



**An Garda Síochána**

**Monthly Report for October 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**

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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 October 2024, in accordance with Section 41A of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005, as amended.

Yours sincerely,

  
**MARIE BRODERICK**  
**SUPERINTENDENT**  
**PRIVATE SECRETARY**  
**TO COMMISSIONER**  
*Marie*  
**November 2024**

## Message from the Commissioner

During the month of October 2024, An Garda Síochána was pleased to report the high profile arrest of a male in Dubai in respect of our ongoing investigations into the Kinahan Organised Crime Group. This arrest has been a significant development in terms of our ongoing international efforts to combat transnational crime. This arrest has also signalled an important step forward in respect of our professional relationship with the Dubai Police.

Sadly this month, An Garda Síochána launched a murder investigation in respect of the disappearance of Kyran Durnin of Dundalk, Co. Louth. An Garda Síochána conducted a media appeal on foot of the disappearance and upgrading of the investigation in respect of this young boy, who would be eight if alive today. The investigation remains live and we continue our appeals to anyone who has information, no matter how insignificant they think it might be, to come forward and speak to us.

Work continues in the area of roads policing and this month I was pleased to announce the roll-out of two further average speed safety cameras – one set in County Cavan and a further set in County Mayo. These roads, along the N3 and N5, were chosen on the basis of analyses of data on road fatalities and serious injuries.

These average speed safety cameras have proven effective in changing driver behaviour and reducing speed in locations where they are operational. These new additions therefore will contribute to the overall road safety of those roads where they are now operational. They will supplement average speed safety cameras already in existence at the Port Tunnel and on the M7 between junctions 26 and 27.

Positive results were also reported this month in the area of drug related seizures, with the seizure of €2.1m worth of suspected cocaine as part of a joint operation by An Garda Síochána and Revenue at Rosslare, Co. Wexford on 10 October 2024.

**Drew Harris**  
**Commissioner**

## 1. Financial Expenditure and Receipts

	2024 Allocation €'000	Expenditure/Receipts end October €'000	Remaining Oct-Dec €'000	Remaining %
<b>Gross Total</b>	2,361,266	1,955,983	405,283	17%
<b>Appropriation in Aid (receipts)</b>	104,206	114,389	-10,183	-10%
<b>Net Total</b>	2,257,060	1,841,594	415,465	

The total full-year gross 2024 allocation is €2.36b and net allocation is €2.26b. At the end of October 2024, the total gross expenditure for the ten months' year to date is €1.96b (83% of allocation) and receipts are €114.39m (110% of allocated). An Garda Síochána 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:

Confirmation of approval of the final business case for the Portlaoise redevelopment was received from the Secretary General, Department of Justice by the Garda Commissioner on 24 October 2024.

### Temporary Decant Sites for the duration of Main Redevelopment:

A number of temporary decant options have been agreed between An Garda Síochána and the OPW. Part IX planning was granted on 27 August 2024 for the temporary Public/Immigration Offices. Portacabins installed at Portlaoise Garda Station and final fit-outs are ongoing on site. Costs for fit-outs of Pavilions A and B, Grattan House have been approved by An Garda Síochána. Pavilion A and B are fully vacated, and works commenced on 17 September 2024. Works to both pavilions are to be completed by the end of November 2024, which will allow An Garda Síochána personnel to fully decant from the existing Portlaoise Garda Station by the beginning of December 2024.

**Newcastlewest Garda Station (New Station):** The pre-contract award meeting was held on 25 October 2024. The OPW have advised An Garda Síochána of the final costs, and the final business case has been prepared and is progressing to approval.

## **2. Human Resources and People Development**

### **Roster Duty Management System (RDMS)**

The Midlands Roster on RDMS is completed and post go-live support has been provided. A85s (record of duty and claim form for overtime, and other allowances) continue to be retired, most recently in the Office of Deputy Commissioner Security, Strategy and Governance, and the Office of Deputy Commissioner Policing Operations from 28 October 2024.

### **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 due to be held in November 2024.

### **Garda Appointments/Recruitment**

There are currently 30 national, four regional, two overseas and 55 divisional member competitions underway.

### **Resource Allocation**

There were 53 promotions in the month of October 2024. 52 members were promoted to the rank of Sergeant and one member was promoted to the rank of Deputy Commissioner.

### **Recruitment Strategy**

The Strategic Recruitment Team ensure the delivery of services via our recruitment partner Staffline for end to end recruitment services. Staffline supports 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 recently advertised:

- Chef de Partie (Garda College)
- HEO Senior Procurement Specialist
- ICT Specialist Information Systems (EO)

### **Overseas Office**

Ten members were repatriated from Cyprus on 17 October 2024. An Garda Síochána currently have 12 members on deployment with the United Nations in Cyprus. Five of these members were deployed in April 2024 and the remaining seven members were deployed in October 2024. The Overseas Office is preparing a new competition for the UN Cyprus Mission in 2025/2026.

### **Garda College**

The Crime, Specialist and Operational Skills Section held two Strategic Commanders Courses. The Crime, Specialist and Operational Skills Section took delivery of eight marked Skoda Octavias for the use of driver training. Additionally, eight BMW R1250RT Motorcycles were received to replace the current Garda College advanced motorcycle training fleet. The Digital Learning Hub, Leadership, Management and Professional Development were involved in a simulated exercise with the Armed Support Units from several other European Police Forces and the Irish Prison Service. This took place at Semple Stadium, Thurles on 24 October 2024. The exercise also included Student Gardaí from the Garda College. Members from the Digital Learning Hub were involved in the recording and editing of this exercise.

### **Garda College Social Media**

- Post reach: 297,600. Post reach is the number of people who saw a specific post from the Garda College Facebook account in their Facebook feed.
- Engagement: 73,300. Engagement is the number of people who engaged with the posts, i.e. likes, comments, shares and clicks on the Garda College post content.
- The Press Office also created a Garda College Instagram page recently which currently has 4,753 followers, with several videos amassing over 100,000 views each on the platform.

### **Other HRPD Activities**

On Thursday, 10 October 2024, the HRPD Charitable Committee held a Big Pink Breakfast event in the canteen in Garda Headquarters, raising €844 in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. On 27 October 2024, Sergeant Eoin Twomey, Human Resource Management, completed the Dublin Marathon, raising €2,050 in aid of Little Blue Heroes.



*Big Pink Breakfast event in Garda Headquarters*

### **Human Resources and People Development Analytics/Data**

As at 31 October 2024, the Garda member strength stood at 14,074 (WTE 14,040.5) and the Garda Staff strength stood at 3,699 (3,521.5 WTE). A full breakdown by rank, grade and gender is outlined below.

## 2.1 Garda Member Strength

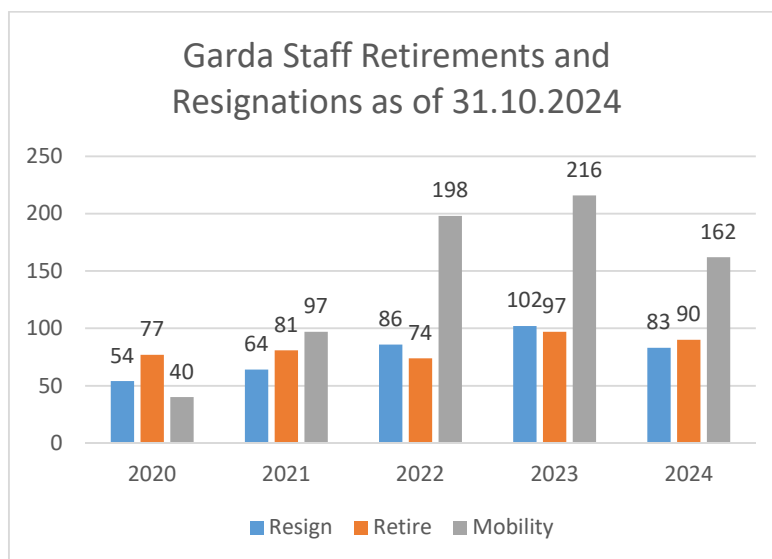
Rank	As at 31 October 2024	Male	%	Female	%	WTE
Commissioner	1	1	100	0	0	1
Deputy Commissioner	2	1	50	1	50	2
Assistant Commissioner	7	3	43	4	57	7
Chief Superintendent	48	38	79	10	21	48
Superintendent	167	139	83	28	17	167
Inspector	474	378	80	96	20	474
Sergeant	2,197	1,647	75	550	25	2,196
Garda	11,178	7,829	70	3,349	30	11,145.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,074</b>	<b>10,036</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14,040.5</b>

Of which	As at 31 October 2024	Male	%	Female	%
Career Breaks (incl. ICB)	31	17	55	14	45
Work-sharing	33.5	1	3	32.5	97
Secondments (Overseas etc.)	51	30	59	21	41
Maternity Leave	48	0	0	48	100
Unpaid Maternity Leave	36	0	0	36	100
Paternity Leave	13	13	100	0	0
<b>Available Strength</b>	<b>13,861.5</b>	<b>9,975</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>3,886.5</b>	<b>28</b>

## Garda Reserves Strength

Garda Reserves Strength As at 31 October 2024	Total*	Male	%	Female	%
	319	247	77	72	23

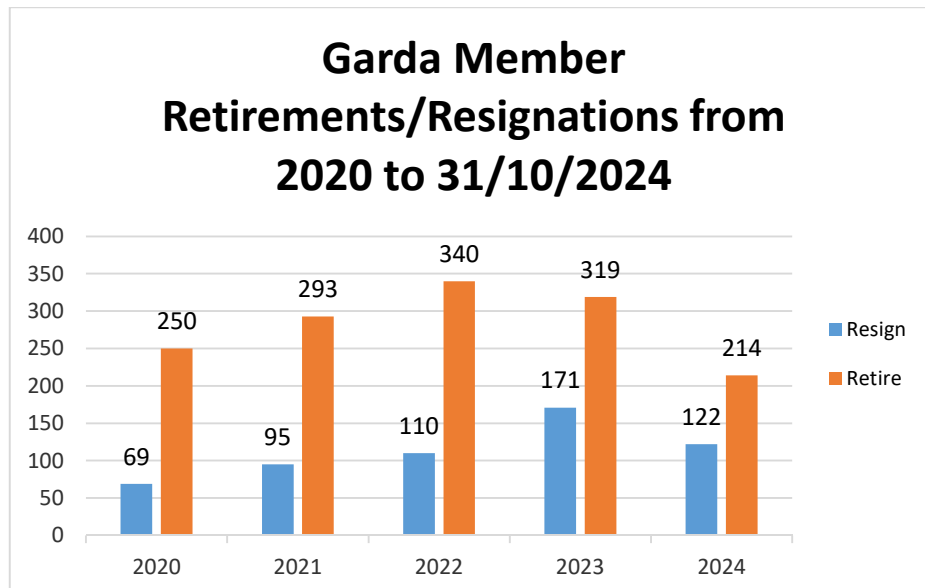
## Garda Staff Exits by Type



*\*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

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	88 (1 pending, 23 no longer require extension due to new compulsory retirement age of 62)	51	9	4

### Compulsory Retirements from An Garda Síochána to 2034

The number of retirement exits below the rank of Commissioner will increase over the next 10 years, with the exception of 2027 and 2028. This reflects historical recruitment patterns and shows that there will be up to 1,572 exits based on service in the coming years, irrespective of any other factors.

Rank	31-Dec-24	31-Dec-25	31-Dec-26	31-Dec-27	31-Dec-28	31-Dec-29	31-Dec-30	31-Dec-31	31-Dec-32	31-Dec-33	31-Dec-34
DC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
AC	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	2
CS	1	1	5	0	0	4	0	4	9	2	4
SU	4	2	7	2	5	4	10	11	11	14	17
IN	1	8	6	4	7	8	9	18	19	27	34
SG	7	12	15	9	20	23	37	49	62	81	96
GD	16	17	32	14	26	48	67	111	132	185	245
<b>Grand Total</b>	30*	40	65	29	60	87	123	195	234	310	399

\*30 compulsory retirements processed year to date (31/10/2024) and three applications to year end for a total of 33 for 2024.

### Garda Staff transfers out of An Garda Síochána (up to 31/10/2024)

Record includes figures up to 31 October 2024. Figures pertaining to year to date transfer out via promotion, Civil Service mobility and open competition (equivalent grade transfer). Please note that Clerical Officer mobility outbound was paused for a six-month period between from 06/01/2023 to 06/07/2023.

Type	2021	2022	2023	2024*
Mobility	39	115	139	94
Promotion	51	66	60	46
Open Competition	4	9	13	22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>162</b>

\*Year to date.

Open Competition = Grade equivalent to external role.

Grade	2022	2023	2024*
CO	109	130	99
EO	66	53	33
HEO	6	10	15
AO	2	6	3
AP	5	10	10
PO	1	2	2
Other	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>162</b>

\*Year to date.

#### Personnel 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	10	20	13	1	34

CURRENT SUSPENSIONS & CORE ISSUES INVESTIGATED BY AGS & GSOC	
Suspension (Ended / Ongoing)	Ongoing
Main Reason	Total
Theft / Forgery / Fraud / Dishonesty	14
Sexual Assault / Sexual Misconduct	9
Driving under the Influence of an Intoxicant	13
Fixed Charge Notice (FCN) Interference	9
Corruption / Criminal Association	8
Domestic Violence / Coercive Control	8
Disclosure of Information / Data Protection / Abuse of PULSE	8
Assault / Assault Causing Harm	6
Drugs / Drug Related	5
Other	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>86</b>

### 2.3 Garda Staff Strengths as at 31 October 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	99	99	44	44	55	56	0	0
HEO	207	206	82	40	125	60	0	0
AO	19	19	10	53	9	47	0	0
EO	893	882	282	32	611	68	0	0
CO	2,088	2,026	563	27	1,525	73	0	0
<b>Total**</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>3,269</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
Professional/Technical (including Chief Medical Officer)	57	56.5	30	53	27	47	0	0
Administrative ***	3,342	3,268	998	30	2,344	70	0	0
Industrial/Non Industrial	300	197	95	32	205	68	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,699</b>	<b>3,521.5</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2,576</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Of which</b>	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
Maternity Leave	22	22	0	0	22	100	0	0
Unpaid Maternity Leave	1	1	0	0	1	100	0	0
Paternity Leave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secondment/Exchange	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Available Total</b>	<b>3,676</b>	<b>3,498.5</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2,553</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Whole time equivalent – Garda Staff work on a number of different work-sharing patterns.

\*\* Garda Staff Headcount is exclusive of Temporary Clerical Officers.

\*\*\* Civil Service grades and other administrative posts.

Work Sharing ***	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%	Undisclosed	%
	235	73	8	3	227	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	%
	25	25	8	32	17	68	0	0

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

### Parental Leave

31.10.2024	Garda Members	Garda Staff
	200	74

### Garda Staff assigned and commenced – as at 31 October 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	95	86*	63*	110*	83		

\* Numbers adjusted following reconciliation exercise.

### Employee Assistance Service (EAS)

During the month of October 2024, the Employee Assistance Service carried out various activities nationally in support of colleagues. This included Employee Assistance Officer (EAS) information sessions, a variety of EAS presentations to Garda personnel, wellness days, peer supports and CPD for intake 235, and EAS presentations on supports and coping with trauma to mobile device examiners.

During October 2024, 552 Garda personnel accessed the INSPIRE Wellbeing Service, which supports colleagues through challenging times in either their professional or personal lives.

- Psychological Support Programme: 158
- Standard Counselling: 373
- Trauma Counselling: 21

### 3. Information and Communications Technology

As we near the end of 2024, ICT continues to progress with regard to Policing Plan target E5.1; to deliver the key projects in the 2024 roadmap in line and in support of An Garda Síochána strategic goals, and our Data and Technology Vision of 'Information-Led Policing'. We also continue to support and enhance the operational needs of the organisation in the office, on the frontline and working remotely, by enabling An Garda Síochána personnel access Garda information systems in a secure manner where needed, particularly in the use of digital collaboration tools for desktop and mobile.

#### **Human Capital Management (HCM) System**

This project is part of a wider modernisation of Human Resources business processes, as part of the transformation of Human Resources across An Garda Síochána. The business case for the new HCM System has been approved by the Department of Justice and has been submitted to the Digital Governance Oversight Unit for review. The drafting of the request for tender documentation is ongoing. The draft outputs will be shared with Human Resources for review and signoff.

#### **GardaSAFE – The new Garda Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System**

The community policing workflow solution was presented to stakeholders in recent weeks, with a view to commencing trials before the end of the year. Further updates and enhancements to the Incident Response App are being developed. A number of enhancements to the main user interface have been implemented based on feedback gathered from working groups and wider engagement.

#### **Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and Digital Evidence Management (DEMS)**

Body-worn cameras (BWC) continue to be used across all five pilot (or "proof of concept") stations in support of everyday operational policing. The number of recordings continues to grow, as does the number of evidential BWC footage across all locations. The BWC team are continually learning in relation to the management of cameras in terms of break/fix and working with the vendors in terms of maintaining their back end system support. ICT have increased direct engagement with frontline members to collect member feedback and that is being used to provide insights into lessons learned so far in the proof of concept locations.

There have been a number of very positive engagements with the Courts Service of Ireland to support Garda members in presenting digital evidence in the courts in Dublin, Waterford and Limerick. The Courts Service have provided An Garda Síochána with access to their Courts Trusted Agency Wi-Fi service. Testing is ongoing but this access will allow An Garda Síochána to confidently present digital evidence in the courts. The next step is to carry out an EU tender for an organisational Digital Evidence Management System, not only for BWCs but also all forms of CCTV, dash cam 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 BWCs and a national rollout.

In preparation for a national rollout, the ICT team is working with Estate Management and the OPW to conduct surveys across the whole Garda estate to understand the physical, network, power and architectural requirements that will have to be in place for any such rollout for BWCs. 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 member with a BWC. Gardaí have also noted that the public are meeting the cameras use positively.

### Investigation Management System (IMS) Deployment

In October 2024, the ICT Investigation Management System (IMS) team has continued to work alongside personnel in the Galway Division in preparation for the deployment of IMS to the Galway Division in early 2025. The procurement, distribution and installation of new hardware is on schedule for this deployment. On the software side, the next IMS release is in the final stages of testing ahead of the go-live in late November 2024. This will align the system with the new Senior Investigating Officer Policy. In parallel, design work on the next iteration of IMS has been continuing with the various stakeholders.

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

As previously reported, there are now 16 divisions formally using all four Functional Areas under the Operating Model (Community Engagement, Crime, Performance Assurance and Business Services).

### Additional Information

An Garda Síochána picked up another Best ICT Project of the Year for GardaSAFE in the prestigious Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards, that was held at the Mansion House on 10 October 2024. Mr. Fintan Brady, Head of ICT Operations Engineering, also won an individual award for Digital Leader of the Year in the Public Sector. Mr. Ivan Yates, who was MC for the night, said that Fintan had been selected as a result of his *“drive and innovative contributions to the digital transformation in An Garda Síochána”*.

ICT were also shortlisted for a third award on the night, in the Most Collaborative Public Sector Project category, for the Traffic App. Speaking about the awards, Director of ICT, Mr. Aeneas Leane said: *“These awards demonstrate the commitment and hard work of teams across all of ICT. I wish to acknowledge that and thank everyone. It is because of this hard work that An Garda Síochána is widely recognised as a leader in digital transformation in the public sector and in policing worldwide”*.



ICT Team (L-R): Feargal McLoughlin, Fintan Brady, Ken McGrath (3 Ireland), Amy Bohan, Aeneas Leane, Gerry White.

#### **4. Corporate Communications**

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

This month saw the office promote the high profile arrest in Dubai in connection with our ongoing investigations into the Kinahan Organised Crime Group. This included facilitating a media briefing with Garda Commissioner Drew Harris on this arrest on 10 October 2024 in Cork.

In respect of the now ongoing murder investigation, this office developed and implemented a communications plan in relation to the disappearance of Kyran Durnin of Dundalk, Co. Louth. This included a media appeal for information and media statements in response to queries related to the investigation.

Following the appointment of our new Deputy Commissioner for Security, Strategy and Governance, Justin Kelly, this office supported the promotion of this appointment across our social media platforms.

This office provided assistance to the Limerick Division in respect of a new pilot mental health initiative known as Community Access Support Team (CAST). A media briefing was facilitated at their launch event in Henry Street, Co. Limerick on 7 October 2024.

In support of our messaging on road safety and to raise awareness of the introduction of new average safety cameras, a media briefing was held with the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, Commissioner Harris and Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman, Roads Policing and Community Engagement, on 24 October 2024 at Garda Headquarters. Furthermore, this office launched the bank holiday roads policing enforcement campaign the following day and provided media with regular updates in respect of the operation.

Meanwhile, on 10 October 2024, An Garda Síochána hosted a Government Communications Network event in Kevin Street Garda Station. The theme of the event was, 'Internal Communications: Adopting a strategic approach, supporting a positive organisational culture and enhancing corporate reputation'. Presentations were delivered by Head of Internal Communications with An Garda Síochána, Marianne Doyle and the Internal Communications Manager with the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.



**Office of Corporate Communications Activities:**

**Media Briefing: High Profile arrest in Dubai at Anglesea Street Garda Station, Cork, 10 October 2024**

Following the high profile arrest of a male in Dubai in respect of ongoing investigations into the Kinahan Organised Crime Group, the Garda Press Office facilitated a media briefing with Garda Commissioner Drew Harris on this arrest, together with a press release. During this briefing, the Commissioner highlighted the importance of cooperation with our international partners; the significance of this arrest; and the continued efforts of An Garda Síochána to tackle transnational organised crime networks.



*Garda Commissioner Drew Harris addresses the media at Anglesea Street Garda Station, Cork.*

**Media Briefing: Murder Investigation into the Disappearance of Kyran Durnin, Dundalk Garda Station, Co. Louth on 22 October 2024**

In respect of the now ongoing murder investigation, this office developed and implemented a communications plan in respect of the disappearance of Kyran Durnin of Dundalk, Co. Louth. This involved the issuing of an initial public appeal for information in respect of the disappearance of the young boy. This included the holding of a media briefing facilitated by Chief Superintendent Alan McGovern, as the investigation evolved and was upgraded to a murder investigation.



*Left: Chief Superintendent Alan McGovern speaking to reporters at Dundalk Garda Station on 22 October 2024. Right: Image of Kyran Durnin.*



### Media Briefing: Average Safety Cameras, Garda Headquarters on 24 October 2024

This office held a media briefing at Garda Headquarters to highlight the activation of two new average safety cameras in Co. Mayo and Co. Cavan, and to further promote awareness of road safety measures being undertaken by An Garda Síochána. The briefing was attended by Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, and facilitated by Commissioner Drew Harris and Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman, Roads Policing and Community Engagement.



*Left: Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD and Commissioner Drew Harris.*

*Right: Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman, Roads Policing and Community Engagement speaking to media.*

### Office of Corporate Communications Hosts Government Communications Network Event at Kevin Street Garda Station on 10 October 2024

An Garda Síochána hosted approximately 100 communications specialists working across government and State bodies at Kevin Street Garda Station on 10 October 2024. This provided the Office of Corporate Communications with an opportunity to showcase the work of our Internal Communications department and highlighted the collaboration undertaken within our organisation, to support our mission of keeping people safe. During the event, Marianne Doyle, Head of Internal Communications in An Garda Síochána, highlighted our work in respect of campaign management, leadership communications and crisis communications. Of particular interest to the audience was the open rate of Newsbeat, which is 13% higher than other government and public service organisations.



*Head of Internal Communications, Marianne Doyle addressing attendees at Kevin Street Garda Station.*

### **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 209 of press releases, 57 missing person appeals relating to 34 missing persons, 25 in respect of witness appeals, together with those related to successful operations undertaken by the organisation. Other activities this month included highlighting the seizure of €2.1m worth of suspected cocaine as part of a joint operation by An Garda Síochána and Revenue at Rosslare, Co. Wexford on 10 October 2024.

Garda Press Officer Superintendent Liam Geraghty was also involved in delivering major emergency management (MEM) media liaison training for the Midlands MEM Region on 16 October 2024. He also attended a conference concerning media reporting on sexual violence, and cultural representations of sexual and domestic violence at the University of Limerick Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies on 25 October 2024.

### **Notable interviews with media in October 2024:**








This office was responsible for coordinating the following media interviews, and providing support and guidance to those conducting these engagements;

<b>Requestor / Media Outlet</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Interviewee</b>	<b>Date Conducted</b>
Marc O'Driscoll – RTÉ Morning Ireland	Little Blue Heroes Graduation Ceremony	Little Blue Hero Graduate Tomás McLoughlin	03/10/2024
Sean Dunne RTÉ Drivetime	Money Laundering	Detective Chief Superintendent Nigel Mulleady	14/10/2024
Peadar Breathnach RTÉ Morning Ireland	Arrests in relation to Black Axe group money laundering	Detective Superintendent Michael Cryan	24/10/2024
Dave Sherry RTÉ Drivetime	Launch of new average safety cameras	Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman	24/10/2024
Louise Walsh LMFM	Colin Farrell Garda protection in Dublin marathon	Detective Ian Redican	28/10/2024

### **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	410,599	1.19%
 Facebook – Missing Persons	14,949	14.22%
 Instagram - @GardaInsta	202,221	3.14%
 X- @GardaInfo	295,127	4.57%
 X - @GardaTraffic	625,585	6.70%
 LinkedIn – An Garda Síochána	62,690	10.4%
 TikTok – @GardaInfo	36,917	44.37%

## Internal Communications

In October 2024, An Garda Síochána Internal Communications team delivered 10 comprehensive Newsbeat updates, including a Newsbeat special updating the organisation on the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024. 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. Also published this month was a leadership update to announce the appointment of Justin Kelly to the role of Deputy Commissioner in An Garda Síochána.



**POLICING, SECURITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ACT 2024 UPDATE**

15 October 2024

**Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024**

A range of appointments to the senior roles created under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 have been announced by Government.

The members of the new Garda Board have been appointed, as have the members of the Policing and Community Safety Authority.

Former President of the Court of Appeal, Mr. Justice George Birmingham, has today been designated as the first Independent Examiner of Security Legislation.

These appointments now complete all the office holders, senior leaders, Board and Authority members required to operationalise the new and reformed policing bodies under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 and establish the office of the Independent Examiner of Security Legislation.



**Appointment of new Deputy Commissioner to An Garda Síochána**

Commissioner Drew Harris welcomes the Government's decision to approve the appointment of Justin Kelly to the role of Deputy Commissioner to An Garda Síochána.

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris says:

*"I am very pleased to congratulate Justin Kelly on his appointment as Deputy Commissioner.*

*Justin brings huge policing experience and knowledge of An Garda Síochána to the role. He has very significant experience across a range of key leadership roles, notably leading on our fights against drugs and organised crime, economic and cyber-crime and immigration enforcement since his appointment as Assistant Commissioner in 2022.*

Key highlights this month included:

- A report on the eight Scott Medal Commendations awarded to Gardaí from the Eastern Region at an awards ceremony in Kilkenny.
- In support of our statutory duty to comply with the Official Languages Act, we published information on translation services and supports.
- Useful information for operational policing in the run up to Halloween.
- Updates on the rollout of average and static speed cameras.

### **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:

- Signposting to the Garda Portal for personnel who may need to find out more information on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).
- Awareness for Operation Tombola, the nationwide policing plan focused on the prevention and detection of the sale of fireworks.
- October 2024 was European Cyber Security Month.
- Acknowledgement and thank you to all personnel for their hard work in keeping people safe.



## **5. Implementation of Cultural Change**

### **Culture Reform Programme**

On 22 and 23 October 2024, representatives from the University of Durham attended in person meetings with the Garda Ethics and Culture Bureau (GECB) personnel at Garda Headquarters. Professor Les Graham and his staff outlined the approach and timelines for the next Culture Audit, and discussed the preparatory work that would need to now commence. It was agreed that a series of meetings with the Associations and Unions would begin in December 2024, and the formation of a Culture Audit Steering Group, containing all the stakeholders, would convene during January 2025. Professor Graham has made known his availability to attend such meetings and has given the likely start date of the Culture Audit survey as May 2025. A collaboration agreement between Durham University and An Garda Síochána was signed on 23 October 2024.

On 29 October 2024, a draft article was forwarded to Internal Communications for publication on Newsbeat, in order to communicate to the whole organisation the development of an implementation plan which resulted from the last Culture Audit of 2022. This implementation plan aimed to address the key areas for improvement identified by the audit. Among its successful outcomes was the foundation of the Garda National Wellbeing Office and also the setup of 'exit interviews' for all personnel leaving the organisation. Central also to this communication strategy on Newsbeat will be the advertisement of the forthcoming Culture Audit 2025.

There was an internal audit conducted by GECB in October 2024 in order to examine the number of Code of Ethics declarations received for Quarter 3, 2024. Records show there were a total of 419 new signups and 160 reaffirmation declarations received from all Garda personnel, representing almost 100 percent compliance rate for that quarter.

### **Enhancing Professional Conduct**

Edition 7 of 'Learning the Lessons' was published in Newsbeat on 3 October 2024. The topic was 'Management of Property'. In addition, a one-page aide memoire was forwarded to each Sergeant and Executive Officer in the organisation, suggesting that the edition of 'Learning the Lessons' be discussed at a team/unit briefing, parade or Performance and Accountability Framework meetings. The Lessons Learned Working Group met on 24 October 2024 and the next edition of 'Learning the Lessons' was discussed. The edition will be an overview of the previous 'Learning the Lessons' editions published in 2024 and an emphasis will be placed on reminders to all Garda personnel of proper behaviour throughout the Christmas period.

## 6. Risk Management

An Garda Síochána Corporate Risk Register captures ten 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, and the Risk and Policy Committee, supported by the Garda Risk Management Unit (GRMU). Compliance rates at local level for Q2, 2024 remained consistently high at 89%. Compliance rates for Q3, 2024 are currently being collated.

During the month of October 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.
- Engaged extensively with risk owners and their support staff in the further development of five new risks approved by the Executive Review Board for inclusion on a revised Corporate Risk Register.
- Delivered further briefings on the 'e-Risk' system to personnel within ICT.
- Held a risk management workshop for members within the Garda National Crime and Security Intelligence Service.
- Superintendent GRMU attended a dedicated risk management meeting for the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR), hosted by Regional Chief Superintendent in the DMR.
- Delivered a risk management briefing as part of the Executive Officer's development course.



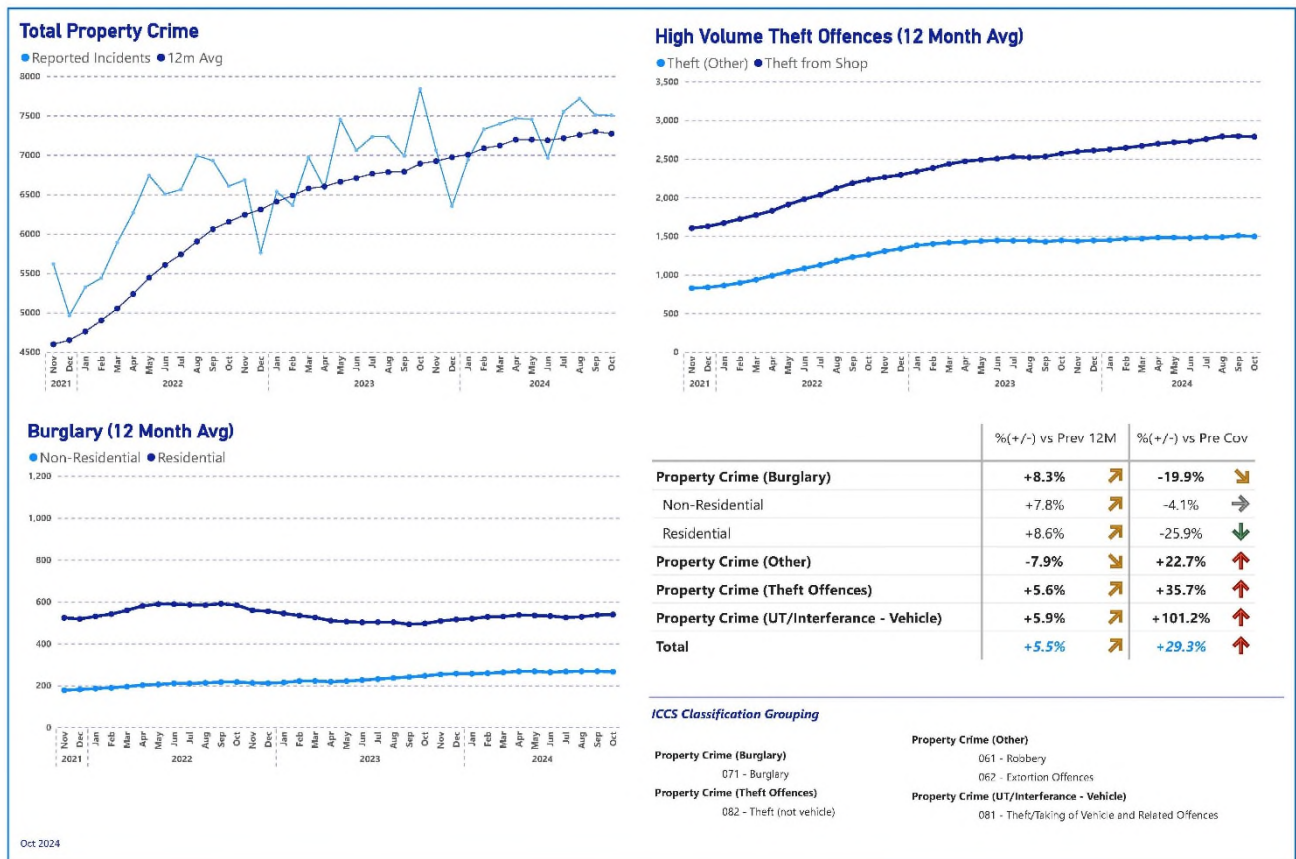
## 7. Data Quality and Operational Value of Data

### Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) Update

Six new GISC call takers commenced training during October 2024. GISC facilitated an information webinar for PAF administrators in early October 2024, dealing with the youth referral process.

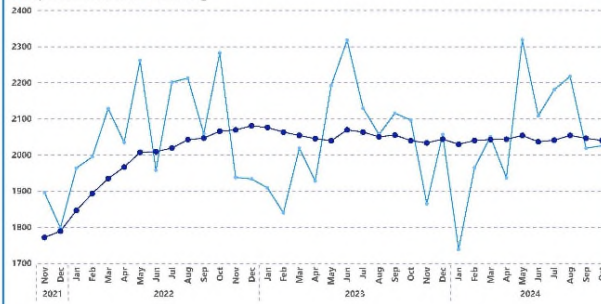
### Crime Trends

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
<b>Crimes Against the Person (Assault)</b>	-0.5% →	+20.2% ↑
Non-Residential	+1.1% →	+33.4% ↑
Residential	-3.7% →	-0.8% →
<b>Crimes Against the Person (Other)</b>	+2.4% →	+2.2% →
<b>Total</b>	+0.0% →	+16.4% ↗

#### ICCS Classification Grouping

**Crimes Against the Person (Assault)**  
032 - Assaults

**Crimes Against the Person (Other)**  
011 - Murder/Manslaughter/Infant cide  
031 - Atzoms/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
<b>Sexual Offences (Child Pornography Offences)</b>	-36.1% ↓	-49.8% ↓
<b>Sexual Offences (Rape/Sexual Assault)</b>	+3.4% →	+20.0% ↑
<b>Total</b>	-0.4% →	+10.6% ↗

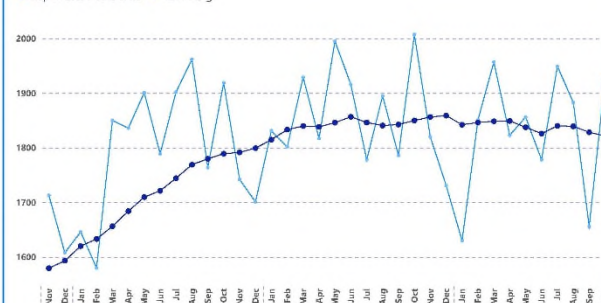
#### ICCS Classification Grouping

**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



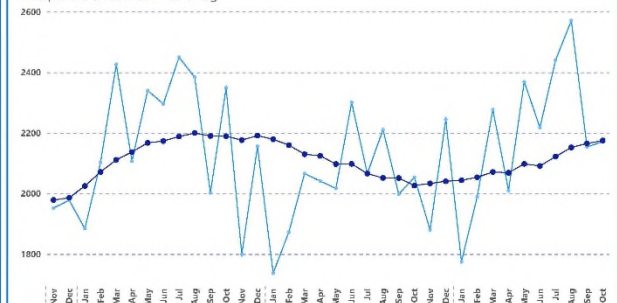
	%(+/-) vs Prev 12m	%(+/-) vs Pre Cov
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	-1.5% →	+10.3% ↗
Non-Residential	-3.7% →	+6.8% ↗
Residential	+1.3% →	+15.1% ↗
<b>Total</b>	-1.5% →	+10.3% ↗

#### 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
<b>Public Order (Drunkness)</b>	+4.1% →	+12.6% ↗
<b>Public Order (Public Order Offences)</b>	+9.3% ↗	-1.1% →
<b>Total</b>	+7.3% ↗	+3.6% →

#### 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**

Garda standard vetting average turnaround times continue at their long-term figure of seven working days once an application is received. 523,320 Garda vetting applications were received to the end of October 2024. There has been a 4.2% year on year increase on vetting applications received to the end of October 2024.

### **Compliance**

2,036 role relevancy checks were carried out by our Compliance Team in October 2024, leading to 60 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 three compliance inspections in relevant organisations in the month of October 2024.

### **European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)**

76 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 European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) section of GNVB in October 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 October 2024**

<b>Category</b>	<b>October 2024</b>
<b>Total UOF for Month</b>	<b>906</b>
Civilians Injured	15
Garda Members Injured	18
Pepper Spray Deployed	131
Batons	25
Handcuffs	804
Anti-spit guard	0
Unarmed Restraint	161
Taser	2
Less Lethal Firearm	0
Firearm	0
Gender Subject to Force – Male	721
Gender Subject to Force – Female	115
Drugs Involved	246
Alcohol Involved	499
Division with highest level UOF - DMR South Central	160
Percentage of UOF Deployments occurring Friday, Saturday & Sunday	41%

## 8. 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.

Table 1 - Demonstration (Non Crime) – 2024 YTD

Region	2024 YTD
Dublin Region	598
Southern Region	194
Eastern Region	197
North Western Region	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,061</b>

Table 2 - Demonstration (Non Crime) – October 2024

Region	Oct-24
Dublin Region	55
Southern Region	15
Eastern Region	16
North Western Region	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>90</b>

Table 1 above relates to incidents reported between 01/01/2024 and 11/11/2024. Data as available on PULSE at 01:00am on the morning of 11/11/2024. Please note that data is operational and liable to change.

### Policing at events

The planning for, resourcing and policing of major events continues to provide a challenge in terms of policing resources. The Minister for Finance presented Budget 2025 to the Dáil on 1 October 2024, which required a specific policing plan for the DMR South Central Division and other key locations in the region.

Another large scale event was the Dublin City Marathon, which took place 27 October 2024. 22,000 people participated in the marathon along a 26.2 mile route through the streets of Dublin. Tens of thousands lined the route to show support. Gardaí implemented a policing plan which involved security, road closures and traffic management.

### Roads Policing

An Garda Síochána continue to respond to road safety challenges. In October 2024, there were nine fatalities as a result of collisions, with 87 serious injury collisions reported. Approximately half (29) of all driver fatalities for 2024 to date have occurred in the past four months. An Garda Síochána continue to implement the 30-minute roads policing initiative, introduced six months ago to increase visibility on our roads. In October 2024, there were 4,664 MIT checkpoints conducted with an average of nine arrests per day nationally for driving under the influence of drugs and 15 each day for driving under the influence of alcohol. Over 2,700 vehicles were seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act during the month of October 2024.

	October 2024	YTD 2024
Mobile Phone FCNs	2,019	18,881
SEAT BELT FCNs	440	5,011
Intercept Speed FCNs	2,930	35,787
Non-Intercept Speed FCNs	8,129	80,696
Total Speed FCNs	11,059	116,483
Driving under the influence of alcohol	456	3,940
Driving under the influence of drugs	270	2,463

	October 2024	YTD 2024
<b>Section 41 Detentions</b>		
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)	2,763	27,055
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no ins.	1,625	16,015
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax	1,015	11,113
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT	436	4,728
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers	551	5,489

	October 2024	YTD 2024
<b>MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests</b>		
MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed	17,002	159,412
MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed	657	5,756

2024 YTD figures cover the time period from 01/01/2024 to 31/10/2024, inclusive.

It is important to note that vehicles may be detained under S.41 of the Road Traffic Act for more than one reason.

Information contained in this section is based upon operational data from the Pulse and FCPS systems as was available on 04/11/2024 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.

## Irish Road Safety Week: 7 – 13 October 2024

During Irish Road Safety Week, which occurred between 7 and 13 October 2024, An Garda Síochána held two offence-specific national days of action on tyre safety and mobile phones. In addition, operations focussed on the other lifesaver offences, i.e. non-wearing of seatbelts and speeding, with an increased attention directed towards intoxicated driving operations over the course of the weekend.



*Launch of Tyre Safety Day on 7 October 2024 at Dublin City University. Pictured are Sarah O'Connor, RSA, Brandon Perry, DCU Students Union, Inspector Ross O'Doherty, GNRPB and Sue O'Neill, Irish Tyre Industry Assoc.*

## October Bank Holiday Road Safety Operation

From 24–29 October 2024, An Garda Síochána implemented an information-led road safety campaign. Members conducted high-visibility patrols with a focus on enforcement of lifesaver offences, i.e. speeding, holding a mobile phone while driving, seatbelt use and driving while intoxicated. National and divisional official social media accounts highlighted enforcement activity and reiterated road safety messages over the weekend. Over the course of the operation, there were over 900 Mandatory Intoxicant Testing (MIT) checkpoints conducted. 191 arrests were effected against persons suspected of driving under the influence of an intoxicant (alcohol and/or drugs). There were also over 1,800 drivers issued with fines for travelling in excess of the speed limit, over 200 drivers detected holding a mobile phone and over 80 people were detected not wearing seatbelts.

## Showcasing our fleet

Last month, An Garda Síochána Fleet Management team attended the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Annual Decarbonising Transport Conference and Exhibition in Johnstown Estate, Co. Meath. Being showcased at the event was one of the newest additions to our Garda fleet, the Volkswagen ID3 marked patrol vehicle. The Volkswagen ID3 is a 201hp, all-electric hatchback and zero-emission. The conference focused on the challenges facing the public sector bodies in decarbonising their fleets, with speakers from various government departments and industry experts.



### The Donegal Roadsafe Roadshow

On 8 and 9 of October 2024, the Donegal Roadsafe Roadshow took place at the Aura Leisure Centre in Letterkenny. The roadshow is a partnership between the Donegal County Council and members of the Donegal Road Safety Working Group. Over the two days, the roadshow was attended by more than 3,000 students from post primary schools and Youthreach centres.

Speakers at the roadshow included personnel from An Garda Síochána, the ambulance service, the Fire Brigade, a consultant from the emergency department at Letterkenny University Hospital and some guest speakers who shared their own personal stories of being involved in serious motor collisions.

Attendees learned what happens when a fatal or a serious injury collision occurs. Superintendent David Kelly said: *“The show had the student’s total attention. They sat in silence with their eyes fixed on the stage. It sent out a strong message, explaining clearly the horrific reality of a serious collision and what the result of that could mean for them and their family. These students hopefully were positively influenced by the message left them with as they commence driving or even when they travel as a passenger in a car”.*



Speakers and organisers of the Donegal Roadsafe Roadshow including members of the ambulance service, fire brigade and Garda personnel (L to R): Garda Elaine Kavanagh, Garda Peter McGee and Superintendent David Kelly. (photo: Clive Wasson)



The Donegal Roadsafe Roadshow in the Aura Leisure Centre, Letterkenny



## 9. Halloween

The month of October 2024 involved the policing of Halloween celebrations across the country. Operation Tombola commenced at the beginning of October 2024 to put in place appropriate and effective measures to combat the sale, supply, and possession of illegal fireworks, and to combat anti-social behaviour on Halloween night and in the weeks leading up to Halloween.

In support of Operation Tombola, the Garda National Community Policing Unit developed an internal newsletter article reminding all Community Gardaí of the available resources and Information to utilise when engaging with communities on the lead up to Halloween. These included:

- A Halloween safety advice presentation aimed at parents/guardians for community groups or watch schemes.
- Children's resources, crosswords, colouring pages and presentations, aimed at teaching and focusing young children on keeping safe at Halloween.
- A Halloween safety video produced by An Garda Síochána in partnership with Dublin Fire Brigade and Temple Street Children's Hospital, which informs children of the law in relation to fireworks and the dangers associated with them.

On 17 October 2024, a guide to dealing with youth referrals over the Halloween period developed by the Governance and Monitoring Unit, the Garda National Youth Diversion Bureau (GNYDB) was published on the Garda Portal, and on Newsbeat. In support of prioritising the safety and wellbeing of children and the wider community throughout the Halloween period, the guide included a list of offence codes that Gardaí may require when dealing with common offences committed at Halloween. It also contained guidance on the process of referring a child to the Diversion Programme and contact details of GNYDB if assistance was required.

Community Gardaí nationally did significant work in schools delivering Halloween safety talks. Gardaí offered advice on how to stay visible while trick-or-treating, as well as the importance of walking in groups that are supervised by an adult. Gardaí outlined to pupils that having fireworks in their possession, lighting fireworks and selling fireworks is illegal, that fireworks are extremely dangerous and that they are to report it to Gardaí if they see people with fireworks. Gardaí outlined the dangers of bonfires, provided advice on how to keep their pets safe around the Halloween period and also how they can look after the elderly who may be living on their own.



*Garda Shane Smyth, Naas Community Policing delivering the Halloween Safety Talks at Scoil Bhríde, Naas, Co. Kildare.*

In addition, all Divisional Officers had policing plans in place for the policing of Halloween under Operation Tombola, to prevent and detect the organised importation for sale of fireworks in the lead up to Halloween. One example of a successful seizure was on 30 October 2024. Upon receipt of intelligence, Gardaí effected a stop and search of a vehicle in Carlow Town, resulting in the recovery and seizure of fireworks to the value of approximately €7,800.

Whilst Operation Tombola was in general a success, the policing of Halloween events required the deployment of additional resources. This placed a challenge on divisional resources to police events/celebrations, respond to emergency calls and pursue active investigations.

## 10. Community Engagement and Organisational Initiatives

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

### Launch of CAST Pilot

A pilot initiative under 'A Policing Service for the Future' aimed at assisting people experiencing situational trauma or a mental health crisis has been launched. The project, entitled Community Access Support Team (CAST), is a partnership between An Garda Síochána and Mental Health Services HSE Mid-West, and will be trialled in the Limerick Division later this year. Supported by the Department of Justice and the Department of Health, the pilot comprises of intervention, prevention and outreach, with the potential to yield a better outcome for persons experiencing a mental health crisis or situational trauma.

The CAST team will be based at Henry Street Garda Station, and will aim to reduce future presentations and interactions with blue light emergency services, including An Garda Síochána, through community follow-ups and the case management of complex cases. The CAST project is based on significant international evidence and experience demonstrating improved outcomes for adults requiring the intervention of a policing response at times of a mental health crisis or situational trauma. The pilot was launched on 7 October 2024 and was attended by Assistant Commissioner, Southern Region Eileen Foster, Regional Executive Officer of HSE Mid-West, Sandra Broderick, Minister for Mental Health and Older People, Mary Butler, and Ministers of State James Browne and Kieran O'Donnell.



*Pictured (L-R): Minister of State James Browne, Regional Executive Officer, HSE Mid-West Sandra Broderick, Minister of State Mary Butler, Minister of State Kieran O'Donnell, Garda John O'Sullivan, Chief Superintendent Derek Smart and Superintendent Andrew Lacey.*

### Theft Forums 2024: Metal and Retail Industries

The National Metal Theft Forum and the National Strategic Retail Theft Forum are embedded in the Crime Prevention and Reduction Strategy 2021-2024. Therefore, it was fitting that their respective forums took place on 10 October 2024 this year. Presentations were delivered on crime statistics and theft prevention within the metal and retail trades. Members of An Garda Síochána engaged with people involved in each industry, and answered questions related to crime prevention and prosecution in both trades.



### **Multi-Agency Drug Seizures**

On 10 October 2024, following the receipt of intelligence, the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau conducted a coordinated operation, in liaison with the Wexford Drugs Unit and Revenue Customs Service, at Rosslare Europort, Co. Wexford. A controlled stop was conducted of a Lithuanian registered truck. Following the search of the vehicle, an elaborate concealment was found in the front bumper of the truck where approximately 30kg of suspected cocaine was discovered, with an estimated market value of €2.1m. One suspect was arrested under the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act and detained under Section 2 of the Criminal Justice (Drug Trafficking Act) 1996. The suspect was subsequently charged with offences contrary to Section 3 and 15 of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977/84, as amended.

On 11 October 2024, the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, assisted by Tallaght District Drugs Unit, conducted an intelligence led operation that resulted in a storage unit being searched. Approximately 426kg of suspected cannabis herb valued at €8,520,000 was recovered, along with €63,230 in cash discovered in a follow up house search. Four suspects were arrested for an offence contrary to Section 72 of the Criminal Justice Act, 2006. They were detained under Section 50 of the Criminal Justice Act, 2007, and subsequently charged with offences contrary to Section 3 and 15 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977/84, as amended. As part of the same operation, on 15 October 2024, the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, in liaison with the Revenue Customs Service, conducted a search of a container in Dublin Port, resulting in the recovery of approximately 240kg of suspected cannabis herb, valued at €4,800,000.

### **Operation Citizen**

On 11 October 2024, An Garda Síochána conducted a number of searches throughout the Dublin Metropolitan Region under Operation Citizen, as part of ongoing investigations to tackle street level sale and supply of illicit tablets in Dublin City Centre. A small quantity of suspected illicit tablets was seized during these searches, with two suspects arrested and subsequently charged.

### **Operation Thor**

Also on 11 October 2024, Gardaí attached to the Dublin Metropolitan Region arrested 14 individuals as part of ongoing investigations under Operation Thor in the DMR North Central. 13 suspects were charged and are currently before the District Courts in relation to 28 offences, including burglary, robbery, theft, assault, threats to kill and production of an article. One juvenile has been referred to the Garda National Youth Diversion Programme.

### **World ReStart your Heart Day**

On 16 October 2024, to mark World ReStart your heart day, volunteers from the Irish Red Cross Nenagh Branch demonstrated CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use to Gardaí from Nenagh, Roscrea and Newport. A representative from 'Defibs for Life' updated Gardaí on their work in training people in CPR and AED, and installing AEDs in the area. The session concluded with those present having the opportunity to practice CPR and AED use.

### **Crime Prevention Officer Annual Conference**

The annual Crime Prevention Officer Conference took place from 16 – 17 October 2024. This conference provided the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit an opportunity to bring together the nationwide divisional Crime Prevention Officers in order to enhance skills and knowledge, from presentations and peer to peer discussion. Guest speakers over the two days covered topics such as the role of Coimisiún na Meán, money mules and human trafficking.



*From left to right: Crime Prevention Officers attending the annual Crime Prevention Officer Conference*

### **Arrest for Human Trafficking and Possession of Child Pornography**

On 23 October 2024, an Irish national was arrested for the purpose of charging, following an extensive investigation by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) in relation to people smuggling. This person was charged with facilitating unlawful entry of persons into the State, an offence contrary to Section 2 (1) of the Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act, 2000 and a second offence of Possession of Child Pornography, contrary to Section 6 of the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act, 1998. The suspect was remanded on bail with conditions attached.

The initial incident subject to this investigation came to light in Dublin Airport in August 2021, with a suspected case of people smuggling reported by the Border Management Unit (BMU) to GNIB. The enquiries conducted over a number of months culminated in a planned search operation conducted in June 2022. During the course of the search operation, a total of six search warrants issued under the provisions of Section 10 of the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2010 (as amended) were successfully executed; three in respect of private addresses, two in respect of vehicles and one in respect of the suspected offenders place of work. During the course of the searches, several items were located and seized, including mobile devices, laptop computers and financial transaction information.

In June 2023, the main suspect in this case was arrested, detained and interviewed in relation to suspected trafficking offences and also possession of child pornography. The suspect was released without charge pending a file being sent to the DPP. They were subsequently re-arrested for the purpose of charging and brought before the courts, and the case was remanded to 13 December 2024 for service of the Book of Evidence.

### **Operation Jackal**

Operation Jackal is a joint law enforcement effort in 21 countries targeting the organised crime group “Black Axe” and other related West African crime groups, who are committing offences such as business email compromise frauds, romance frauds and smishing/account takeover fraud. It is now estimated that over €84m was stolen and laundered through Ireland over the past 6/7 years by people connected to this criminal organisation.

To date, over 1,100 people in Ireland have been identified as connected to this wider criminal organisation. The majority are money mules who are laundering on behalf of them and therefore enhancing their capability to commit serious offences. However, up to 100 have been identified who play a more major role in the criminal organisation. These suspects range from herders to facilitators

to directors. 114 people have been arrested, with 12 prosecuted for offences contrary to Section 72 of the Criminal Justice Act, 2006. Of these, two have been charged with directing the criminal organisation. The Garda National Economic Crime Bureau continue to make arrests relevant to this investigation, with one suspect arrested on 24 October 2024.

### **Operation Limelight**

Operation Limelight is a multiagency approach aimed at raising awareness to the harmful and illegal practice of female genital mutilation. On 25 and 26 October 2024, members of An Garda Síochána, including a number Garda Reserves, teamed up with the Border Management Unit (BMU) at Dublin Airport, AkiDwA, a national network of migrant women living in Ireland, and Community Midwives from the HSE. The operation coincides with the start of the mid-term break where high passenger numbers were expected. Over 211,000 passengers travelled through Dublin Airport over the two days, with questions and engagement from teachers, doctors, students, airline and airport staff, and more. Operation Limelight emphasises the legal repercussions and severe long-term health risks associated with female genital mutilation. An Garda Síochána collaborates with supporting agencies to identify flights arriving from areas with high prevalence of female genital mutilation and forced marriage. The goal is to raise awareness, identify potential vulnerabilities and safeguard those at risk.



*L to R: R/Garda Stephen Moore, Garda Laura Reid, R/Garda Joe Lawlor, R/Garda Sabrina Murphy, Niamh Cortina BMU, R/Garda Áine Rooney, Rita Doran BMU, Amanda Sullivan BMU, R/Garda Jimmy Williams, Lorraine Saurin BMU, R/Garda Brendan Matthews, Laura Somerville Garda Staff, Bethlehem Soloman AkiDwA, Melissa Fitzsimons Garda Staff, Taragh Faulkner BMU, Orla Cafferky BMU, and Aiden Warnock BMU.*

### **Rio Ferdinand Foundation Event**

On 29 October 2024, the Garda National Diversity Unit (GNDU) attended an event hosted by the Rio Ferdinand Foundation in Ballina, Co. Mayo. The Foundation works to empower young people. To this end, GNDU were facilitated in engaging with young people about the Garda National Children and Young Person Plan. The information gathered at this event will be analysed, reported on and will inform the National Children and Young Person Plan.

### **Launch of Hospital Watch in University Hospital Limerick**

On 29 October 2024, the Roxboro Road Community Policing Unit supported the HSE Midwest in launching 'Hospital Watch' in the University Hospital Limerick. Hospital Watch is a proactive crime prevention programme in hospital settings, similar to a residential Neighbourhood Watch scheme. It operates as a partnership between An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive, hospital staff, patients and visitors, with the aim of preventing crime within the hospital setting.



*L-R: Hilda Coughlan, staff officer UHL – Gary Comerford, Head of Mobilisation, Security Division MCR – Maria Quirke, Operational Services General Manager UHL, Garda Sean Buckley, Sergeant David Hannan, T/Garda Anthony Sullivan and Garda Adrian Healy*

### **Discovery of Crystal Meth Lab**

On 31 October 2024, as part of an ongoing investigation, members from the Kerry Divisional Drugs Unit conducted a coordinated search of a residential property, where they discovered and seized suspected crystal meth (€1,000), suspected cocaine (€14,000) and suspected crack cocaine (€50), along with elements of a full crystal meth lab, including protective PPE, and all the necessary chemical compounds and liquids required to cook crystal meth. One suspect was arrested and subsequently charged.



### **Strengthening Global Ties with Dubai Police**

In October 2024, Detective Chief Superintendent, Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau led a delegation of senior police officers from Organised and Serious Crime, the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, and the Garda National Criminal Investigation Bureau to meet with their counterparts in Dubai Police. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ongoing police cooperation and efforts made by An Garda Síochána in pursuing organised crime groups both in Ireland and abroad. The recent signing of extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties between Ireland and the UAE is a development that demonstrates the ongoing commitment by international law enforcement and governments to tackle transnational organised crime. This is an example of the significant policing, political and diplomatic efforts being made to pursue transnational organised crime groups and other specific individuals to bring them to justice.

### **European Cybersecurity Month**

The month of October 2024 is the European Union's month dedicated to promoting cybersecurity among its citizens and is coordinated by the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA). In addition to promoting cybersecurity, the campaign culminates with conferences, workshops, trainings, webinars, presentations and much more to raise awareness. Members attached to the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau attended and presented at several events throughout the month, a sample of which includes:

- Detective Chief Superintendent, Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau appeared on Crimecall to promote the launch of a cybercrime booklet, which contains crime prevention tips and information on cybercrime risks.
- Detective Superintendent, Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau was a panel member at the Cyber Security Summit held at Croke Park.

### **DRIVE Interagency Project**

An Garda Síochána continues to work closely with the Drug-Related Intimidation and Violence Engagement (DRIVE) interagency project. The key objective of the DRIVE project is to build the capacity of communities around Ireland to support victims of drug related intimidation and violence. The model continues to enhance and advise the Drug-Related Intimidation Reporting Programme, improve our knowledge of the extent of the problem of drug-related intimidation, improve training within An Garda Síochána on the subject, inform and improve community responses, and ultimately inform our policing response, all with the aim of reducing the prevalence and impact of drug-related intimidation, enhancing people's lives and working towards our organisational goal of 'Keeping People Safe'.

## 11. Garda Occupational Health and Wellbeing



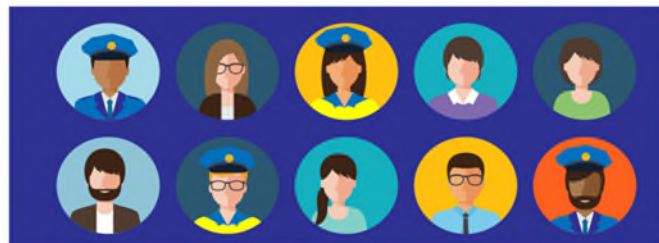
### Garda Occupational Health and Wellbeing (GOHW)

garda.ie



An Garda Síochána

### An Garda Síochána Mental Health First Aid Programme



#### Programme Update

The fourth cohort of participants in the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Instructor Training course, under the Garda Mental Health First Aid Programme, have commenced delivering the required pre-accreditation standard 2-day MHFA training to Garda personnel. These courses are being delivered in their divisions in November and December 2024. From January 2024 to date, the first three cohorts of MHFA Training Facilitators have delivered MHFA training to approximately 2,200 Garda personnel across the organisation.

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

- We have worked with an independent consultancy, Sia Partners, to design, launch, monitor and report on the results which will ensure confidentiality and an objective assessment.
- The results will be key inputs into our Health & Wellbeing Strategy for 2025-2030.
- A pilot survey among a small cohort of staff is currently underway in preparation for the main launch of the survey in November 2024. This will allow us to gather feedback on the survey itself before it is widely distributed, to fix any technical issues and to get feedback on the survey questions themselves.