



An Garda Síochána

Monthly Report for August 2024 to the Policing Authority

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

An Garda Síochána

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



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



Office of the Commissioner
Garda Headquarters
Phoenix Park
Dublin 8
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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 August 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**

20 September 2024

Message from the Commissioner

During the month of August 2024, progress was made on the proof of concept for body-worn cameras, with the launch of the second phase at Henry Street Garda Station in Limerick City on 1 August 2024.

This follows a first phase launch in Store Street, Dublin in May 2024 and brings the number of stations using body-worn cameras to four, with approximately 500 Gardaí fully trained in their use.

The launch marks another step forward for An Garda Síochána towards the implementation of information-led policing, and 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.

The ability of An Garda Síochána to securely acquire and process digital evidence is a key feature of modern policing. The use of body-worn cameras, supported by the underlying legislation, technology and training, acts as an important evidentiary tool. Body-worn cameras will also serve to improve personnel safety. Feedback received has shown that the presence of body-worn cameras in certain circumstances has led to the de-escalation of situations that might otherwise become violent.

August 2024 also saw a number of high profile detections recorded and in particular, the seizure of €33m in illegal drugs at Rosslare and Dublin Ports. These significant seizures formed part of a joint operation between An Garda Síochána and Revenue.

Further to this, Gardaí demonstrated their skills and abilities to remain calm in difficult situations when called upon to assist in a number of risk to life situations involving members of the public.

This included the efforts of; Garda Colman Curran and Garda Brendan Murphy who were involved in the rescue of a woman in serious difficulty in the River Barrow in Athy, Co. Kildare; Garda Tommy O'Loughlin and Student Garda Matthew Forrest who provided emergency care to a woman who had suddenly become unconscious in Carlow; and the efforts of Garda Mark Cushen and Garda Ryan Hill in Listowel, Co. Kerry to rush a new born baby to hospital when she fell gravely ill.

Their interventions, together with the many other instances of good work carried out by personnel around the country, speak to the level of professionalism, commitment and dedication of our Gardaí.

Work continues in the area of road safety. This month we ran our August 2024 Bank Holiday Road Safety Campaign and issued a series of road safety videos aimed at educating the public on the dangers of distracted driving.

It was a busy and exciting time of year too, with a number of large-scale events taking place across the country. These included the Electric Picnic festival in Stradbally, Co. Laois, the Aer Lingus College Football Classic between Georgia Tech and Florida State in the Aviva Stadium, and Coldplay's performances in Croke Park.

These events drew large crowds and policing operations were put in place to create greater ease of access to and from these locations, and ensured emergency access routes remained clear throughout. Gardaí were also involved in community engagement activities as part of these operations, providing assistance to the public and keeping 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	1,573,380	787,887	33%
Appropriation in Aid (receipts)	104,206	89,458	14,748	14%
Net Total	2,257,060	1,483,921	773,139	

Total full-year gross 2024 allocation is €2.36b and net allocation is €2.26b. At the end of August 2024, the total gross expenditure for the eight months' year-to-date is €1.57b (67% of allocation) and receipts are €89.46m (86% of allocation). The Garda Senior Leadership Team continues to place a significant focus on cost management, in particular in relation to oversight and management of overtime.

2. Human Resources and People Development

Roster Duty Management System (RDMS)

Midlands roster configuration testing and implementation has been completed in RDMS and planner transfer support is in progress. Operating Model go-live will be completed on RDMS for the DMR North Division and Cork County Division from August 2024, and preparation is in progress for RDMS Operating Model reconfiguration for the DMR East Division, which is scheduled for 30 September 2024. The A85 forms (record of duty and claim form for overtime and other allowances) continue to be retired, most recently in the Eastern Regional Office on 5 August 2024. Preparation has been completed for retiring A85s in Cork County from 2 September 2024. Preparation is in progress for retiring A85s in the North Western Regional Office, Liaison and Protection, the Garda Press Office, the Office of Deputy Commissioner, Strategy, Governance and Performance, and the Office of Deputy Commissioner, Policing Operations from 30 September 2024.

Resourcing

There are currently 27 Garda Staff internal and open recruitment competitions in progress across the organisation. Offers are ongoing for the Clerical Officer competition. Regional locations are being reviewed for possible further Temporary Clerical Officer and Clerical Officer interviews. Offers for the 2022 Executive Officer competition are ongoing, with the panel due to close on 9 September 2024. Preparation is underway for a 2024 Executive Officer competition. The 2024 competition for Assistant Principal Officer is in progress. The online assessment window for the 2024 Higher Executive Officer competition will open on 4 September 2024 for one week.

Garda Appointments/Recruitment

1,182 Garda Trainees have commenced in the Garda College since the 2022 trainee competition closed. Throughout August 2024, our teams focused on progressing a selection of Garda Trainees for intake to the Garda College.

Resource Allocation

There were four promotions in August 2024. One member was promoted to the rank of Chief Superintendent and three members were promoted to the rank of Superintendent.

Recruitment Strategy

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

The following competitions have been advertised to date:

- Digital 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

Human Resources and People Development Analytics/Data

The Garda Member strength as at 31 August 2024 stood at 14,038 (WTE 13,997) and the Garda Staff strength as at 31 August 2024 stood at 3,609 (3,428.4 WTE). A full breakdown by rank, grade and gender is outlined below.

2.1 Garda Member Strength

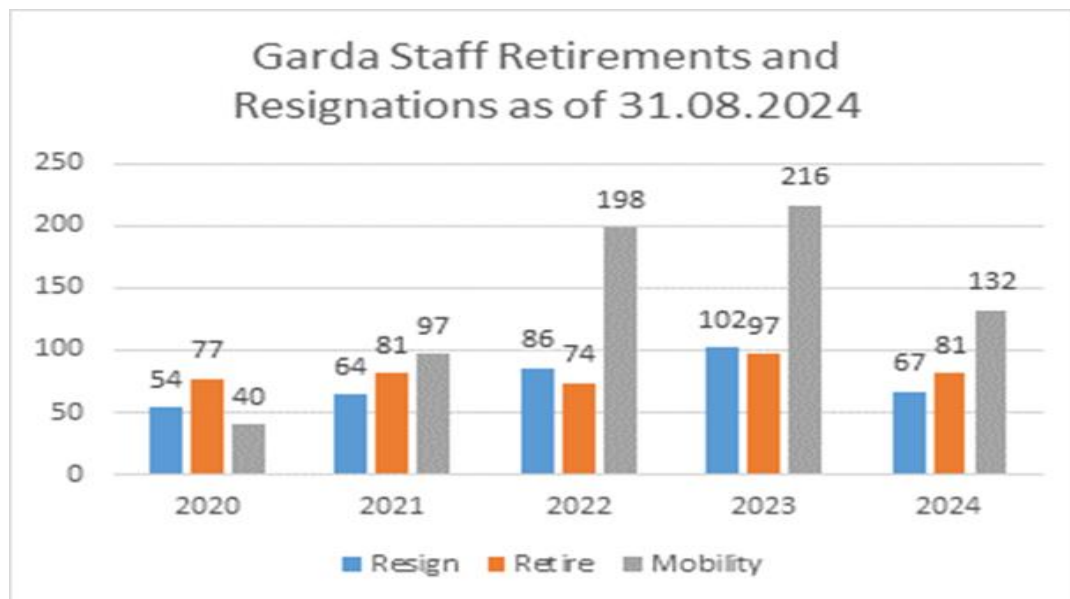
Rank	As at 31 August 2024	Male	%	Female	%	WTE
Commissioner	1	1	100	0	0	1
Deputy Commissioner	1	0	0	1	100	1
Assistant Commissioner	8	4	50	4	50	8
Chief Superintendent	48	38	79	10	21	48
Superintendent	168	140	83	28	17	168
Inspector	465	368	79	97	21	465
Sergeant	2,169	1,629	75	540	25	2,167
Garda	11,178	7,829	70	3,349	30	11,139
Total	14,038	10,009	71	4,029	29	13,997

Of which	As at 31 August 2024	Male	%	Female	%
Career Breaks (incl. ICB)	31	17	55	14	45
Work-sharing	41	1.5	4	39.5	96
Secondments (Overseas etc.)	55	38	69	17	31
Maternity Leave	57	0	0	57	100
Unpaid Maternity Leave	21	0	0	21	100
Paternity Leave	23	23	100	0	0
Available Strength	13,810	9,929.5	72	3,880.5	28

Garda Reserves Strength

Garda Reserves Strength	<i>Total*</i>	Male	%	Female	%
As at 31 August 2024	323	250	77%	73	23%

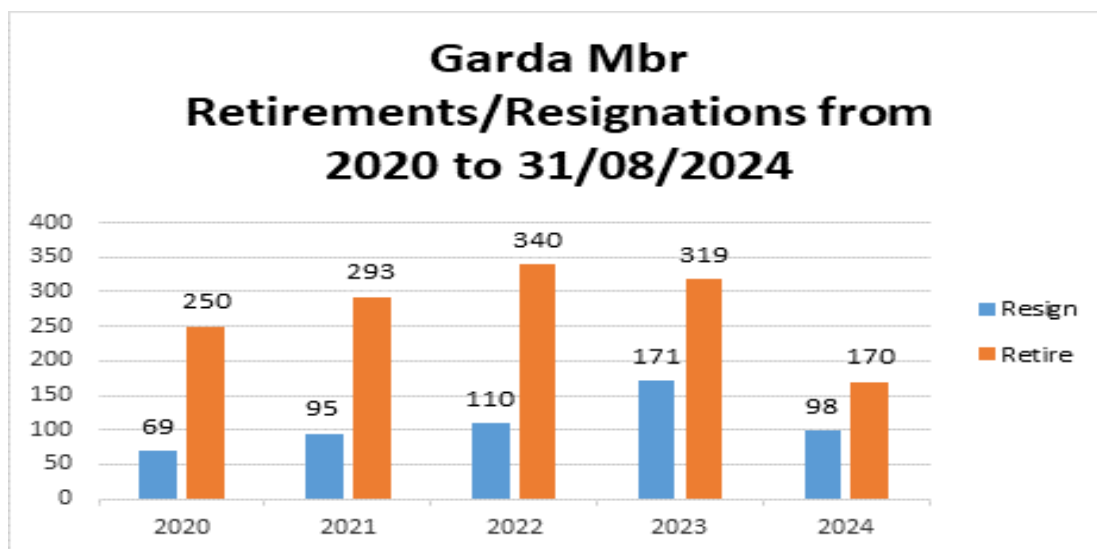
Garda Staff Exits by Type



**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 promotion and those who have transferred through Civil Service mobility.

Garda Member Retirements and Resignations



** Retirement figures include those that retire on compulsory retirements, voluntary retirements, cost neutral early retirement (CNER).*

Applications to Extend Service

Between 2021 and 2024 (year to date), 203 applications were made pursuant to the provisions of An Garda Síochána (Retirement) (No.2) Regulations 1951, (S.I No. 335/1951), to extend service in An Garda Síochána, broken down as follows:

Applications to Extend Service				
Year	Total Applications	Approved	Declined	Withdrawn
2021	29	13	16	0
2022	25	18	4	3
2023	62	55	6	1
2024	87 (23 pending - HRPD)	51	9	4

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	8	18	8	0	26

CURRENT SUSPENSIONS & CORE ISSUES INVESTIGATED BY AGS & GSOC	
Suspension (Ended / Ongoing)	Ongoing
Main Reason	Total
Theft / Forgery / Fraud / Dishonesty	16
Sexual Assault / Sexual Misconduct	12
Driving under Influence of Intoxicant	12
Disclosure of Information / Data Protection / Abuse of PULSE	9
Perverting the Course of Justice	9
Domestic Violence / Coercive Control	8
Corruption / Criminal Association	8
Assault / Assault Causing Harm	7
Drugs / Drug Related	5
Other	6
Grand Total	92

2.3 Garda Staff Strengths as at 31 August 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	3	3	1	33	2	67	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	27	27	14	52	13	48	0	0
AP	92	92	40	43	52	57	0	0
HEO	201	200.4	76	38	125	62	0	0
AO	16	16	9	56	7	44	0	0
EO	881	870.3	276	31	605	69	0	0
CO	2,024	1,960.8	541	27	1,483	73	0	0
Total	3,251	3,176.5	961	30	2,290	70	0	0
	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
Professional/Technical (including Chief Medical Officer)	56	55.6	31	56	24	47	0	0
Administrative **	3,250	3,175.5	960	30	2,290	70	0	0
Industrial/Non Industrial	303	197.3	96	32	207	68	0	0
Total	3,608	3,428.4	1,087	30	2,521	70	0	0
Of which	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
Maternity Leave	17	17	0	0	17	100	0	0
Unpaid Maternity Leave	8	8	0	0	8	100	0	0
Paternity Leave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secondment/Exchange	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Available Total	3,583	3,403.4	1,087	30	2,496	70	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	%
	285	78.7	9	3	276	97	0	0

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

*Rounding applied to WTE.

Career Breaks****	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
	22	22	7	32%	15	68%	0	0

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

Parental Leave

1.08.24 - 31.08.24	Garda Members	Garda Staff
	184	110

Garda Staff assigned and commenced – as at 31 August 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	88	57					563

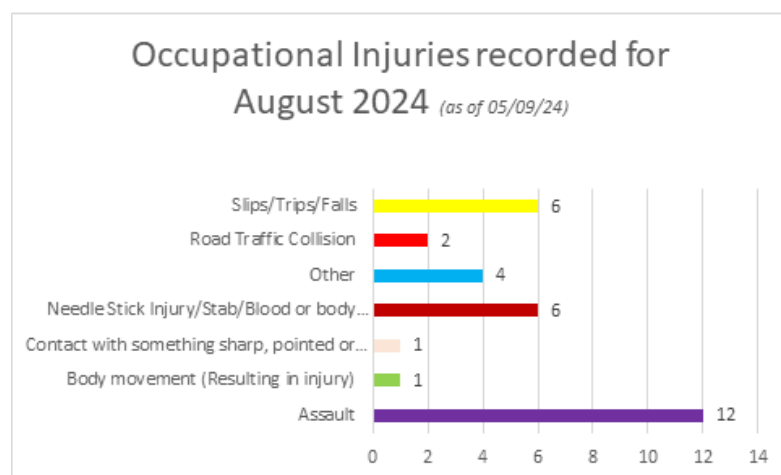
*Adjustments to figures previously reported above may occur when promotions are notified at a later date. These include: backfills, new, reassignments and fractional reassignments.

Employee Assistance Service (EAS)

During the month of August 2024, the Employee Assistance Service carried out various activities nationally in support of colleagues. This included wellness days/walks, welfare presentations and a coffee morning, including a meeting with retired members and spouses.

Health and Safety

32 occupational injuries were recorded for August 2024 (as of 05/09/24).



The number of National Incident Management System (NIMS) incidents created in August 2024 is 86.

3. Information and Communications Technology

As per Policing Plan target E5.1, ICT continues to deliver the key projects in the 2024 roadmap in line 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 Garda information systems in a secure manner where needed, particularly in the use of digital collaboration tools for desktop and mobile.

Human Resource Information System (HRIS)

As reported last month, the project is part of a wider modernisation of human resources business processes as part of the Human Resource Information System (HRIS). The requirements gathering phase is now complete and the preparation of a request for tender document has commenced.

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

Routine software updates of the infrastructure on which GardaSAFE operates commenced in August 2024. This was necessary in order to continue in support with the third party suppliers of the infrastructure hardware. It did, however, uncover an underlying issue. It would appear that the issue has existed since the GardaSAFE go-live and has caused a number of interruptions to service in recent weeks. The root cause and remedy continues to be progressed by our third party hardware suppliers. Minor changes to the main application's user interface continue to be developed and introduced, based on user feedback and prioritisation. Similarly, enhancements to the Incident app, based on responder feedback, are being developed and rolled out incrementally.

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

On 1 August 2024, the Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris and the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, TD, launched the second phase of our proof of concept for body-worn cameras in Henry Street Garda Station, Limerick City.



Garda Commissioner Drew Harris and Minister for Justice Helen McEntee, TD at launch of the second proof of concept phase for body-worn cameras at Henry Street Garda Station



200 body-worn cameras and their associated infrastructure have been installed and are now in use in Henry Street Garda Station. Speaking about the launch, Commissioner Harris said: *“We are already seeing their effectiveness in the three proof of concept stations in Dublin North Central and Dublin South Central where they have been in use for the past eight weeks now. Personnel have noted situations which might ordinarily escalate, have actually de-escalated due to the presence of a Garda with a body-worn camera.”*

The proof of concept will continue with a period of analysis and engagement with frontline Gardaí, to understand and evaluate the cameras and Digital Evidence Management System, and the effectiveness of the production of video in the courts and engagement with the DPP.

The next step is to carry out an EU tender for an organisational Digital Evidence Management System for not only body-worn cameras, but also all forms of CCTV, dashcam and any such digital footage. The production of this tender will be dependent on the new legislation, the Garda Síochána Recording Devices (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which is currently being progressed by the Department of Justice, to facilitate the analysis of data at scale. This tender will be followed by a subsequent tender for the national requirements for body-worn cameras and a national rollout. The ICT team is working with Estate Management and the OPW to survey across the whole Garda estate, to understand the physical, network, power and architectural requirements that would have to be in place for any national rollout for body-worn cameras.

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

4. Corporate Communications

Throughout the month of August 2024, the Office of Corporate Communications continued to communicate internally and externally on a broad range of policing activities undertaken by An Garda Síochána. In August 2024, this office was pleased to be able to share a number of very positive engagements by Gardaí, particularly those where interventions by our personnel led to positive outcomes as they worked to keep people safe.

Meanwhile, the Garda Press Office was involved in issuing responsive and proactive communications in respect of a number of high profile investigations. These included issuing press statements in respect of an assault incident which occurred at Renmore Barracks, Co. Galway on 15 August 2024 and separately, in respect of investigations into threats made against elected officials.

This office was involved in creating awareness for a new mechanism to report bad driver behaviour with the launch of a new traffic watch feedback form on www.garda.ie. While infographics created by the National Cyber Crime Bureau were also promoted around back to school, highlighting important information to assist parents in keeping their children safe online.

Community Engagement: Good news stories promoted



Garda Mark Cushen, Garda Ryan Hill with Precious and her mum Donna O'Loughlin



Garda Colman Curran and Garda Brendan Murphy Athy, Co. Kildare. Right: Garda Tommy O Loughlin and Student Garda Matthew Forrest, Carlow.

The Office of Corporate Communications continues to promote good news stories from around the country. During the month of August 2024, this office was glad to feature three positive outcomes in communities as a direct result of proactive efforts made by Gardaí on the ground.

This included an intervention by Garda Colman Curran and Garda Brendan Murphy to rescue a woman in serious difficulty in the River Barrow in Athy, Co. Kildare, on 3 August 2024. A member of the public raised the alarm and both Gardaí worked together to get the woman safely from the water.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident in Carlow Town on 4 August 2024, Garda Tommy O'Loughlin and Student Garda Matthew Forrest were on patrol when they were flagged down and asked to urgently help a woman who had suddenly become unconscious. Having established that this woman was unresponsive and not breathing, Student Garda Forrest began CPR, while Garda O'Loughlin got a nearby defibrillator. After a number of minutes, the woman began to breathe again but with great difficulty. Ambulance personnel were able to stabilise her and convey her to hospital.

Furthermore, on 17 August 2024, in Listowel, Co. Kerry, Garda Mark Cushen and Garda Ryan Hill helped to save a baby when her mother Donna O'Loughlin turned to Gardaí for assistance when her new-born baby became gravely ill. The efforts of all those involved in these incidents were promoted on social media and media interviews facilitated where appropriate.

Media Briefing on recent drug seizures at Rosslare and Dublin Ports



On 14 August 2024, the Office of Corporate Communications was involved in facilitating a media briefing with Detective Chief Superintendent Séamus Boland, Garda National Drug and Organised Crime Bureau, and Revenue Commissioner, Ruth Kennedy, arising from the seizure of more than €33m worth of suspected cocaine and cannabis. This followed drug seizures made during the month of August 2024 at Rosslare Port and Dublin Port, as part of a joint operation between An Garda Síochána and our colleagues at Revenue.

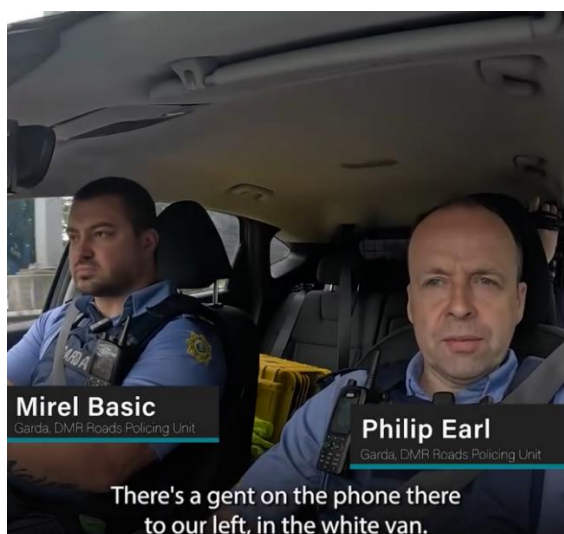
During the briefing, Detective Chief Superintendent Séamus Boland and Revenue Commissioner, Ruth Kennedy, spoke about the collaborative work that they are involved in together with other agencies, both here and internationally, to keep people safe. A video was produced at the briefing by this office and disseminated on our social media platforms, thereby increasing the reach of this good news story.

Update on the Garda Podcast



The Garda Podcast, which is available on all major podcast platforms including Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Amazon Music, continues to perform strongly with over 7,000 hours of time spent listening to the series so far. Ten episodes have now been released. Episodes released in August 2024 include features on the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau; inside the Garda Mounted Unit; Policing Dublin and inside the Public Order Unit. The channel continues to feature in the Irish podcast chart and in the true crime podcast chart.

Distracted Driving Video Content



In support of road safety messaging, the Office of Corporate Communications supported the creation of a series of videos highlighting the dangers of distracted driving.

The series saw our content creation team go on mobile patrol with a Roads Policing Unit and captured footage of operational activities targeting distracted driving, and education and enforcement interactions. These videos were shared on our social media feeds over the course of consecutive days on 2, 3 and 4 August 2024.

Community Engagement Activities



Photographed on the right: Garda Richard Cullen and Garda Peter King, Garda Mounted Unit on duty at Electric Picnic in Stradbally, Co. Laois

In support of community policing activities, this office was involved in the promotion of Garda activities at a variety of events, supporting community engagement and our mission in keeping people safe. Some activities in August 2024 included operations surrounding large scale concert events, such as Electric Picnic and Coldplay's performances in Croke Park, together with policing activities for Team Ireland's Olympic Homecoming and the Aer Lingus College Football Classic between Georgia Tech and Florida State in Dublin.

Communications serve to remind the public of any traffic plans which are in place during the course of these events and access restrictions that may be in place. It also reminds the public that An Garda Síochána are here to help and can be approached should anyone require assistance.



Photographed on the right: Superintendent Dermot McKenna, Pearse Street and Inspector Alison O'Neill on duty at the Aviva Station for the Aer Lingus College Football Classic

Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

As thousands of Irish supporters descended to Paris for the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, 42 Gardaí assisted the French National Police and the Gendarmerie for the policing of the Olympic Games, and 12 Gardaí assisted during the policing of the Paralympic Games. The deployment was overseen by la direction de la coopération internationale de sécurité (DCIS) and included 2,200 international police officers from 44 countries.

An Garda Síochána interacted with Olympic spectators, tourists and local officials, proudly representing An Garda Síochána and contributing to the overall safety at the Olympic Games. It was a significant logistical effort to get Gardaí to Paris for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and an even greater collaboration with the French authorities to integrate Gardaí into various police stations across the French capital. Gardaí were warmly welcomed in each station, and their presence was appreciated by both the French police and host authorities. Each Garda member was fully engaged in all aspects of policing around the city, transport hubs and Olympic venues. The reaction from locals, Irish tourists, Olympic spectators and officials was very well received.



Sergeant Paddy Skehan, Garda Eve McCrystal, Garda Lindsey O'Callaghan, Garda Karl Reardon, Sergeant Anthony Flynn, Lisa Clancy, Vice President, Paralympics Ireland



Garda Seán Birkby, D/Inspector Neil Casley, Sergeant Adrian Kildea and Garda Patrick Mackey with international police colleagues

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 222 press releases, 84 missing person appeals relating to 41 missing persons, 26 in respect of witness appeals, together with those related to successful operations undertaken by the organisation. These included suspected drug and cash seizures, such as €10.5m of suspected cocaine seized in joint GNDOCB and Revenue operation in Dublin Port on 13 August 2024; €7.2m of suspected cocaine seized and arrests at Rosslare Europort, Co. Wexford on 8 August 2024; and suspected cannabis worth over €16m seized in Rosslare, Co. Wexford on 10 August 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.

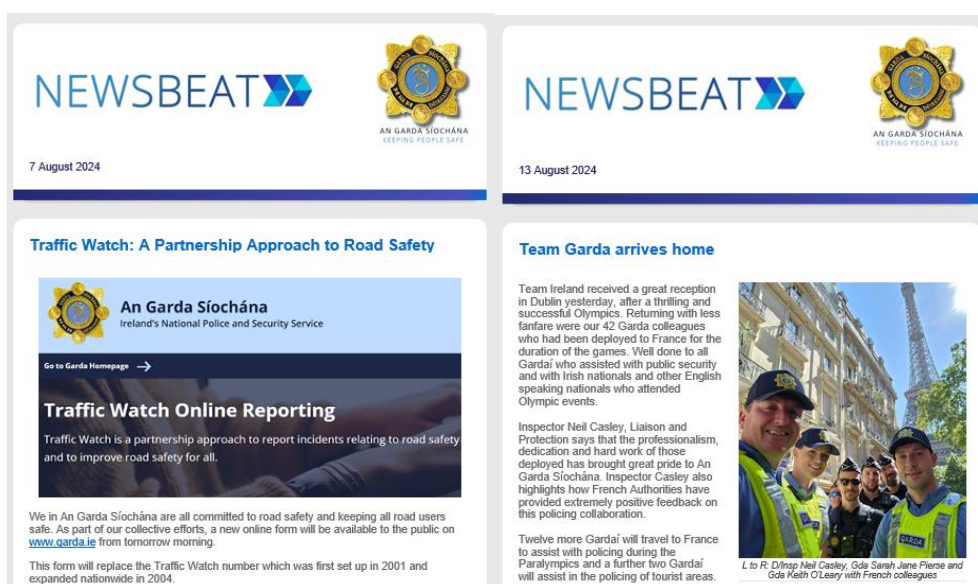
The Office of Corporate Communications measure the success of these communications by capturing:

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	407,398	1.65%
 Facebook – Missing Persons	8,419	10.31%
 Instagram - @GardaInsta	198,340	3.67%
 X- @GardaInfo	292,760	6.4%
 X - @GardaTraffic	623,144	6.19%
 LinkedIn – An Garda Síochána	58,303	9.5%

Internal Communications

In August 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.



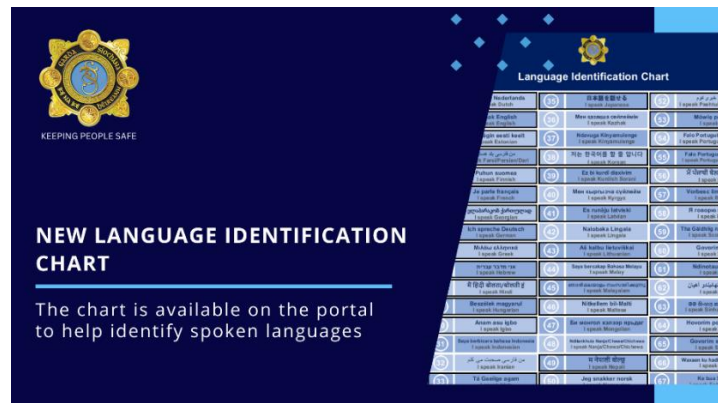
Key highlights from regular Newsbeat updates include:

- Update on the second proof of concept stage for body-worn cameras.
- Keeping Irish fans at the Olympics safe – articles covering An Garda Síochána presence at the Paris Olympics.
- Traffic watch, information on the new online reporting form launched this month.
- Updates on the implementation of the Garda Operating Model.
- New Garda Applicant Vetting Unit established.
- Information regarding International Overdose Awareness Day.

Garda Portal

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

- Reminder of the upcoming deadline for the submission of travel and subsistence.
- Contact information for those wishing to submit information to Newsbeat.
- Inspire helpline number.
- Signposting to where personnel can find the new language identification chart.



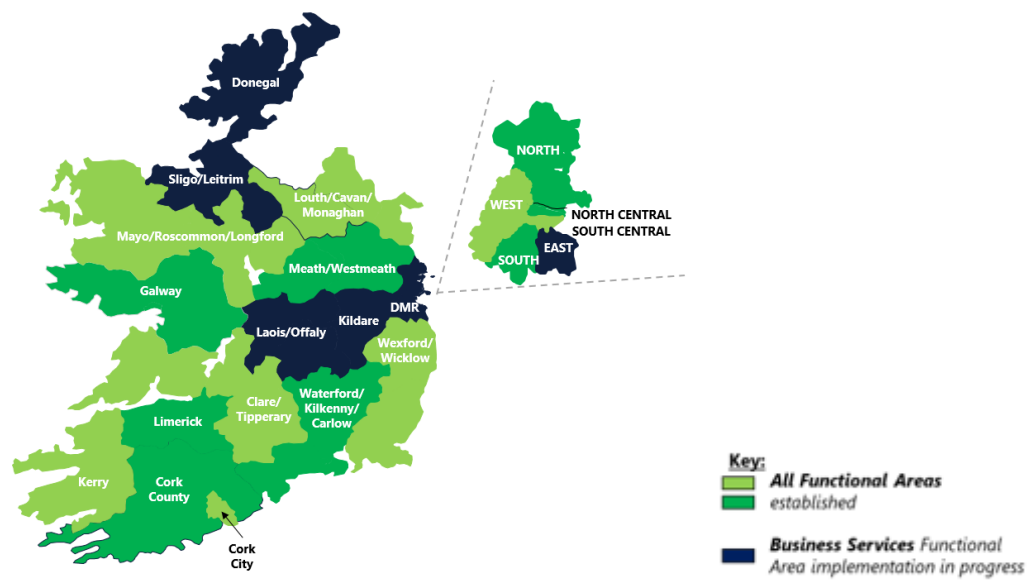
5. Operating Model

On 11 August 2024, the Cork County Division became the sixteenth division to commence the four Functional Area structures (Business Services, Performance Assurance, Crime and Community Engagement). The Cork County Division replaced its former districts to form Community Engagement Functional Areas. Garda personnel in the division are now formally aligned to one of the four Functional Areas.

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.

Progress continues with Business Services Functional Area (BSFA) and Performance Assurance Functional Area (PAFA) implementation across the remaining five Divisions.

Implementation Overview 31 August 2024



Key Dependencies

Resourcing continues to be a key dependency for the successful implementation of the Functional Areas across all divisions.

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

6. Implementation of Cultural Change

Culture Reform Programme

The University of Durham, who have been awarded the contract to conduct the Culture Audit 2025, have contacted the Garda Ethics and Culture Bureau (GECB) on 20 August 2024, and sought to make arrangements for a meeting to discuss timelines and an approach for the audit. Professor Les Graham and his colleagues expressed their availability to meet with the Garda Ethics and Culture team, and dates in October 2024 have now been agreed for an in person meeting. The draft collaboration agreement and overall strategy for the audit will be among the topics for discussion.

As of 1 August 2024, 99% of An Garda Síochána personnel have affirmed their commitment to the Garda Code of Ethics. On 13 August 2024, the Garda Trainee Office at the Garda College forwarded 158 new Code of Ethics declarations from new Garda Probationers to GECB. In addition, 32 Code of Ethics declarations from new Garda Staff and nine Code of Ethics reaffirmations from Garda members were received by GECB during the month of August 2024.

Enhancing Professional Conduct

Edition 6 of Learning the Lessons, Neglect of Duty was published on the Garda portal and in Newsbeat on 1 August 2024. An email attaching an aide memoire relating to neglect of duty issued to all Sergeants and all Executive Officers, asking that they use the aide memoire to discuss the key learnings on criminal conduct at a team/unit briefing, parade, PAF meeting or any other suitable occasion, with personnel under their remit.

The Lessons Learned Working Group met on 8 August 2024 to progress the publication of Edition 7, with the agreed topic of 'Management of Property'. The next working group meeting has been scheduled for 11 September 2024.

The key risk action plan monthly update pertaining to August 2024 was forwarded to senior management. On 30 August 2024, the Director of Training and Continuous Professional Development provided GECB with the following statistics;

- To date, 18,630 Garda personnel have attended a Code of Ethics workshop.
- 4,748 personnel had completed the online ethics refresher course.
- 805 Garda Trainees had completed ethics training.
- The Garda College further advised that 1,562 Garda Staff had completed the eLearning Induction Programme – Code of Ethics Module.

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 August 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.
- Are currently scoping out and developing a number of risks for potential inclusion on the Corporate Risk Register, in conjunction with the policy/risk owners in the respective risk areas.
- Issued a 'Risk Champion Network' bulletin.
- Conducted a risk register development workshop on the Eastern Region's Risk Register.
- Conducted a briefing of the new 'e-Risk' system with personnel in the DMR North Division.
- Received a presentation from the Head of Internal Audit around assurance mapping.
- Superintendent GRMU attended a meeting of the Garda Reserve Oversight Committee.
- Conducted a risk register development workshop with the Civil Legal Division.
- Superintendent GRMU attended a meeting of the CAB Audit and Risk Committee.
- Delivered a risk management seminar to personnel in the DMR North Division.
- Conducted a briefing of the new 'e-Risk' system with Assistant Commissioner DMR.
- Engaged 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

Discussions continued between GISC and the Road Safety Authority in relation to the development of coherency checks and metrics regarding PULSE data on road traffic collisions.

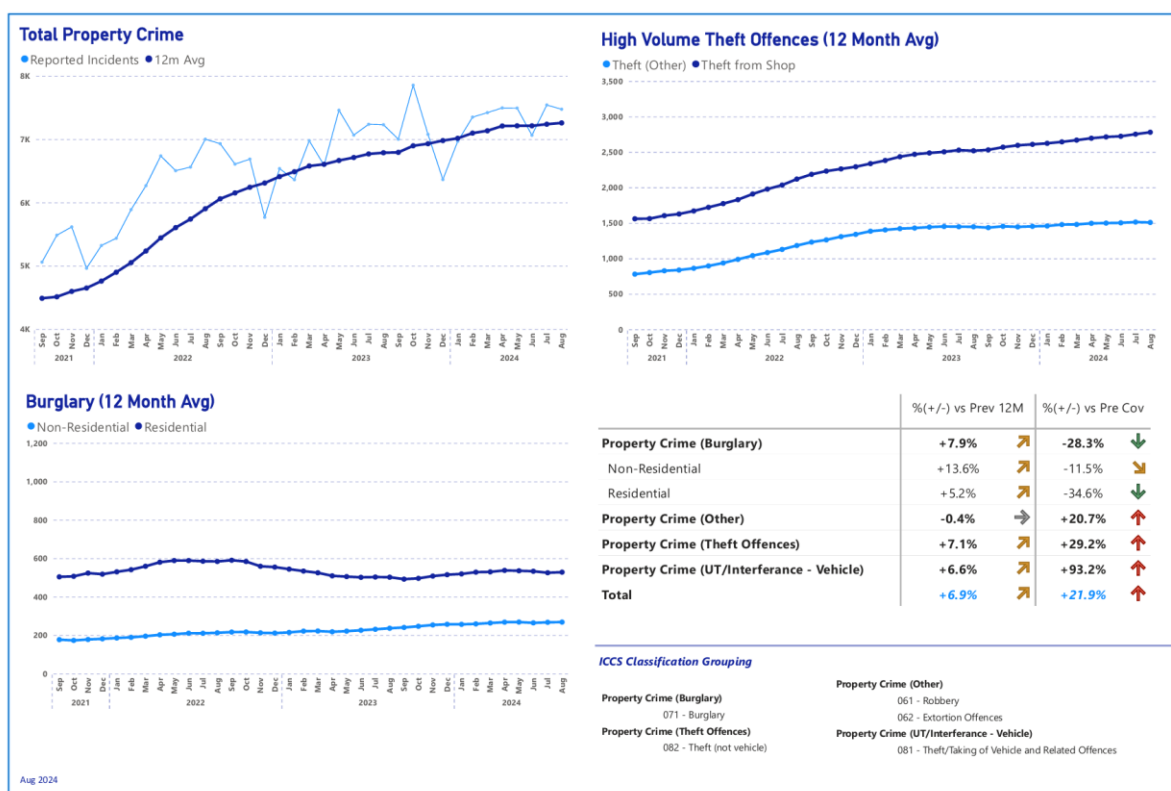
The Data Quality Section in GISC continued to implement its Review on the Reviewer and Call-Listening programmes.

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

Link: [ags-crime-incident-data-quality-metrics-august-2024.pdf \(garda.ie\)](https://www.garda.ie/ags-crime-incident-data-quality-metrics-august-2024.pdf)

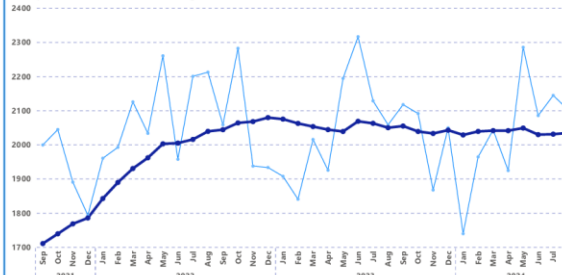
Crime Trends

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)	-0.4%	+17.1%
Non-Residential	+0.7%	+26.8%
Residential	-2.7%	+0.8%
Crimes Against the Person (Other)	-2.1%	+1.2%
Total	-0.7%	+13.8%

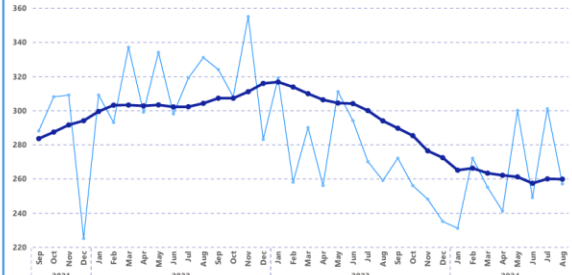
ICCS Classification Grouping

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)	-50.0%	-47.0%
Sexual Offences (Rape/Sexual Assault)	-6.7%	+9.3%
Total	-11.6%	+2.2%

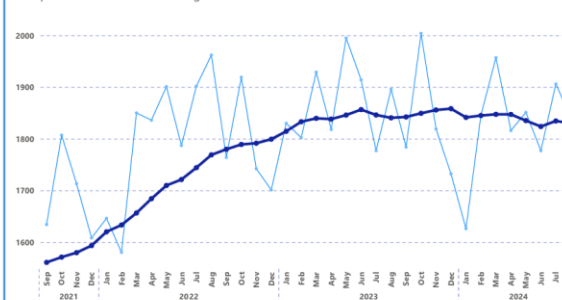
ICCS Classification Grouping

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



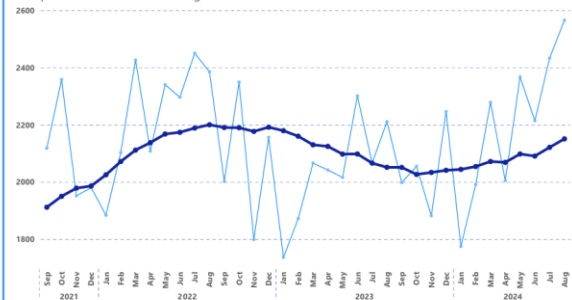
	%(+/-) vs Prev 12m	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
Criminal Damage	-0.6%	+9.2%
Non-Residential	-2.4%	+5.5%
Residential	+1.9%	+14.3%
Total	-0.6%	+9.2%

ICCS Classification Grouping

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

Total Public Order

Reported Incidents 12m Avg



	%(+/-) vs Prev 12m	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
Public Order (Drunkness)	+3.1%	+9.0%
Public Order (Public Order Offences)	+5.9%	-4.1%
Total	+4.8%	+0.4%

ICCS Classification Grouping

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

Garda National Vetting Bureau (GNVB) Update

Vetting

There were 400,601 Garda vetting applications received to the end of August 2024, which is a 3.6% year on year increase on vetting applications received. Garda standard vetting average turnaround times continue at their long-term figure of five working days once an application is received.

Compliance

1,865 role relevancy checks were carried out by our Compliance Team in August 2024, leading to 40 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. GNVB carried out six compliance inspections in relevant organisations in the month of August 2024.

European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

63 requests from operational Garda members for criminal record information in respect of nationals of EU member states and the UK who are being investigated/prosecuted by An Garda Síochána were processed by the ECRIS section of GNVB in August 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 August 2024

Category	August 2024
Total UOF for Month	1,122
Civilians Injured	24
Garda Members Injured	19
Pepper Spray Deployed	135
Batons	31
Handcuffs	1,051
Anti-spit guard	0
Unarmed Restraint	238
Taser	0
Less Lethal Firearm	0
Firearm	1
Gender Subject to Force - Male	898
Gender Subject to Force - Female	140
Drugs Involved	325
Alcohol Involved	705
Division with highest level UOF - DMR South Central	191
Percentage of UOF Deployments occurring Friday, Saturday & Sunday	53%

9. Policing Challenges

Demonstrations

An Garda Síochána continue to provide a policing response, including traffic management, to a great number of protests nationally. This type of incident can be resource-intensive due to potentially large numbers of people involved. The Israel/Palestine conflict and anti-immigration/housing of refugees continue to be the main causes for protests 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 these operations will continue to take place with a continuous draw on Garda resources. One example of this was the planned operation coordinated by the Southern Region, to house 59 IPAS applicants at Dundrum House Hotel, Co. Tipperary on 13 August 2024. A large protest gathered at the outside of the premises and was managed by local Gardaí, with one member of the public arrested for a public order offence. A total of 85 Gardaí were on duty for the operation, including a Public Order Team, a Protest Removal Team and frontline uniform members.

Demonstration (Non Crime) August 2024

Region	August 2024
Dublin Region	41
Southern Region	20
Eastern Region	10
North Western Region	12
Grand Total	83

Policing at Events

Being peak tourist season, August 2024 marked a particularly busy month for policing, security and traffic management in the country, with various social, cultural and sporting events held nationally.

Events in the Dublin Metropolitan Region in August 2024 included St. Patricks Athletic vs Sligo in Richmond Park on 2 August 2024, the Ladies Gaelic Football Finals triple header in Croke Park on 4 August 2024 and the Camogie Finals triple header on 11 August 2024 in Croke Park. Between 14 and 18 August 2024, the Dublin Horse Show drew crowds south of the Liffey to the RDS. The American College Football game between Georgia Tech and Florida State was held at the Aviva Stadium on 23 August 2024. The Royal Hospital Kilmainham held three concerts between 23 and 27 August 2024, including Niall Horan and Blink 182. Coldplay played four sell-out concerts in Croke Park from 29 August 2024 to 2 September 2024. St. Patricks Athletic took on Drogheda United at Richmond Park on 30 August 2024. The Ireland-Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) national demonstration for Palestine took place at the Garden of Remembrance on 31 August 2024.

Cork City played host to some important events in the Southern Region including its Pride Parade, which attracted a great street attendance. Large scale sporting events in Cork City included a football match between Cork City FC and Athlone Town on 9 August 2024, while the Munster v Ulster women's rugby game took place the following day on 10 August 2024. The women's Munster rugby team also played against Leinster on 17 August 2024 and Cork City faced Longford Town on 30 August 2024. Schull hosted its annual Calves Week Regatta on 5 August 2024.

The Puck Fair, which ran from 10 to 12 August 2024, was just one of many major festivals that attracted locals and tourists aplenty to the Southern Region. Other events drawing crowds included the Timoleague Harvest Festival Cork from 12 to 22 August 2024, Inchigeelagh Festival Cork and the Revival Music Festival in Listowel, Co. Kerry between 23 and 24 August 2024. The International Rose of Tralee Festival took place between 16 and 20 August 2024, and the Killarney Races were held between 22 and 24 August 2024. Both events attract major tourist attention annually. The Docklands, Co. Limerick came alive with music with the return of Block Rocking Beats, and the talents of Hermitage Green and James Blunt between 23 and 25 August 2024.

The Galway Racing Festival in the North Western Region was in full swing when August 2024 arrived. Participants and spectators enjoyed the Streets of Galway Road Race, the fun-packed maritime celebrations of the Greencastle Regatta along the Foyle from 8 to 11 August 2024, and the Galway Traditional Boat Festival on 10 and 11 August 2024. Football, Gaelic football and hurling matches across the region were policed, along with the gathering for Irish Olympian, Mona McSharry's homecoming in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. Many swimming events, including the Inch Mile swim at Rathmullen, with more than 130 swimmers taking part, all received a policing presence.

Agricultural shows which received a community engagement response during the month of August 2024 were held in Oughterard, Co. Galway, Virginia, Co. Cavan, Cloone and Lough Rynn, Co. Leitrim, and Clonmany, Glencolmcille, Creeslough, Ardara and Ballyshannon in Co. Donegal.

People of the North Western Region were treated to a series of 10 concerts as part of the successful Galway Summer Sessions at Galway Airport over three weeks in August 2024. Summer Sessions also took place in Letterkenny. The Clonmany Festival ran from 4 to 11 August 2024, with festivities continuing across the county including the Muff Féile, the Ballyshannon Folk Festival, the Downings Music Festival and Killybegs Summer Festival, all taking place in Co. Donegal.

Numerous Pride festivals took place around the North Western Region and all received a policing response. The two regional community engagement vans were valuable additions to the region and were utilised throughout the month of August 2024.

A number of major events were held in the Eastern Region throughout August 2024. The All Together Now Festival provided a talented line-up of performers in Portlaw, Co. Waterford on the August bank holiday weekend. The week-long Fleadh Cheoil Na hÉireann took place in Wexford Town from 4 to 11 August 2024 and the three-day Electric Picnic music and arts festival took place in Stradbally, Co. Laois. A police presence served local events, including the Kilbeggan Races, the Bray Air Display, the Community Games in Carlow and Summer in the City in Waterford's Cultural Quarter. Members engaged positively with the public and traffic plans were in place to keep people safe.

Roads Policing

An Garda Síochána continues to respond to road safety challenges. In August 2024, 13 people died in fatal collisions. There were 71 serious injury collisions reported in August 2024. There were seven motorcyclist/pillion passenger fatalities in the past three months, which is indicative that approximately 55% of motorcyclist fatalities and serious injuries occur between the months of May and September 2024.

An Garda Síochána continues to implement the 30 minute roads policing initiative which was introduced in April 2024, to increase visibility on our roads. In August 2024, there were 4,306 MIT checkpoints conducted. There was an average of 10 arrests per day nationally for driving under the influence of drugs, 13 per day for driving under the influence of alcohol and there were over 2,700 vehicles seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act in August 2024.

	August 2024
Mobile Phone FCNs	1,808
SEAT BELT FCNs	580
Intercept Speed FCNs	3,622
Non-Intercept Speed FCNs	8,039
Total Speed FCNs	11,661

Driving under the influence of alcohol	414
Driving under the influence of drugs	306

Section 41 Detentions	August 2024
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)	2,709
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no ins.	1,516
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax	950
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT	423
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers	529

MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests	August 2024
MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed	15,980
MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed	758

**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 2 September 2024 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.*

August Bank Holiday Road Safety Operation

From 1 to 7 August 2024, An Garda Síochána implemented an information-led road safety campaign. The campaign focused on the dangers of distracted driving and contained direct appeals to motorists on the dangers associated with distracted driving. Members conducted high visibility patrols and used official social media accounts to focus on the enforcement of lifesaver offences, i.e., speeding, holding a mobile phone while driving, seatbelt offences and driving while intoxicated.



(L-R) CEO of RSA Sam Waide, Minister of State for Department of Transport, James Lawless and Assistant Commissioner RPCE Paula Hilman

Over the course of the operation, there were over 1,000 mandatory alcohol testing carried out. Checkpoints conducted in excess of 4,600 breath tests and 250 oral fluid tests. Over 180 arrests were effected against persons suspected of driving under the influence of an intoxicant. Some 4,000 drivers were detected travelling in excess of the speed limit. More than 330 drivers were detected holding a mobile phone while driving and over 110 persons were detected not wearing a seatbelt.

National Day of Action – No Insurance

On 22 August 2024, An Garda Síochána commenced a national day of action focussing on uninsured drivers. The purpose of this day of action was to reinforce the message that the offence of driving without insurance is a priority enforcement area for An Garda Síochána. Gardaí conducted over 320 checkpoints and seized 80 uninsured vehicles. An additional 46 vehicles were seized during the operation for non-insurance related offences, including vehicles without valid tax, NCT certificate or being driven by unaccompanied learner drivers.



10. Immigration Policing

Increase of Jordanian Nationals Claiming Asylum

In August 2024, the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) had further engagement with the UK regarding their Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) system and trends with immigration in both jurisdictions

GNIB initiated a number of high level meetings with senior operational managers across a number of UK immigration enforcement agencies, including: UK Immigration Enforcement and Compliance (ICE), Home Office, Belfast, UK Border Force (both Northern Ireland and UK), Visa Enforcement and Home Office, UK. These meetings have sought the assistance of the UK enforcement authorities to prevent the ongoing abuse of the Common Travel Area (CTA). These meetings have also increased the awareness across UK agencies of the ongoing CTA abuse. GNIB continue efforts to curb this trend.

Operation Sonnet

As previously reported, Operation Sonnet checkpoints are regularly conducted on the M1 motorway south of the border with Northern Ireland. In order to establish if abuse of the Common Travel Area (CTA) is occurring across various other routes, GNIB led an operation targeting illegal entry into the State over 19 and 20 August 2024, in the Donegal Garda Division. This operation was supported by the Donegal Roads Policing Unit, local Immigration Officers, Workplace Relations Commission Inspectors and the UK Home Office Liaison Officer. On both dates, static checkpoints were carried out at two border crossings to establish if the border crossings into Co. Donegal were being used by non-EU nationals for the purpose of entering the State illegally. All buses, taxis and suspicious vehicles were stopped and checked.

On both evenings, business premises/restaurants and fast-food outlets in Letterkenny, Buncrana, Carndonagh and Donegal Town were also inspected, as part of a multi-agency operation with the Workplace Relations Commission. Over the two days, 25 such premises were checked and a total of four non-EU nationals who did not have current permission to reside in the State were encountered. All four were served with notifications under Section 14(1) of the Immigration Act, 2004. They are due to present themselves to the Immigration Officers at Letterkenny and Buncrana Garda Stations on specific dates to regularise their status or make arrangements to leave the State.

11. Community Engagement and Organisational Initiatives

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

Darknet Market Investigation

On 5 August 2024, as part of a major cybercrime investigation into individuals involved in the operation of the darknet marketplace, members from the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau carried out a search. Three suspects were present, and subsequently arrested and conveyed to different Garda stations, where they were questioned in relation to the offence for which they were arrested. During the course of the search, significant assets, including almost €7m in various crypto currencies, including Bitcoin, Monero and Ethereum, two high-powered sports cars valued in excess of €220,000, and a large quantity of luxury and designer watches, clothing and accessories, were seized. One suspect was charged with three counts of money laundering and the other two suspects were released pending the submission of a file to the DPP. It is envisaged that further charges will be preferred. The darknet market under investigation appears to have approximately €94m in drug sales.

Operation Gealbhán

On 14 August 2024, as part of Operation Gealbhán, an operation targeting organised criminality in the south side of Limerick City, Gardaí stopped and engaged with a driver who produced two small bags of suspected cocaine. A more detailed search of the vehicle was subsequently conducted. Two kilos of suspected cocaine, with an estimated street value of €140,000 was recovered in the rear of the vehicle. The driver and their passenger were arrested, and detained at Roxboro Road Garda Station pursuant to Section 2 of the Criminal Justice (Drug Trafficking) Act, 1996. The driver admitted to possession of the suspected drugs and was duly charged. A file is being prepared for the DPP.

Latin American Women's Community Event

On 14 August 2024, the Garda National Diversity Unit gave a presentation at an event in Dublin, titled Latin Voices: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers, organised by the Latina Women Against Violence (LWAV) and the Latin America Solidarity Centre (LASC). The main topics of the event addressed hate crime and how to report it, the barriers to accessing support services, and the legal and political frameworks surrounding domestic violence in Ireland for ethnic minority communities.

Organised Retail Thefts Nationwide

As part of An Garda Síochána response to combat the increasing number of nationwide theft incidents from retail outlets, an incident room was set up at Thurles Garda Station to disrupt the activities of a organised crime group with connections to Romania, suspected of committing thefts from retail outlets nationwide. Allegedly, between July 2020 and February 2024, a total of 90 business premises at various locations fell victim to theft offences contrary to Section 4 of the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act, 2001, with the theft being predominantly alcoholic beverages. These particular offences were committed by members of an organised crime group whose modus operandi involved travelling to towns, and targeting the alcohol shelves and aisles of supermarkets and multinational stores.

On 19 August 2024, a suspect was arrested contrary to Section 71 of the Criminal Justice Act, 2006, for conspiracy to commit theft. They were subsequently charged in relation to 33 incidents of theft, contrary to Section 4 of the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act, 2001 from various retail outlets across the country. They were conveyed to Limerick District Court and remanded in custody. A file is currently being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mobile Examiners Symposium

On 21 August 2024, the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau hosted a Mobile Examiners Symposium in the Garda College for mobile device examiners from around the country and over 80 Garda members attended. The agenda included:

- Best practice in forensics/search and seizure.
- Court practice and difficulties.
- The central importance of mobile device extractions in criminal investigations.
- Quirke Judgement update.

Meetings with Forward Thinking and Muslim Sisters of Éire

On 21 August 2024, the Garda National Diversity Unit met with 'Forward Thinking', a non-governmental organisation focused on conflict resolution and mediation, and currently engaged with the Northern Ireland Assembly in reviewing recent anti-Muslim protests and attacks. The focus of the gathering was An Garda Síochána approach to relationship-building with the Muslim Community in Ireland, the work of the Garda National Community Engagement Bureau, and the work of the Garda Diversity Officers amidst the current social unrest in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.

On the same day, the Garda National Diversity Unit met with the Muslim Sisters of Éire amid concern related to the current anti-migrant sentiment and the associated perceived increased risk to Muslims living in Ireland. Muslim Sisters of Éire is a voluntary independent organisation of mainly Irish Muslim women who provide a range of support services for the homeless, women and youth.

Global Community Policing Conference 2024

From 21 to 23 August 2024, the Garda National Community Engagement Bureau attended the inaugural Global Community Policing Conference 2024 in Singapore. An Garda Síochána were joined by close to 200 foreign and local participants from police forces around the world, local government agencies and industry leaders. The conference, themed 'Bridging Global Partners, Advancing Community Policing', aimed to share best practices in community policing, discuss community engagement strategies and forge stronger cooperation with other law enforcement.

South Indian Harvest Festival

On 31 August 2024, members attached to the Sligo/Leitrim Division provided an information stand while attending the celebration of the South Indian Harvest festival, hosted by the Indian Association in Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim. More than 350 people from Sligo and Leitrim attended the event, and enjoyed the various cultural programmes, games and the 24 item feast called 'Onasadhya'.

Operation Coinním and Operation Scáthlán

Having ran from 31 June 2024, both Operation Coinním, a high visibility crime prevention operation encompassing coastal and seasonal recreation areas, and Operation Scáthlán, a high visibility crime prevention operation at rail and bus stations, concluded on 31 August 2024. In both operations, proactive patrols were carried out by uniformed and plain-clothed Gardaí, the Roads Policing Unit, Community Policing Unit and Drugs Unit. A number of successful outcomes were recorded, including the enhancement of public safety and management of anti-social behavior, improved and increased public engagement, and the provision of crime prevention advice, gathering criminal intelligence and detection of offences while on visible active patrol.

National Drugs Strategy Team at the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau

Throughout the month of August 2024, An Garda Síochána continued to work with the Irish National Red Alert Group (NRAG), chaired by the Health Service Executive (HSE), to monitor cases of concern and to rapidly respond to future outbreaks should they occur. A national red alert remains in place since 14 June 2024, with the HSE issuing a risk communication to people who use drugs following a cluster of overdoses in Dublin and the Mid-West. Analysis by the Emerging Trends Laboratory at the HSE National Drug Treatment Centre has confirmed nitazene in yellow, round counterfeit benzodiazepine tablets associated with these overdoses. An Garda Síochána are actively engaged in this monitoring process along with the relevant agencies, including the HSE, Forensic Science Ireland and the HSE National Drug Treatment Centre. An Garda Síochána also continued to support the HSE festival programme for 2024, to identify early warning emerging drug trends of concern. The HSE issued drug advisory updates in June and August 2024, including two HSE drug alert updates, all concerning high strength MDMA in the form of pills, powders and crystals.



Garda Essmay Murphy and Garda Michael Fogarty from Carlow Garda Station engaging with Irish Rail Staff at Carlow Train Station while on patrol during - Operational Scáthlán on 1 August 2024

National Rural Safety Forum Community Engagement Shows

Throughout August 2024, the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit attended shows in Bonniconlon, Co. Mayo (5 August 2024), Virginia, Co. Cavan (21 August 2024) and the Iverk Show, Co. Kilkenny (24 August 2024), as a member of the National Rural Safety Forum. The National Rural Safety Forum comprises of organisations and people with a common purpose of ensuring rural safety. The forum works to develop a nationwide network for the distribution of consistent, highly-effective crime prevention advice, while increasing engagement within communities and reducing the opportunities for crime. The Garda National Crime Prevention Unit engaged with members of the public at the Garda marquee where they provided practical, effective crime prevention advice and promoted the National Rural Safety Forum.



Sergeant Marie Scott, Superintendent Peter Conlon, and Sergeant Louise Duffy



Garda Occupational Health and Wellbeing (GOHW)

garda.ie



An Garda Síochána

An Garda Síochána Mental Health First Aid Programme



Programme Update

- In line with An Garda Síochána Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2021–2025), commitment to delivering various training and other interventions, to engender and support good mental health in the workplace, the third Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructor Training course under An Garda Síochána Mental Health First Programme will commence on 3 September 2024.
- The expectation is that when fully accredited, these Garda MHFA training facilitators will deliver the standard two-day MHFA training to all Garda personnel in the coming years, as the programme rollout takes place across the organisation.
- From January 2024 to the end of August 2024, the first two cohorts of MHFA training facilitators have delivered MHFA to over 1,500 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 is open to all Garda personnel.
- The procurement process for the provider for the Health Needs Assessment Survey (request for quotation), has commenced.
- Following completion of the procurement process, Sia Partners are the preferred providers.
- Next steps are to develop and agree Health Needs Assessment Survey questions.