



*“Keeping People Safe”*

# ***Cross Border Policing Strategy 2025 - 2027***



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice



Department of  
**Justice**

*“Keeping people safe”*



## Foreword from the Commissioner and Chief Constable



It is with great pleasure that we jointly introduce the third edition of the Cross Border Policing Strategy 2025 – 2027. The revised three-year strategy aims to build on established collaborative relationships and operational successes to date. It also represents a strengthened commitment towards enhanced law enforcement provision and intelligence-sharing between both our organisations in the midst of emerging risks and threats derived from an evolving criminal landscape.

Furthermore, the strategy serves as an overarching statement of intent by both jurisdictions to deliver upon shared policing objectives to keeping people safe on the island of Ireland. It amplifies existing strategic and operational co-operation which has proven effective in preventing cross-border crime and has wide-reaching community safety outcomes.



Our combined endeavours will continue to reap the rewards of a partnership grounded in trust and focused on enhanced operational efficiencies, shared best practice, strengthened expertise and skillsets, and optimal technological capabilities.

We are grateful for the support received from our respective Justice Ministers and Departments and look forward with focused commitment to meeting our intended goals and desired outcomes throughout the duration of this strategy.

**J A Harris**

Commissioner, An Garda Síochána

**Jon Boutcher**

Chief Constable, Police Service of Northern Ireland





Foreword from the  
**Minister for Justice and Justice Minister**

As the Ministers responsible for policing and justice matters in both jurisdictions we are pleased to welcome and give our support to this new Cross-Border Policing Strategy. The three-year strategy reinforces the commitment to the continuing collaboration and co-operation which is the basis of such a successful working relationship. This Cross Border Policing Strategy builds on the existing collaborative approach and demonstrates the breadth of co-operation across the full range of policing areas north and south. The strategy highlights four key areas to receive most focus over the next three years, which are vitally important in “keeping people safe” in our communities.

We commend the exceptional teamwork and unwavering commitment that exists, and the determination of both police services to use all the tools available to ensure that those who would seek to exploit the border for criminal ends will not succeed. Much of the work of our respective police services remains unseen but is highly important in keeping our communities safe. For our part, we will continue to support this work through the development of relevant policy, and ensuring effective powers and resources are in place to support policing co-operation on the island of Ireland.

We hope that this strategy will help reinforce the best practice that already exists and strengthen our shared commitment to address common issues. We will continue sharing expertise, resources and skills as necessary in the interests of keeping the public safe.



**Helen McEntee T.D.**

Minister for Justice, Republic of Ireland

**Naomi Long MLA**

Justice Minister, Northern Ireland





**Policing Environment**

The Cross Border Policing Strategy 2025 - 2027 is set against a backdrop of significant changes in socio-economic, criminal and technological landscapes amidst considerable organisational evolution within An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland since the issuance of the last strategy pre-COVID.

Both organisations remain committed to enhancing cross-jurisdictional co-operation and reinforcing shared responsibilities to keeping people safe on both sides of the border of Ireland.

**Consultation Process**



Internal Consultation

Engagement continues with all internal Heads of Sections / Departments including border Divisions / Districts within An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.



External Consultation

Ongoing liaison between An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland remains steadfast to inform priority policing objectives and desired outcomes. Engagement with both Departments of Justice is also in focus to capture governmental views on the priorities for the Cross Border Policing Strategy.



Horizon Scanning

Anticipated trends in cross border policing over the duration of this strategy will continue and incorporate programmes for government, new and revised legislation, international and best practice, policing opportunities, and challenges.



### **Purpose of Cross Border Policing Strategy 2025 - 2027**

To establish a revised and updated strategy reflective of current and emerging cross border policing demands, trends and expectations.

To enhance and incorporate stakeholder collaboration into attainable strategy objectives and measurable outcomes.

To optimise policing capacity and capability through best use of resourcing, investigative tools and shared learning.

To support a robust reporting and governance framework to highlight and capture strategy implementation and progress.

To provide reassurance to the communities on the island of Ireland through an enhanced joint communications approach.



MISSION AND VISION



Mission

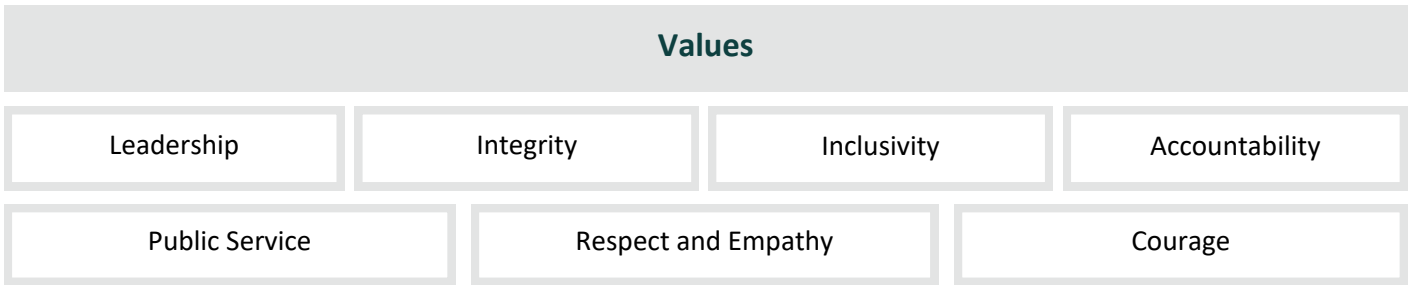
An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland remain steadfast in their commitment to keeping people safe and will continue in their endeavours to reach new heights of co-operation to respond to the ever-changing needs and vulnerabilities of the communities we serve in both jurisdictions.



Vision

The Cross Border Policing Strategy 2025 - 2027 will provide a platform for An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland to build on existing strategic and operational collaboration between our organisations and to strengthen resilience in our policing capacity and capability to new and emerging trends and challenges.





Tackling Crime and Preventing Harm

**Area of Focus**

Proactive collaboration in the prevention and detection of crime will place victims and the vulnerable at the forefront of robust policing responses.

*Themes: National Security | Joint Agency Task Force (JATF) | Organised Immigration Crime | Economic Crime | On-line Crime | Cyber-Crime | Public Protection | Hate Crime | Joint Operational Protocols | Joint Investigation Teams (JITs).*

**Outcomes**

- Optimal use of resources
- Delivery of sustainable solutions to shared problems
- Strengthened messaging and public awareness
- Enhanced information sharing mechanisms
- Greater partnerships centred on shared knowledge and learnings
- Focused intelligence-led policing approaches
- Reduced crime and harm, particularly for those most vulnerable in communities

Roads Policing and Road Safety

**Area of Focus**

Shared commitments to making roads safer will be effectively delivered through robust roads policing enforcement and enhanced road safety initiatives in collaboration with key partner agencies and communities.

*Themes: Joint Agency Operations and Days of Action | High Visibility and Intelligence-Led Policing | Aligned and Co-ordinated Awareness Campaigns | Educational Drives*

**Outcomes**

- Strengthened partnerships on preventing harm and saving of lives
- Increased high visibility and the detection of life saver offences
- Optimised use of all available technology e.g. ANPR, Mobility Devices
- Enhanced road safety messaging and awareness
- Safer use of roads for all competing interests
- Disrupting use of road network and criminality

Community Policing

**Area of Focus**

Problem-oriented policing will be fostered and strengthened through solution-based initiatives and focused partnerships with all key stakeholders in our communities to meet our shared vision of keeping people safe.

*Themes: Joint Initiatives - Community Impact Assessments | Drug Related Intimidation | Information Clinics | School Programmes / Business Watch / Property Marking / Engagements with Farming Community, Older and Youth Demographics.*

**Outcomes**

- Enhanced trust within communities and increased public confidence
- Delivery of preventative and sustainable solutions to identified community problems and concerns
- Positive community impact and reduced fear of crime through high visibility presence and accessibility

Major Emergency Management

**Area of Focus**

Enhanced major emergency collaborative frameworks will support resilience in preparatory, mitigation, response and recovery mechanisms ensuring minimal harm in the event of a crisis.

*Themes: Joint Operational Protocols | Training Exercises | Information Sharing | Communications | Risk Assessments*

**Outcomes**

- Strengthened pooling of expertise, knowledge and resources
- Holistic approach addressing prevention, planning, and long-term resilience
- Increased community engagement and information sharing
- Resource optimisation ensuring efficient use of personnel, equipment, and funding.
- Agility in command and control systems





Joint Investment

**Priority**

To work together to identify and secure necessary supports to effectively respond to growing policing needs, demands and public expectations.

*Themes: Funding | Resources | Technology | Communications*

**Outcomes**

- Identification and realisation of additional funding / resourcing
- Enhanced collaborative partnerships
- Resilience in crime reduction investigation tools and responses
- Resource optimisation
- Increased innovativeness and adaptability
- Enhanced public confidence

Developing our People

**Priority**

Personnel will be supported and empowered to succeed effectively in their working environment and provide consistent and robust policing responses to the communities we serve.

*Themes: Exchange Programmes | Cross Border Conferences | Training and Workshops | Feedback and Resolution Mechanisms / Shared Learning*

**Outcomes**

- Continuous shared learning and skill development
- Leadership development
- Prioritisation of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives
- Wellness and work-life balance
- Succession planning
- Talent retention

Legislative Supports

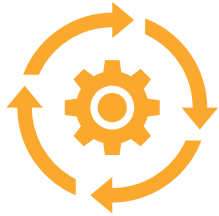
**Priority**

To identify and address legislative challenges that impact operational efficiencies with respective internal legal sections and Justice Departments.

**Outcomes**

Adequate legislative provision will equip both organisations with the necessary tools on an individual and collaborative basis to successfully respond to and combat emerging crime trends and challenges.





## Implementation Plan

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An implementation plan supports this strategy to operationalise intended objectives.

Each strategic area of focus is assigned a lead from within An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland who will collaborate accordingly to deliver set objectives and desired outcomes.



## Key Performance Indicators

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Strategic objectives and desired outcomes are clearly defined and agreed with specific focus on meaningful, tangible and deliverable results.

Limitations encountered during the strategy timeline will also be identified and inform appropriate and responsive policing requirements and corrective actions where necessary.



## Annual Review and Governance

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Progress reports will be provided for each strategic area of focus on an annual basis against a devised template to ensure consistency on evaluation and performance reporting. The Cross Border Policing Strategy will remain an agenda item at quarterly meetings between the Garda Commissioner and Chief Constable, PSNI.



**Strategy Duration**

The Cross Border Policing Strategy 2025 - 2027 will cover a three-year timeline to support short-term agility and long-term vision and stability in response to emerging policing requirements, demands and expectations.

**Strategic Areas of Focus**

- Tackling Crime and Preventing Harm
- Roads Policing and Road Safety
- Community Policing
- Major Emergency Management

**Strategy Enablers**

- Joint Investment
- Developing our People
- Legislative Supports

**Implementation**

An implementation plan supports the Cross Border Policing Strategy 2025 - 2027 providing guidance on all participating roles and responsibilities. Joint leads are assigned to each area of focus and enabling support sections / departments with desired outcomes to be measured against agreed KPIs.

**Governance**

The strategy will be an agenda item at quarterly cross border meetings between the Garda Commissioner and Chief Constable, PSNI. Annual reporting per area of focus will demonstrate achieved tangible outcomes and inform enhanced actions and responses.





CROSS  
BORDER  
POLICING  
STRATEGY  
2025 - 2027



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