GardaSAFE and ICT teams, to improve and enhance the recording of incidents transferred from GardaSAFE to PULSE.

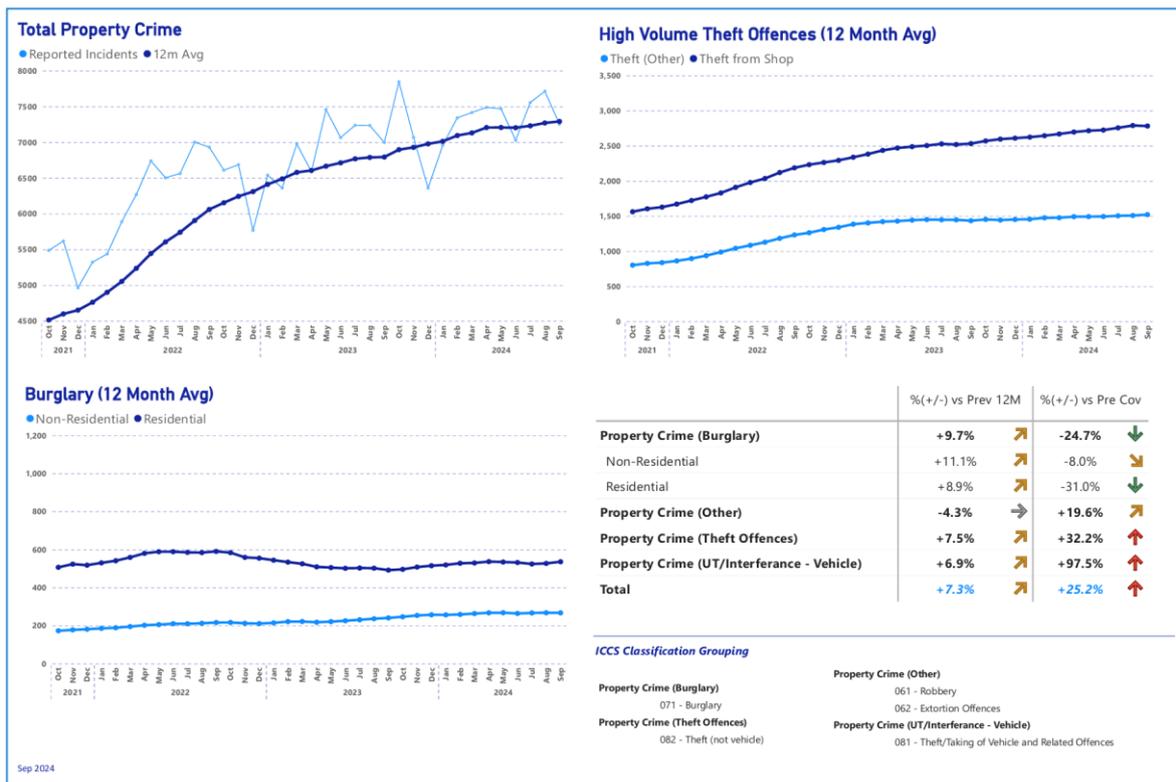
11 new GISC call takers commenced training during September 2024.

Following ongoing review and monitoring of the recording of incident outcomes, GISC introduced two new incident outcomes to capture when an injured party organisation does not support further action with investigations.

An Garda Síochána Crime Incidents Data Quality Metrics, which have previously been published on the Garda website on a monthly basis, will be published on a quarterly basis going forward. The next update will be published in December 2024.

Crime Trends

The Garda Síochána Analysis Service 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 Crimes Against the Person

Reported Incidents 12m Avg



	%(+/-) vs Prev 12m	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
Crimes Against the Person (Assault)	-1.2%	+18.3%
Non-Residential	+0.1%	+29.4%
Residential	-3.8%	+0.1%
Crimes Against the Person (Other)	-0.8%	+0.4%
Total	-1.7%	+14.6%

ICCS Classification Grouping

Crimes Against the Person (Assault)
032 - Assaults

Crimes Against the Person (Other)
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)	-48.3%	-52.2%
Sexual Offences (Rape/Sexual Assault)	-1.2%	+13.9%
Total	-6.3%	+5.2%

ICCS Classification Grouping

Sexual Offences (Child Pornography Offences)
0222 - Child pornography offences
0223 - Child pornography - obstruction of warrant

Sexual Offences (Rape/Sexual Assault)
021 - Rape and Sexual Assault
022 - Other Sexual Offences (excl. Child Pornography)

Criminal Damage

Reported Incidents 12m Avg



	%(+/-) vs Prev 12m	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
Criminal Damage	-1.2%	+9.2%
Non-Residential	-3.5%	+5.5%
Residential	+1.9%	+14.5%
Total	-1.2%	+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 (Drunkenness)	+2.5%	+9.7%
Public Order (Public Order Offences)	+7.3%	-2.7%
Total	+5.5%	+1.6%

ICCS Classification Grouping

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

Garda National Vetting Bureau (GNVB) Update

Vetting

Garda standard vetting average turnaround times continue at their long-term figure of six working days once an application is received. 458,077 Garda vetting applications have been received to the end of September 2024, which is a 4% year on year increase on vetting applications received to the end of September 2024.

Compliance

1,956 role relevancy checks were carried out by our Compliance Team in September 2024, leading to 42 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 Garda National Vetting Bureau (GNVB) carried out 11 compliance inspections in relevant organisations in the month of September 2024.

European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

78 requests from operational 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 GNVB in September 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 September 2024

Category	September 2024
Total UOF for Month	897
Civilians Injured	19
Garda Members Injured	9
Pepper Spray Deployed	117
Batons	23
Handcuffs	843
Anti-spit guard	1
Unarmed Restraint	147
Taser	1
Less Lethal Firearm	0
Firearm	0
Gender Subject to Force - Male	736
Gender Subject to Force - Female	106
Drugs Involved	253
Alcohol Involved	526
Division with highest level UOF - DMR South Central	165
Percentage of UOF Deployments occurring Friday, Saturday & Sunday	51%

9. Policing Challenges

Demonstrations

An Garda Síochána continue to provide a policing response, including traffic management, to a 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 and demonstrations.

An Garda Síochána are attending fortnightly meetings with the International Protection Accommodation Services (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 continue to assist multi agency operations with the removal of tents and the transportation of international protection applicants to relevant IPAS centres. It is anticipated that these operations will continue to take place with a continuous draw on Garda resources.

Demonstration (Non Crime) September 2024

Region	September 2024
Dublin Region	45
Southern Region	15
Eastern Region	5
North Western Region	5
Grand Total	70

Policing at Events

The planning for, resourcing and policing of major events continues to provide a challenge in terms of policing resources. The UEFA Nations League fixture on 7 September 2024 between the Republic of Ireland and England was declared an extraordinary event in terms of policing, with DMR resources being augmented with resources from outside the region. Gardaí from the DMR and beyond were deployed for the operation, with up to 1,100 Gardaí deployed across Dublin for the 24-hour period of 7 September 2024. Uniformed Gardaí were assisted by specialist units such as National Public Order Units, the Air Support Unit, the Garda Mounted Unit, and the Armed Support Unit. A large number of VIPs were also in attendance including President Michael D Higgins, Taoiseach Simon Harris and UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer.

The Dáil resumed on 18 September 2024 after the summer recess and Gardaí provided a visible presence in the streets immediately surrounding Leinster House.

Ploughing Championships

Up to 250,000 people attended the National Ploughing Championships held in the Eastern Region in Ratheniska, Co. Laois from 17 to 19 September 2024. Briefing of all personnel took place at venues in close proximity to the event. Over the three days, a policing presence was provided at locations in Westmeath, Offaly and Carlow Town on the thoroughfares towards Ratheniska, to ensure the volume of traffic approaching on these routes was managed efficiently.

In addition, the Garda National Community Policing Unit were at the forefront for the planning, organising and coordinating of the Garda marquee on behalf of the Garda National Community Engagement Bureau (GNCEB), reaching a potential audience of 244,000 attendees.

Corporate Communications assisted with creating awareness around the traffic management plan around the large-scale event and supporting our colleagues who held stands at the event. This extended to the promotion of vehicles in our fleet, such as the Garda tractor and Nexus vehicle, as well as the new body-worn cameras which are now in use in three divisions.



A selection of photos from our social media accounts featuring public engagement at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Co. Laois.

In addition to the above, members of the Human Trafficking Investigation and Coordination Unit, together with members from the Organised Prostitution Investigation Unit, were present at the National Ploughing Championships. The unit was invited by the Department of Justice to have a stand within the victim's journey marquee, providing an opportunity to meet and discuss human trafficking concerns with the public.



Left: Detective Garda Kevin Murphy, HTICU in the Victims Journey Marquee at the National Ploughing Championships.

Right: Detective Garda Vanessa Stafford, Minister Helen McEntee and Peter Breen, HTICU in the Victims Journey Marquee at the National Ploughing Championships.

Some of the material shared with attendees are below:



Human trafficking can take many forms

Labour exploitation or forced services 	Sexual exploitation 	Involvement in criminal activities 	Forced begging 	Debt bondage 
Illegal adoption 	Domestic servitude 	Slavery or practices similar to slavery 	Forced marriage 	

Signs which may indicate you are or could be exploited by a person claiming to help you:

 They are offering a job with an unrealistically high salary 	 They are forcing you to perform work, services or sex without your consent and/or using psychological pressure and manipulations	 They have removed or are withholding your passport or other identification document(s) 	 They have removed or are withholding your personal means of communication (mobile phones, laptops, etc) 
 They are restricting your ability to move freely or forcing you to live or work in locked premises 	 They are making you comply with strict rules or controlling you by limiting your sleep/rest/food isolating you	 They are asking you to undertake labour, services, or sex acts to repay 'debts' 	 They are 'employing' you but they do not respect the working conditions agreed, and/or they are not paying you or keep control of your money.



**If you are in immediate danger or risk please contact
An Garda Síochana (Irish Police) in an emergency by calling
999/112 or the confidential line 1800 666 111**

E-mail: blueblindfold@garda.ie

Fleet

The reduction in an adequate fleet due to aging vehicles and an increase in the number of vehicles deemed end of life, lack of allocation of new fleet and unsuitable types of vehicles being provided is becoming a serious challenge in providing a policing service.

Public Order Vans

As part of plans to expand the fleet of public order vans, an order of Ford Transits arrived at Garda HQ in September 2024. These have been fitted with new window grilles for added safety and will be fully operational in October 2024. More public order vans are due to be added to the Garda fleet in the coming months.

Roads Policing

An Garda Síochána continues to respond to road safety challenges. In September 2024, 11 people died in fatal collisions. There were 66 serious injury collisions reported in September 2024. There were nine motorcyclist/pillion passenger fatalities in the past five months, which is indicative of approximately 55% of motorcyclist fatalities and serious injuries which occur between the months of May and September.

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 September 2024, there were 4,400 Mandatory Intoxicant Testing (MIT) checkpoints conducted. There was an average of eight arrests per day nationally for driving under the influence of drugs, 13 per day for driving under the influence of alcohol and there were almost 2,400 vehicles seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act in September 2024.

	September 2024
Mobile Phone FCNs	1,586
SEAT BELT FCNs	459
Intercept Speed FCNs	2,884
Non-Intercept Speed FCNs	7,022
Total Speed FCNs	9,906

Driving under the influence of alcohol	400
Driving under the influence of drugs	245

Section 41 Detentions	September 2024
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)	2,373
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no ins.	1,435
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax	891
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT	371
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers	437

MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests	September 2024
MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed	14,681
MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed	555

**It is important to note that vehicles may be detained under Section 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 1 October 2024 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.*

National Slow Down Day

On 2 September 2024, An Garda Síochána held a National Slow Down Day to coincide with the return to schools. The Garda operation involved the deployment of mobile safety camera vans, operated by GoSafe, and the establishment of speed checkpoints manned by Garda personnel. Over the course of the operation there were more than 650 Fixed Charged Penalty Notices issued to drivers who were detected travelling in excess of the speed limit.

Operation Enable

On 27 September 2024, An Garda Síochána supported the Disability Federation of Ireland’s (DFI) annual ‘Make Way Day’ through Operation Enable. ‘Make Way Day’ is a campaign that brings the disability and wider community together to consider the needs of people with disabilities in the public spaces we all share. The aim of the awareness day is to highlight the issues that obstacles on footpaths cause for those with disabilities, such as bins, placards, bicycles locked to lampposts, illegally parked vehicles, etc.

Operation Enable had members conduct patrols to proactively engage with communities in relation to the issues that illegally parked vehicles cause. During the operation, over 100 Fixed Charge Penalty Notices were issued to vehicles found illegally parked in disabled bays and on footpaths. Official social media channels were used to highlight some examples of enforcement action taken during the day.

10. Immigration Policing

Operation Comby IV

From 16 to 18 September 2024, personnel attached to the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) provided assistance to Operation Comby IV, which is a UK Home Office operation, targeting the exploitation of circuitous travel routes, incorporating the Irish ports with links to the Common Travel Area (CTA) or trans-Irish Sea travel. The Operation was conducted in Northern Ireland and mainland UK, and consisted of enhanced checks at UK airports and ports, and at the border with Northern Ireland, with a view to preventing and detecting immigration related crime and incidents of illegal immigration.

GNIB supported this operation south of the border with Northern Ireland to identify people who are abusing the CTA and following arrival in Ireland, travel north and onto to the UK without the necessary travel documents. GNIB also had personnel presence in a UK based operations intelligence hub.

11. Focus on Human Trafficking

The Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-ordination Unit (HTICU) operate to combat human trafficking. The unit engages in wide consultation with a number of agencies including Customs and State Agencies such as the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), and NGOs such as Ruhama, the Migrant Rights Centre of Ireland (MRCI), the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI), the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) and Doras Liumni. During the month of September 2024, HTICU assisted in multi-agency investigations and attended a number of events, which allow for the sharing of information with EU law enforcement agencies. The following are some examples:

Personnel attached to HITCU attended a European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) Payday meeting in Berlin on Vietnamese nationals. This is an operational action that Ireland is participating in, in respect of the trafficking of Vietnamese nationals across Europe. Payday is led by German Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), who recently completed a handbook in respect of trends for human trafficking of Vietnamese nationals in Europe. At this meeting, An Garda Síochána presented Irish trends and an Irish forced criminality investigation.

Personnel attached to HITCU also attended an EMPACT meeting in Lisbon on Chinese Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) Operation Action (OA) 8.3. This is an operational action that Ireland is a part of and allows for the sharing of intelligence with all European law enforcement.

Two members successfully completed the Hackathon Course in The Hague. This was a great opportunity for Human Trafficking and Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) experts to utilise the internet as a tool for identifying victims of trafficking.

12. Community Engagement and Organisational Initiatives

Throughout the month of September 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 September 2024 are set out hereunder.

Campus Watch Programme

The Garda Campus Watch Programme is a safety campaign for college students, where advice is provided on a range of topics such as rental fraud, drugs, and sexual consent. To support the programmes, the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit hosted an online webinar on 3 September 2024 to an audience of 50 participants. A similar initiative to that of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme, it operates as a partnership between An Garda Síochána and the campus occupants. The webinar featured expert speakers from Garda National Economic Crime Bureau, the Garda Press Office, the Garda National Protective Services Bureau and the Student Support Services at DCU.

Operation Táirge

With the launch of Operation Táirge, An Garda Síochána has placed a greater focus on retail crime. On 11 September 2024, the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit were in attendance at a Unipharm Conference. An outline of Operation Táirge was presented followed by a question and answer session, which prompted a productive open discussion. Practical crime prevention advice was provided to staff working in pharmacies nationwide.

High-impact days of action are also being conducted throughout the country as part of Operation Táirge. One held on 22 September 2024 in the DMR North Central Division led to 10 arrests for theft offences. Another successful day of action two days later in the same division resulted in the arrest of a further 10 people for 31 separate incidents of retail theft in the area. Gardaí continue to engage with the local retailers and business owners, and have met with staff of some 86 retail outlets so far this year and provided them with crime prevention advice.

Deaf Community Information Event

On 10 September 2024, the Garda National Diversity Unit and the Garda National Community Engagement Bureau attended an information afternoon hosted by the Irish Deaf Society in the Deaf Village on the Navan Road, in advance of 'International Week of Deaf People' from 23 to 29 September 2024. The purpose of the event was to provide information to the deaf community regarding access to emergency services. Also present were the National Ambulance Service, Dublin Fire Service and the Emergency Call Answering Service. Each service recorded a piece to camera, with an Irish Sign Language interpreter, explaining how to access their service.



Left: Garda National Community Policing Unit (GNCPU)
Right: Garda Orla Cashell (GNCPU), Sergeant Brenda Fields Garda National Diversity Unit (GNDU)

National Services Day

National Services Day is organised by the Frontline Emergency and Security Services Éire Forum (FESSEF), whose mission is to create events for the public to show their appreciation, while fostering greater collaboration between the services. An Garda Síochána took part in this year's event on 14 September 2024 at Dublin Castle. The Garda National Crime Prevention Unit and the Garda National Diversity Unit engaged with members of the public in bringing awareness to the efforts of An Garda Síochána to combat racism and discrimination, and prosecute hate crimes in Ireland. The event kicked off with a parade from the Garden of Remembrance to Dublin Castle.



Garda Kamil Linder (Garda National Crime Prevention Unit), Inspector Ciaran Nunan (Garda National Community Engagement Bureau), Chief Supt. Matt Nyland (DMR East), Sergeant Pauline Glennon (Garda National Crime Prevention Unit)

Operation Task Force (OTF Next)

An Garda Síochána, working with Europol and Eurojust, together with law enforcement and judicial authorities from around the world, have successfully dismantled an encrypted communication platform that was established for facilitating serious and organised crime perpetrated by dangerous criminal networks operating on a global scale.

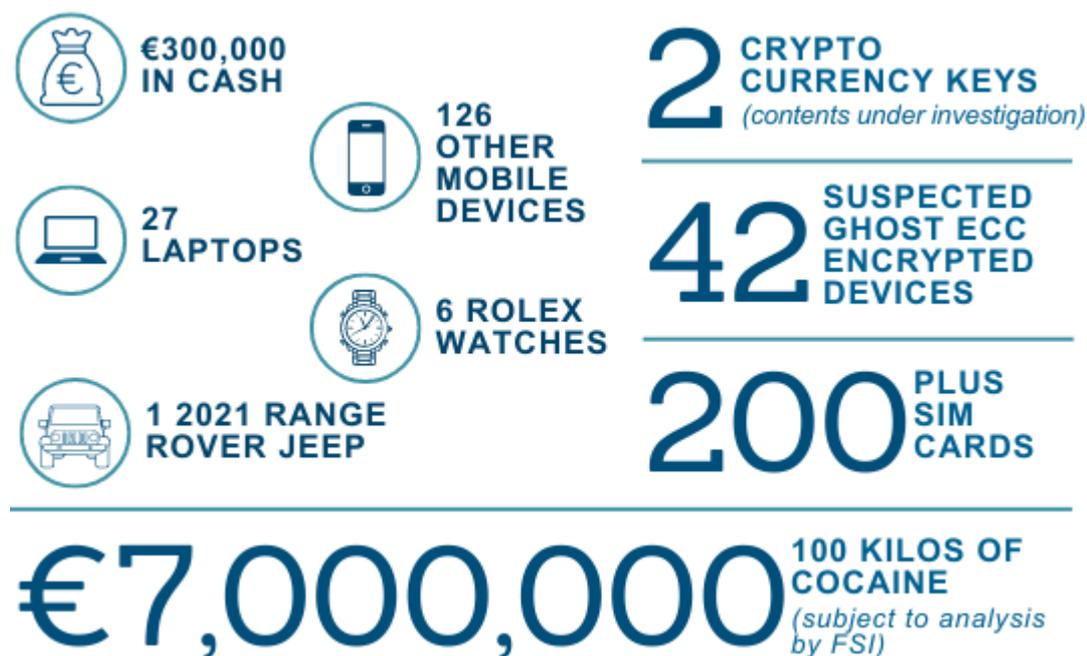
The platform, known as Ghost, was used to facilitate a wide range of criminal activities, including large-scale drug trafficking, money laundering, instances of extreme violence, and other forms of serious and organised crime. In Ireland, the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau has been coordinating investigations related to the Ghost Elliptical Curve Cryptography (ECC) platform with regard to four identified organised crime groups (OCGs) and support networks, based and operating in the Dublin and Eastern Region, involved in drug trafficking and money laundering on a significant scale, and activities facilitating and enhancing the capabilities of OCGs.

On 16 September 2024, as part of this international investigation, a coordinated international law enforcement day of action was carried out. In Ireland, An Garda Síochána searched 33 premises across the country.

Over 300 Gardaí were deployed on searches on the evening of 16 September 2024, led by the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, and involving other Gardaí from Organised and Serious Crime (the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau, the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigations and the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau), the Criminal Assets Bureau, Strategic Tactical Operational Command (Emergency Response Unit and Regional Armed Supports Units), Garda Headquarters (National Surveillance Unit and the National Criminal Intelligence Unit), National Support Services (Garda Dog Unit and the Garda Air Support Unit), and divisional resources from the Dublin and Eastern Region, and national Public Order Unit.

Representatives from Europol, Australian Federal Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were also in Ireland in support of the ongoing operation.

During these searches, investigating Gardaí seized:



An Garda Síochána were afforded an opportunity to further pledge its commitment to enhance and develop policing in partnership with our communities, by giving the public relevant crime prevention advice and showcasing the diverse work of the organisation. Garda Information and Communication Technology (ICT) displayed the newly launched body-worn cameras. Garda personnel from Strategic Recruitment encouraged visitors to the marquee to consider a career in An Garda Síochána.

AX250 Axiom Advanced Computer Forensics Training

From 17 to 20 September 2024, the Garda National Cyber Crime Unit hosted an in-person four-day training in AX250 Axiom Advanced Computer Forensics by two United States based trainers from Magnet Forensics. This formed part of the Magnet Forensics Training Annual Passport (TAP) and 15 forensic examiners received this training. 35 members are undergoing the 13 modules of training, inclusive of self-paced, instructor led and in person training, and will be ongoing until June 2025. This training will greatly benefit the digital knowledge base of the forensic examiners of the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau (GNCCB).

Children in Care Presentation

On 18 September 2024, the Garda National Youth Diversity Bureau (GNYDB) delivered a presentation on the statutory role of GNYDB and the Diversion Programme to TUSLA Children in Care Social Workers. The presentation was delivered at a quarterly TUSLA Children in Care staff meeting held at TUSLA Offices, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Attendees were Children in Care Social Workers from counties Westmeath, Offaly, Laois and Longford. The presentation gave GNYDB an opportunity to outline the role of An Garda Síochána in relation to children who commit crimes and anti-social behaviour, and outline the operation of the Diversion Programme and the vital role played by Juvenile Liaison Officers in diverting children from further offending.

5th European Criminal Analysis Conference

On 19 September 2024, criminal analysts, Mr. Ruairi O’Flaherty and Mr. Tom Slocket (Operations Thor and Táirge) from An Garda Síochána were awarded Europol’s Criminal Analyst of the Year Award for their work in the field of operational and strategic analysis. This year’s award ceremony was held at Europol’s headquarters during the fifth European Criminal Analysis Conference (EUCrimACon). The Criminal Analyst of the Year Award is presented annually by Europol to recognise the work of analysts in the field of criminal intelligence. This year’s winners were selected from a pool of nominees representing various European countries, all of whom have made significant contributions to combatting serious organised crime through data-driven analysis. The first category awards outstanding strategic analysis, which has helped decision-makers to increase their foresight in the fight against serious and organised crime. The 2024 Strategic Analysis Award went to the An Garda Síochána for their project aimed at supporting strategic operations against retail crime and burglaries.



Tom Slocket, Europol’s Deputy Executive Director Operations, Jean-Philippe Lecouffe and Ruairí O’Flaherty

Supporting Children with Additional Needs Booklet

On 20 September 2024, the Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, launched a Visual Aid Booklet for young people with additional needs, to learn all about the work of An Garda Síochána and how Gardaí help keep children safe, which was developed by the Kerry Community Policing Unit, with assistance from the Garda National Community Policing Unit. Principals from the relevant schools in Kerry were invited to attend, along with a number of public representatives. Special guests on the day were students from the Senior Réalta Class from Scoil Eoin, Balloonagh. Copies of the booklet were made available on the day to schools and will also be available in all Kerry libraries following the launch. The design and bespoke graphics for the book were developed in-house by the Garda National Community Policing Unit. Over the next three months, this initiative will be rolled out to schools across Kerry. The Kerry Division has been selected for the initial rollout of this initiative, after which a review will take place, before it is considered for a national rollout under An Garda Síochána Schools Programme.



Pictured at Tralee Library for the launch were: Supt Dave O’Callaghan, Minister Norma Foley, Gda Patricia Fitzpatrick, holding the Book was Caoimhe Naughton, student and Supt Anne Marie Twomey.

Higher Options Event

From 25 to 27 September 2024, the Garda National Community Policing Unit assisted Garda Strategic Recruitment with the hosting of a Garda engagement stand at the Higher Options Event at the RDS in Dublin. The event gave An Garda Síochána the opportunity to engage with up to 30,000 young people who expressed an interest in joining An Garda Síochána as a career choice. Advice was also offered to young people about Campus Watch safety and crime prevention.

Regional Scott Medal Commendations Presentation

On 30 September 2024, Assistant Commissioner Eastern Region presented eight Scott Medal Award Commendations to Gardaí from the Eastern Region, for exceptional acts of courage and bravery involving risk to the awardee's life in the execution of their duty. The acts commended included the interception of an improvised explosive device, the pursuit of armed assailants, entering a burning building and performing a river rescue. The ceremony, held in Kilkenny, was hosted by Assistant Commissioner Paul Cleary and attended by Minister of State Department of Justice, James Browne, TD. There were two Scott Medal Award Commendations Second Class and six Scott Medal Award Commendations First Class presented.



(Back row: L to R): Supt Dermot Drea, Chief Supt Michael Hennebry, Chief Supt John Dollard, Councillor Michael McCarthy, Councillor Paul O'Brien, James Browne TD, Councillor Sharon Tolan, Assistant Commissioner Paul Cleary, Supt Sean O'Meara, Superintendent Georgina Gray and Chief Supt Derek Hughes. (Front row: L to R): Garda Aisling Butler, Sergeant Fiona Ruth, Garda Graham Gohery, Sergeant Hud Kelly, Garda Cathal Furlong, Garda Caroline Mulpeter, Garda Lorna Reilly and Garda Caroline O'Brien.

European Excellence Awards in Innovation in Ethics, Diversity and Inclusion

This year's European Excellence Awards were held during the European Police Chiefs' Convention, from 24 to 25 September 2024. Inspector Des Bell, Tipperary Town Garda Station and Ms. Anne Bradshaw, HSE Disability Services were nominated for the Europol Excellence Awards in Innovation, in the Ethics, Diversity and Inclusion category. Their project, the 'Inside Out' Programme, was developed to respond to growing concerns regarding the upsurge in crime affecting individuals with disabilities and senior citizens in the community. The project aims to raise awareness and address challenges faced by these vulnerable groups. The programme led by the HSE, in collaboration with An Garda Síochána, the Irish Prison Service, victims of crime and Transition Year students, serves as a crime and disability awareness training resource.

'Inside Out' features powerful testimonials of several crime victims recounted by Transition Year students to a group of imprisoned women. Although the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board ultimately won the top prize in this category for their Drug Hunter Narcotic Analyser project, Ireland's inclusion among the finalists highlights the impact and importance of the Inside Out initiative. The next step in the programme is to produce an educational handbook designed to resonate with young people to address criminal behaviour in their schools and in their wider communities, and to promote a culture of compassion and understanding concerning the lasting effects crime has on its victims.



Ms. Anne Bradshaw, HSE Disability Services, Commissioner Drew Harris, Inspector Des Bell

Coastal Watch Scheme

The launch of the Coastal Watch Scheme for Limerick took place on 28 September 2024 in Foynes Yacht Club with the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit attending. Coastal Watch is a multi-agency initiative whose purpose is preventing and detecting illegal drug importation, while promoting vigilance from coastal communities and the various organisations that operate at sea, and along our coast and harbours.

Victim Identification Team (VICID)

Throughout September 2024, the Victim Identification Team of the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau (GNCCB) continued the invaluable work of reviewing and examining 'new' child sexual abuse material to uncover any indicators as to the identity of the victim, the suspect, or the country of origin.

Some notable successes include; the identification and safeguarding of two young sisters in another jurisdiction, along with the arrest and charge of their father; and the identification of a young boy and an offender in another jurisdiction, leading to an arrest by law enforcement.

Examination of media found in another jurisdiction by members of the VICID team led to key indicators that were referred to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau for action. One victim was identified, while local Protective Services are following a definite line of enquiry on another victim.

Arising from key indicators identified by the VICID team, a number of referrals were forwarded to Interpol for onward transmission to the competent authorities in other jurisdictions for further examination. In the coming month, some key training and development is being undertaken, including Ireland hosting Europol's Combatting the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (COSEC) training.

Trick or Treat Initiative

In Tralee, Co. Kerry, An Garda Síochána are rolling out an initiative to enable every house enjoy the Halloween season in a safe and non-intrusive manner. Each year, thousands of homes welcome trick or treaters to their door for the annual ritual, but for a variety of reasons, residents in many houses are unable to partake in the festivities or would prefer not to answer the door. This can lead to confusion and upset for kids and adults alike.

To help everyone enjoy Halloween, An Garda Síochána are providing houses with door signs that will clearly let everyone know whether or not they are taking part in the trick or treating tradition. The aim is to make it a more enjoyable Halloween night for everyone. The signs are similar to the 'do not disturb/make up my room' signs on the doors of hotel rooms. The red sign indicates the resident prefers that trick or treaters do not call, while the green one lets children know they are welcome to knock on the door. Following on from success last year, there are plans to make the door hanger available countywide and an Irish version for use in Gaeltacht areas, to ensure greater inclusivity, has also been produced. Gardaí in Tralee are planning a trip to Ballyferriter to the Gaeltacht Centre and to the local Primary School to launch our door hanger initiative.



Extradition Unit: Arrests, Handovers and Surrenders to Ireland

During the month of September 2024, the Extradition Unit at the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation carried out eight arrests, seven prisoner handovers and two surrenders to Ireland.

Arrest		
No.	Sought for / Offence	Sought by
1	Human Trafficking	Hungary
2	Burglary	Hungary
3	Driving Offences	Romania
4	Threats to Kill	Croatia
5	Manslaughter	UK
6	Robbery	Italy
7	Theft	Czech Republic
8	Parental Abduction, Threats	Poland

Prisoner Handovers (from Ireland)		
No	Sought for / Offence	Handed over to
1	Child Pornography	UK/Scotland
2	Drugs Trafficking	Portugal
3	Grievous Bodily Harm	Poland
4	Fraud/Swindling	UK
5	Drugs Trafficking	Poland
6	Firearms Offences	UK
7	Rape, Indecent Assault, Sexual Assault	UK

Surrenders to Ireland		
No	Sought for / Offence	Returned from
1	Fraud	UK
2	Assault Causing Harm	UK/Scotland

Criminal Assets Bureau Properties Seized and Sold

Following successful proceeds of crime applications made by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) before the High Court on 2 September 2024, CAB took possession of properties in counties Clare and Laois. Resulting from recent successful High Court proceeds of crime applications, the Bureau sold three properties at public auction. On 26 September 2024, a Gorey property was sold for €522,000, a Carlow property was sold for €185,000 and a Leixlip property was sold for €410,000. The funds recouped from the sale of these properties will be remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.



Garda Occupational Health and Wellbeing (GOHW)

garda.ie



An Garda Síochána

An Garda Síochána Mental Health First Aid Programme



Programme Update

The third 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 pre-accreditation standard two-day MHFA training to Garda personnel.

From January 2024 to date, the first three cohorts of MHFA Training Facilitators will have delivered MHFA training to approximately 2,000 Garda personnel across the organisation.

#KeepingOurPeopleSupported

Health Needs Assessment Survey (HNAS): In preparation for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026–2030

- This is a National Health and Wellbeing Survey and will be open to all Garda personnel.
- Development and formalisation of the survey questions with partners.
- Delivered presentations to relevant stakeholders on the survey questions and themes to facilitate direct feedback and input to the final survey questions, in order to ensure increased stakeholder engagement and buy-in.