

An Garda Síochána

Public Attitudes Survey Bulletin



Q2 2017

Research conducted by



This bulletin presents key findings from the second quarter of the Public Attitudes Survey conducted between April and June 2017.

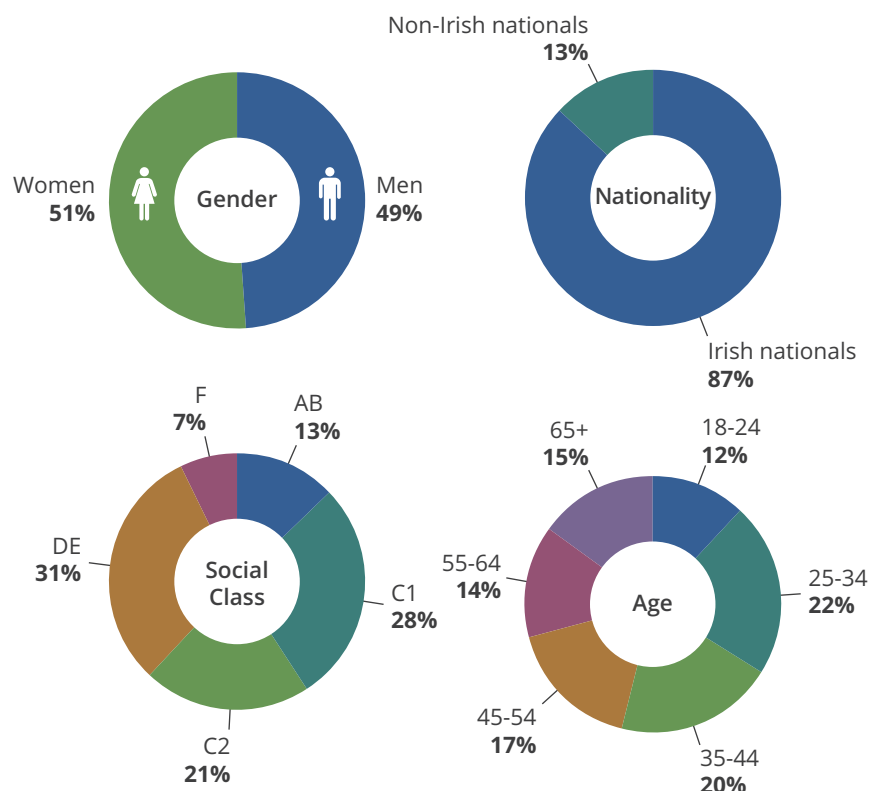
People were asked about their perceptions of national and local crime; if they experienced victimisation in the last year, whether they reported this crime, and their satisfaction with An Garda Síochána's handling of their incident. Respondents were also asked about their level of worry about becoming a victim of crime, their fear about crime, as well as its impact on their quality of life. They were asked how visible Garda patrols were in their local area; as well as their level of trust, satisfaction, and overall perceptions of the Garda organisation.

The survey is designed to run on a continuous basis (it is continuously surveying the population) with 1,500 being surveyed each quarter. Data was collected by means of in-home, face-to-face interviews. The high level results presented in this bulletin are based on data which has been weighted by age, gender, social class and nationality.

This is a survey of a random sample of the population; therefore we have to accept that there will be some margin of error. This has been calculated at +/- 2.53 per cent for the quarterly sample. It is important to note that as analysis is done on smaller proportions, the margin of error increases. This should be taken into account when examining analysis of victims of crime. Not all charts where percentages are used will add up to 100 percent because of the rounding of figures.

Demographics

The sample is of 1,500 adults aged 18 years and over.



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Perceptions of Crime

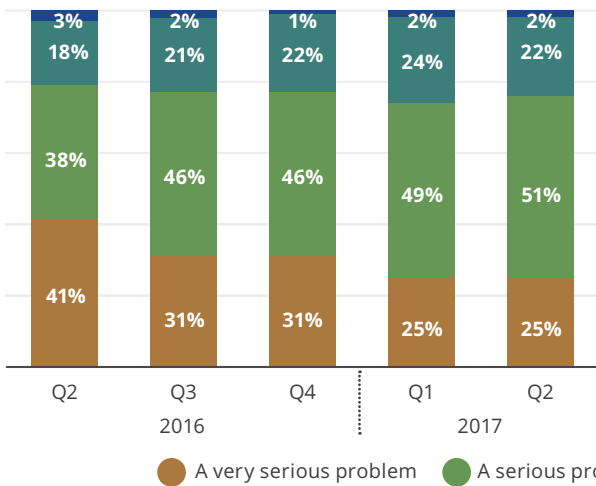
In Q2 2017, 76% of respondents perceived national crime to be either a very serious or serious problem, down 3% from the same period in 2016.

Between Q1 2017 and Q2 2017, there was a slight increase in the number of respondents reporting national crime to be either a very serious or serious problem.

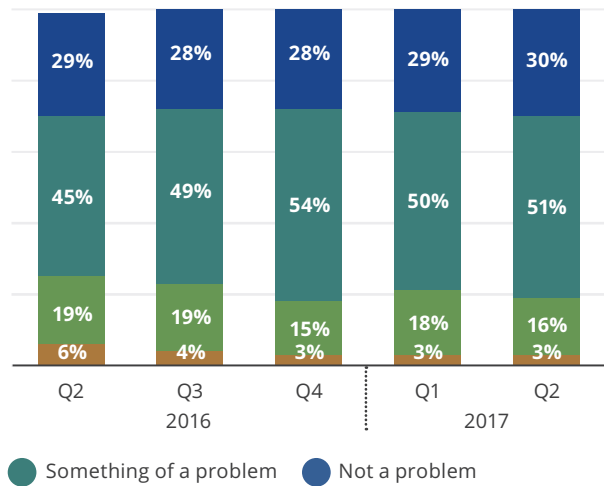
In comparison, during the second quarter of 2017 only 19% of respondents considered local crime to be a very serious or serious problem, down 6% compared to Q2 2016.

Between the latest two sweeps of the survey, there was a further decrease (-2%) in the proportion of respondents who considered local crime to be either a very serious or serious problem.

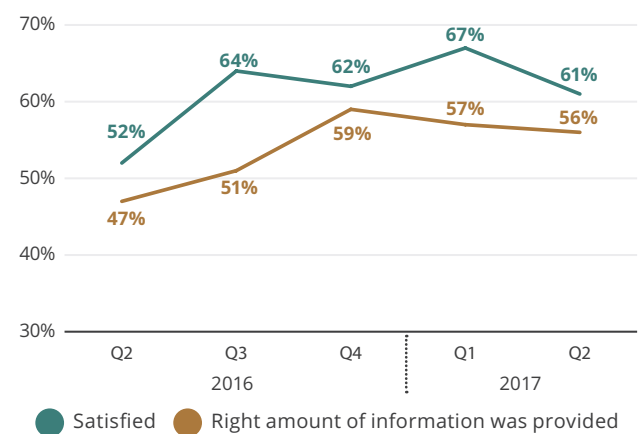
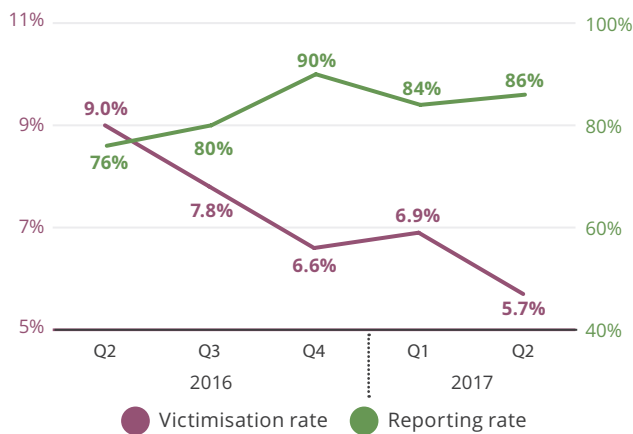
Perceptions of National Crime



Perceptions of Local Crime



Victimisation



In Q1 2017, the victimisation rate¹ stood at 5.7%², compared to 9% during the same quarter last year. During Q2 2017, 86%³ of victims interviewed stated they had reported their most recent crime incident to Gardaí, a 10% increase from Q2 2016. In general, over this period, the victimisation rate has been trending downwards, while the proportion of victims reporting their crime incident to An Garda Síochána has been increasing.

During Q2 2017, satisfaction among victims of crime (who reported their crime to Gardaí) stood at 61%, an increase of 9% since Q1 2016. The majority of victims felt that the right amount of information had been provided to them (56%); this has remained relatively stable over recent survey sweeps.

¹ This includes being a victim of burglary, theft, robbery, criminal damage, assault, or fraud.

² 85 respondents experienced victimisation in the previous 12 months.

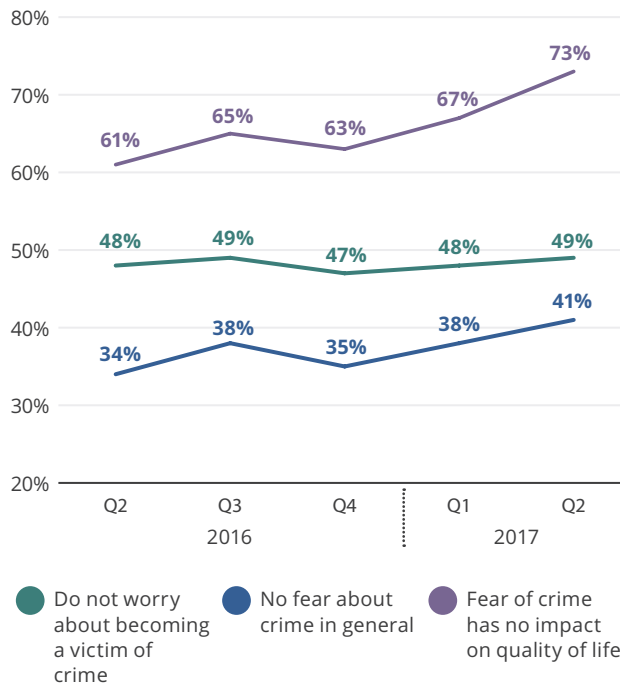
³ 73 victims reported their crime to Gardaí.

Fear and Worry about Crime

During Q2 2017, just under half (49%) of respondents reported that they did not worry about becoming a victim of crime; this has remained relatively stable since Q2 2016. Of those who were worried about victimisation in Q2 2017; 3% worried about becoming a victim of personal injury, 9% worried about property theft or damage, and 39% worried about becoming a victim of both.

In Q2 2017, 41% of respondents reported having no fears about the level of crime in general; this has been trending upwards over the past three measurement points. Among those who reported being fearful of the level of crime in general, 3% had a lot of fears, 27% had some fears, while 29% reported they had very few fears.

Nearly three quarters of respondents (73%) reported that their fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life, an increase of 12% since Q2 2016. Among those who believed that fear of crime had impacted their quality of life, the majority (17%) stated that it had reduced quality a little, 7% reported it had moderately reduced quality, while 2% stated it had significantly and 1% reported it had greatly reduced their quality of life.

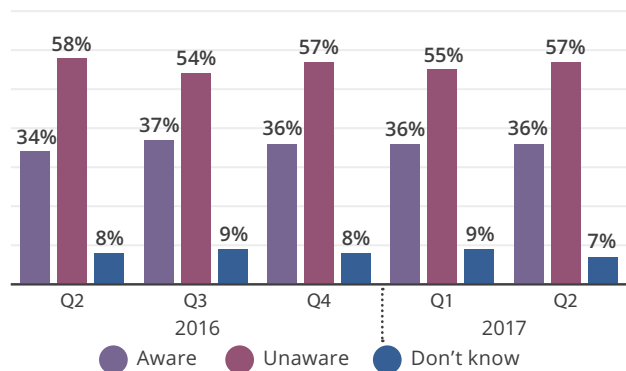


Garda Visibility

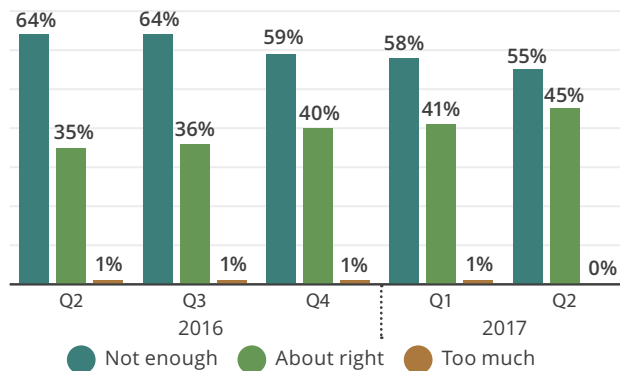
In Q2 2017, 36% of respondents were aware of Garda patrols in their local area. This has remained stable since Q2 2016.

In Q2 2017, 45% of respondents considered Garda presence in their local area to be at about the right level, this has been consistently trending upwards since Q2 2016.

Garda Patrols Locally



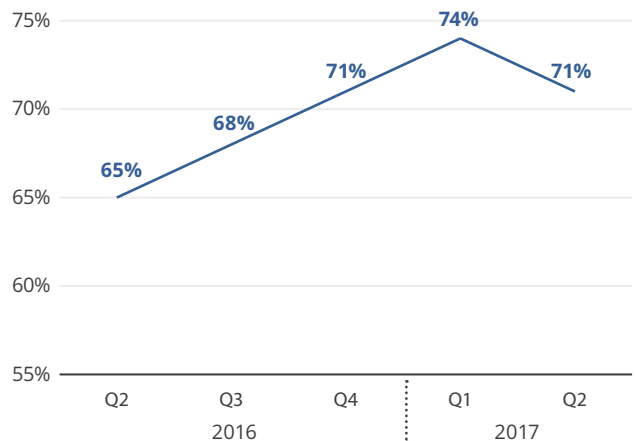
Garda Presence Locally



Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

In Q2 2017, 71% (8% were very satisfied while 63% reported they were satisfied) of respondents reported they were satisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána to local communities, 18% stated they were quite dissatisfied, 4% reported being very dissatisfied, while 7% replied that they did not know. During Q2 2017, satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána decreased for the first time since Q1 2016.

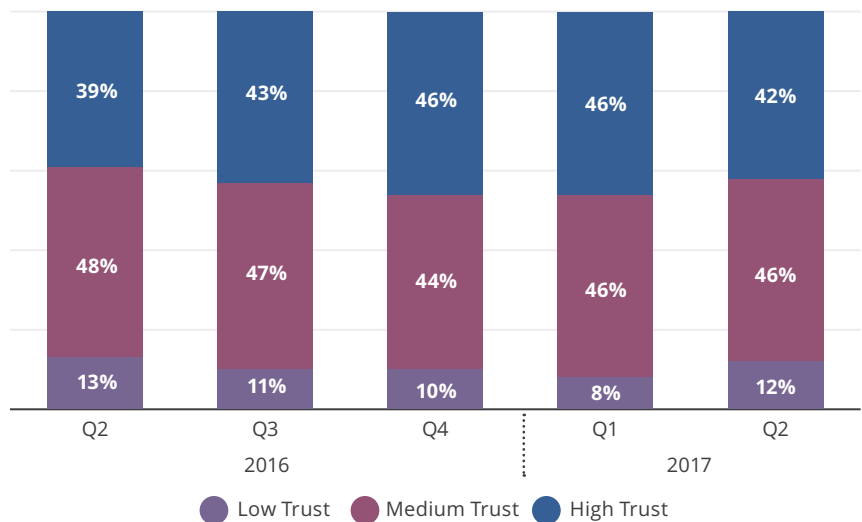
Satisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána



Trust in An Garda Síochána

In Q2 2017, 88% of respondents stated they had a mid to high level of trust in An Garda Síochána. Mid/high trust levels in An Garda Síochána dropped by 4% between the latest two sweeps of the Public Attitudes Survey.

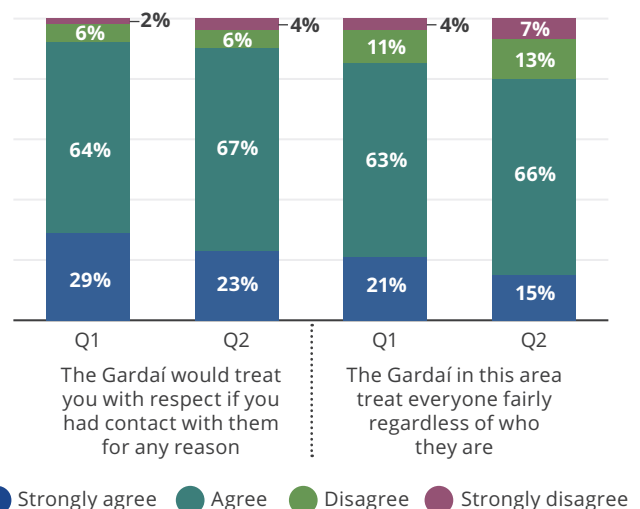
Comparing Q2 2017 to the same period last year, trust in An Garda Síochána has remained largely stable.



Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána

Two new questions relating to equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána were added to the Public Attitudes Survey in 2017. When asked if the Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason 90% agreed in Q2 2017, down 3% from Q1 2017.

When asked if the Gardaí in the area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are; in Q2 2017 81% agreed, down from 84% in Q1 2017.

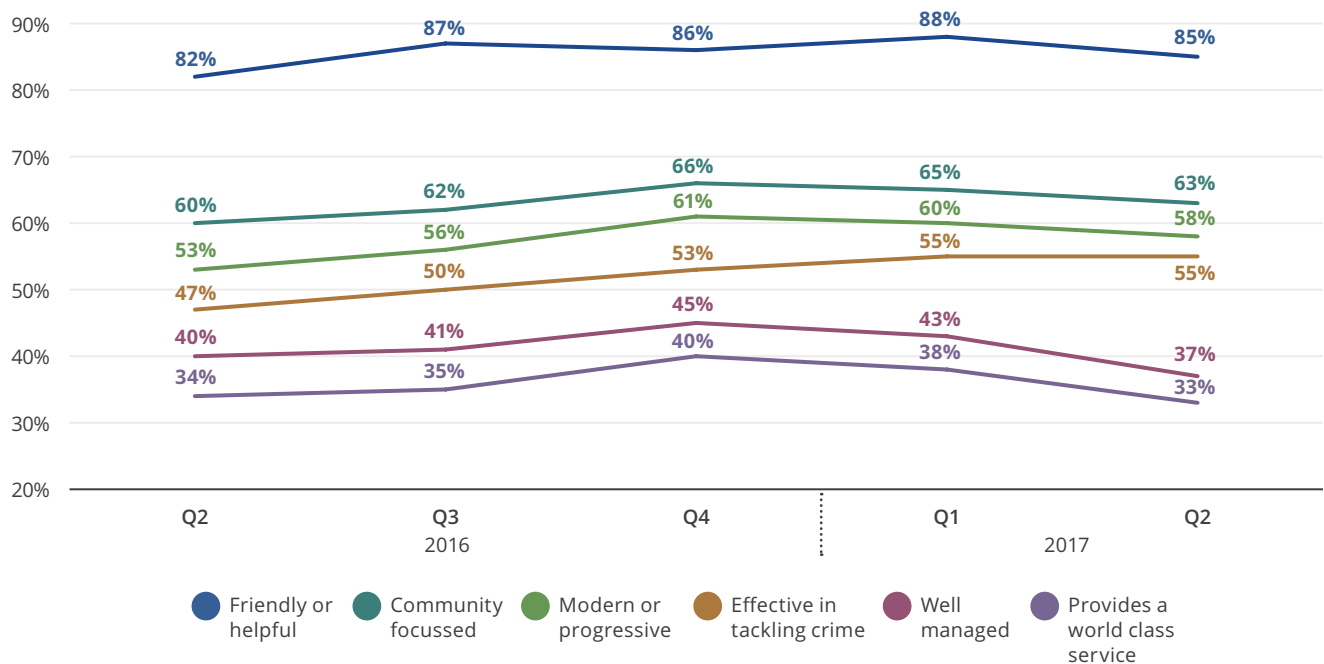


Perceptions of the Garda Organisation

Comparing Q2 2017 to the same quarter last year, there has been an improvement in perceptions of the organisation as being friendly or helpful, community focussed, and effective in tackling crime. There was, however, a decline in terms of the organisation being modern or progressive, well managed or providing a world class police service.

In Q2 2017, 85% of respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána was friendly or helpful; 63% agreed that the organisation

was community focused; 58% thought the organisation was modern or progressive; 55% reported that An Garda Síochána was effective in tackling crime; while 37% agreed that the organisation was well managed, 33% thought that An Garda Síochána provides a world class police service. Between Q1 2017 and Q2 2017, there was a decline in perceptions of the Garda organisation across five of the six measures of effectiveness and capability.



Conclusion

This Public Attitudes Survey summary report is the second in a series of bulletins that will be published on a quarterly basis by An Garda Síochána.

When respondents were asked about their perceptions of crime, the majority considered the national crime problem to be more serious than the crime problem in their local area. Between the latest two survey sweeps there was a further decrease in the proportion of respondents who considered local crime to be either a very serious or serious problem.

The victimisation rate has declined further since Q1 2017 and is approximately 3% lower compared to the second quarter of 2016. The proportion of victims reporting their crime to Gardai stood at 86% during Q2 2017. The proportion of respondents reporting that they received the right amount of information from Gardai has remained stable over the last number of survey sweeps and victim satisfaction remains above 2016 levels.

Reported fear about the level of crime in general, perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, and the impact of the fear of crime on respondents quality of life have all decreased between the last two sweeps of the survey.

Awareness of Garda patrols in local areas remains at 36%, while perceptions of Garda presence being at the right level has consistently increased since Q1 2016, standing at 45% during Q2 2017.

71% of respondents reported they were satisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána to local communities, although this has decreased since Q1 2017, it remains above 2016 levels. The trust of the public in the Garda organisation remains high.

The vast majority of respondents believed that the Gardai would treat them, or others, with respect, regardless of who they are, if they had contact with them for any reason. In general, perceptions of the Garda organisation declined between Q1 2017 and Q2 2017.