



An Garda Síochána

Public Attitudes

Survey 2017

Garda.ie

Research conducted by


amárach
research

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Foreword

The Public Attitudes Survey was developed in order to complement crime statistics, building a more rounded picture of crime and policing issues. In this regard, it measures several important indicators of crime and policing issues including satisfaction with the service provided to local communities, feelings of safety, perceptions of the capacity and capability of An Garda Síochána, as well as levels of trust in the organisation.

As noted, the survey measures the levels of satisfaction in the service we provide to local communities and for victims of crime. Whilst further research is required in Ireland, satisfaction elsewhere is driven by the quality of the contact that police have with the public. As such, satisfaction can be a strong measure of our service to members of the public we encounter.

We also examine whether respondents feel safe in their communities, whether they are fearful of crime and what impact this has on their lives. This is important to note - reductions in crime do not necessarily lead to people feeling safer. Indeed, research shows that there are some groups in society, such as the elderly, who are less likely to be a victim of crime but continue to be fearful of it. The role of policing is not only about reducing crime but also making people feel safer. As such, this is a key area that is examined.

The survey also provides an assessment of respondents' perceptions of the strength and capacity to tackle crime and work with local communities. This includes whether we have the appropriate levels of visibility in local communities – something that research often links to reassurance and supporting feelings of public safety.

Finally, we look at levels of trust in the organisation. Trust in policing is vital. It indicates that there are strong relationships with local communities that facilitate co-operation, either in terms of providing information or working with Gardaí to solve local problems. This year we also introduced questions around equality of treatment. If there are perceptions that police treat either oneself or others unequally then it erodes trust in sections of communities.

The importance of the information provided by the Public Attitudes Survey has been recognised not only by the organisation, but also by the Policing Authority. As part of the 2018 Annual Policing Plan, the Public Attitudes Survey provides several key measures for targets, developed and agreed in conjunction with the Policing Authority, including:

- Increased victim satisfaction
- Improving perception public safety – fear of crime
- Reduce those who see crime as a very serious or serious problem locally
- Improve Garda visibility
- Improving confidence in the organisations ability to tackle crime
- Improve perception that the organisation is community focussed
- Improve public satisfaction
- Increase the proportion of those who say we treat everyone equally

Overall, the Public Attitudes Survey helps inform our understanding of crime and policing in Ireland, going beyond crime statistics. However, it has also become an important focus for measuring progress against some of the key priorities for the organisation in terms of the service we provide to communities in Ireland.



Gurchand Singh
Head of An Garda Síochána Analysis Service

Key Findings from the Public Attitudes Survey 2017



Approx. 3 in 4 adults (74%) perceived crime nationally as a very serious or serious problem, compared to 1 in 5 adults (20%) who considered local crime to be a very serious or serious problem.

TV and radio were most often cited as the sources influencing perceptions of national crime



Word of mouth/friends or family/neighbours/locals were most influential as regards their perception of local crime



6%

of respondents in this sample were victims of crime - a decrease of 2% from the 2016 survey (8%)

2%



84%

reported their most recent crime to An Garda Síochána

58%

were satisfied with how Gardaí handled their incidents



More than 1 in 3 adults (36%) reported that Gardaí patrolled their local area regularly in 2017



42%

Thought that the presence was 'about right' an increase of 6% from 2016



Approximately 1 in 3 adults (30%) reported that their fear of crime had impacted their quality of life

52%

of respondents worried about becoming a victim of crime

60%

of people reported having some fear of the level of crime in general



6,000

respondents - sample is nationally representative of the population on the basis of age, gender, social class and nationality

Unweighted booster sample of 647 young people aged 16 or 17 years



92%

said that Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason



82%

agreed that Gardaí locally treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are



More than three quarters of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the service provided to the local community by An Garda Síochána

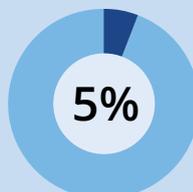
The majority of participants agreed that An Garda Síochána was community focused, modern or progressive and friendly or helpful



89%

of respondents had a medium to high level of trust in the Garda organisation

BOOSTER SAMPLE



Experienced victimisation

Low level of fear of crime and worry about victimisation
Perceptions of the effectiveness and capability of the Garda organisation were largely positive



Executive Summary

This annual report draws on findings from the Public Attitudes Survey, a representative survey of some 6,000 adult respondents in Ireland. It is representative of the population on the basis of age, gender, social class and nationality. Since 2017 a booster sample of young people aged 16 and 17 years have also been surveyed to measure their attitudes towards crime and policing in Ireland.

The survey covers a range of issues relating to crime and policing. For the purposes of this report, findings are presented under the following headings:

Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland

Around 3 in 4 adults (74%) perceived crime nationally as a very serious or serious problem, compared to 1 in 5 adults (20%) who considered local crime to be a very serious or serious problem.

- ▶ In 2017, TV and radio were most often cited as the sources of information that had influenced perceptions of the national crime problem. In comparison, respondents agreed that word of mouth/friends or family/neighbours/locals were most influential as regards their perceptions of local crime
- ▶ Respondents reporting that national and local crime was a serious problem has fallen year on year since 2015

Victims of Crime

Across this 2017 sample, 383 respondents were victims of crime in the last 12 months, representing a victimisation rate of 6%; 58% of victims were satisfied with how Gardaí handled their incidents across the 2017 sample.

- ▶ 84% of victims reported their crime to An Garda Síochána
- ▶ The most common reason cited for not reporting a crime was "I did not believe the Gardaí could do anything"
- ▶ A greater proportion of victims compared to non-victims reported that crime locally was a very serious or serious problem (39% vs 19%)

Fear and Worry about Crime

As found in last year's survey, the majority of individuals reported having very few or no fears about crime, and for most, this fear did not affect their quality of life.

- ▶ There were 52% of respondents who worried about becoming a victim of crime; whether that is of a crime involving personal injury, property theft or damage, or indeed both
- ▶ During 2017, 60% of adults were classified as having some level of fear of crime
- ▶ Approximately two thirds (70%) of respondents did not feel that their fear of crime had impacted their quality of life

Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána

Respondents continue to believe that An Garda Síochána should prioritise sexual crimes more so than other crime types.

- ▶ The top priorities for respondents were sexual offences (97% of respondents highlighted this as a priority issue for them), human trafficking (94%) and assaults (91%)

Garda Visibility

Garda visibility and perceptions of Garda presence increased slightly between 2016 and 2017.

- ▶ More than 1 in 3 adults (36%) reported that Gardaí patrolled their local area regularly in 2017
- ▶ Respondents in Dublin, as well as the rest of Leinster were less likely to report awareness of Garda patrols compared to other regions
- ▶ 57% of respondents thought that Garda presence in their local areas was 'not enough', a decrease of 6% from 2016 levels

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

Overall, more than three quarters (76%) of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the service provided to the local community by An Garda Síochána.

- ▶ Between 2016 and 2017 satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána increased by five percentage points
- ▶ Perceptions of the seriousness of the local and national crime problem were associated with dissatisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána

Trust in An Garda Síochána

The public's trust in An Garda Síochána remains to be a robust measure with little or no movement.

- 89% of respondents expressed a mid to high level of trust in the Garda organisation during 2017

Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána

There was strong consensus among participants that Gardaí would treat them and others fairly if they had contact with them for any reason.

- 92% said that Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason
- 82% agreed that Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are

Perceptions of the Garda Organisation

Overall, respondents' views of An Garda Síochána in 2017 tended to be more positive when compared to 2016 and 2015.

- The majority of participants agreed that An Garda Síochána was community focused, modern or progressive and friendly or helpful
- Perceptions that the organisation is well-managed have decreased year on year since 2015
- Respondents who had been victims of crime tended to have more negative views of An Garda Síochána
- A large number of respondents reported don't know when asked about to agree with statements about the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána. Analysis including and excluding don't know responses was completed

16 and 17-year-old Booster Sample

In 2017, the scope of the Public Attitudes Survey was extended to include the views of those aged 16 and 17 years. There is growing consensus about the importance of young people being consulted in relation to services and policies that affect them, in particular their attitudes and experiences of crime and policing.

- Among the booster sample of 16 and 17 year olds, 59% considered national crime either a very serious or serious problem while 14% considered local crime a very serious or serious problem (lower than the main sample)
- 32 respondents aged 16 or 17 years (5%) had experienced

victimisation in the previous 12 months (compared to 6% for the main sample)

- Levels of fear about the level of crime and worry about perceived victimisation were proportionally lower among booster sample respondents compared to the general adult population
- As with the main sample, 16 and 17 years old had a high rate of trust in the Garda organisation
- Overall perceptions of the effectiveness and capability of the Garda organisation among 16 and 17 year olds were largely positive

Introduction

The Public Attitudes Survey is a social survey of the Irish public's attitudes towards crime and policing in Ireland. As outlined in the 2015 and 2016 annual reports, An Garda Síochána has undertaken large scale surveys of public attitudes through the Garda Public Attitudes Survey since 2002. The survey was discontinued in 2008 and re-launched at the end of 2014. The 2017 survey is the third sweep since its re-launch and is based on 6,000 face-to-face interviews with adults aged 18 years and over. Since Q1 2017, quarterly bulletins have also been published by the Garda organisation. All previous publications are available at www.garda.ie.

The main aims of the Public Attitudes Survey are to:

- ▶ Ask a representative sample of the Irish public about their experiences of crime, as well as their views on services provided to them as victims of crime
- ▶ Provide a measure on perceived levels of crime in the country as a whole and in local areas
- ▶ Identify what crime types the public view as priority areas for An Garda Síochána
- ▶ Ascertain how satisfied the public are with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána
- ▶ Measure the public's levels of trust in Gardaí and their perceptions of the Garda organisation

Structure of this 2017 annual report

The report is split into ten findings chapters:

Chapter 1 provides information on perceptions of crime in Ireland during 2017 and makes comparisons with results from the 2016 and 2015 survey sweeps.

Chapter 2 examines victimisation amongst respondents, provides details about the rate of reporting crime to Gardaí, and explores levels of satisfaction among victims of crime. It also looks at perceptions about the information and assistance provided to victims.

Chapter 3 focuses on people's perceived likelihood of victimisation and their worry about crimes, as well as its impact on their quality of life.

Chapter 4 examines what crime respondents believe the Garda organisation should prioritise.

Chapter 5 examines levels of Garda visibility and whether Garda presence in local communities is sufficient.

Chapter 6 explores the public's satisfaction with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána.

Chapter 7 examines the public's trust in the Garda organisation.

Chapter 8 provided details of two new questions added in 2017 examining respondents' perceptions of equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána.

Chapter 9 provides information on respondents' perceptions of the Garda organisation including its ability to tackle crime and the degree to which it provides a world class police service.

Finally, analysis from the 16 and 17-year-old booster sample is outlined in **chapter 10**.

All of the topics above are examined by population demographics, including age, gender, social class and nationality, as well as by different geographical areas to identify differences in perceptions and experiences. Comparisons between 2015, 2016 and 2017 survey results are presented where possible.

New for 2017

As mentioned previously, during 2017 a series of new questions were added to the survey:

- ▶ Questions on how respondents perceive the Garda organisation treats people, irrespective of background
- ▶ A booster sample of 16 and 17 year olds have been surveyed since December 2016. This provides an overview of attitudes towards crime and policing in Ireland among this group. Analysis of survey responses from 647 young people aged 16 or 17 years are presented in the final findings chapter of this report
- ▶ Whether respondents had contact with the Garda organisation in the preceding 12 months was also asked; this was defined by at least one self-initiated or Garda initiated contact. Perceptions are examined by contact with Gardaí to identify any differences

Future developments of the survey

There will be some further developments and additional work for 2018; most notably the inclusion of two questions assessing overall confidence in the criminal justice system and satisfaction with Gardaí locally.

Methodology

How is the Public Attitudes Survey conducted?

The survey is carried out by Amarách Research who was commissioned following a competitive public tendering process. The questionnaire was designed in consultation between An Garda Síochána and Amárach Research. Questions were tested prior to their final inclusion in the survey. Data was collected by means of in-home, face-to-face interviews.

The Public Attitudes Survey is designed to run on a continuous basis (it is continuously surveying the population) and reports on a quarterly and annual basis.

There are a total of 200 sampling points. These have been selected from a database of around 3,500 District Electoral Divisions/Wards. In reality not all of the sampling points are used at one time. Fifty points are sampled each month and each sampling point is visited three times during the year (as highlighted above, the survey runs to produce internal quarterly data and the rotating sampling points reduce the effect of sampling error). The sampling points are stratified in line with the population distribution using the following categories:

- The cities and suburbs of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway
- Towns with a population of 10,000, but not a city or suburb
- Towns with a population of 5,000 to 9,999
- Towns with a population of 1,500 to 4,999
- Areas with a population of less than 1,499

Potential respondents are selected using a random walk approach (i.e. interviewers select a start point and then approach every house at set intervals - or one quarter mile in rural areas - until an eligible respondent is secured). The survey is done by means of a face-to-face interview. The survey takes place in the respondent's home. Interviews are conducted throughout the day (there are two shifts of interviewers deployed between 10am and 2pm and then between 2pm and 8pm) to ensure an even spread of interviews are achieved across all groups. See findings chapter 10 for an overview of how respondents aged 16 and 17 years were sampled.

Sample profile

The core sample is of adults aged 18 and over and is designed to be nationally representative. The sample provides a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn.

Respondents were selected according to quotas based on age, gender, social class and nationality. The questionnaire includes questions to capture a wide range of demographic information. The sample is also weighted when analysis is conducted to ensure that it is in line with the national population. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the 2017 survey sample.

Respondents were asked about victim incidents experienced in the 12 months prior to the month of interview (the reference period). The victimisation section¹ of the survey does not capture data on all crimes; crimes of a sexual nature are excluded from the survey.

Interpreting tables and figures

Frequency and percentage tables are used to explore survey responses within this report. Where appropriate, changes between the latest two/three sweeps of the survey are examined. Changes or differences are measured for statistical significance. Where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, post-hoc analysis of the chi square contingency table using the Bonferroni correction and the adjusted residual method was completed^{2,3}. Statistically significant differences are identified in text.

Low sample sizes can provide unreliable findings and there are also issues of confidentiality. As such, any cell size with fewer than 30 weighted/unweighted respondents will be represented by a line (-). However, it should be noted, percentages for those cell sizes greater than 30 are based on total number of responses for that column. A percentage may be quoted in the report text for a single category (e.g. agreement is made up of strongly agree plus agree) identified in the figures or tables by summing two or more percentages. The percentage has been recalculated for the single combined category and therefore may differ by one or two percentage points from the sum of the percentages derived from the figures or tables. Some questions in the survey allow respondents to choose multiple responses. These percentages will not sum to 100 percent with the other percentages presented. Finally, not all columns where percentages are used will add up to 100 percent. This is due to the rounding of figures.

Because this is a survey of a random sample of the population we have to accept that there will be some margin of error. This has been calculated at +/- 1.1 percent for the full sample of 6,000 respondents. What this means is that when we are reporting figures for the sample as a whole, for argument's

sake noting that 80 percent of respondents agree with a statement, the true value will sit between 78.9 percent and 81.1 percent. It is important to note that as analysis is done on smaller proportions of the sample the margin of error increases. This should be taken into account when examining smaller sample sizes (for example, victims of crime).

The tables use a breakdown of social class as used by market research companies. For ease of interpretation, the definition of these social classes is set out in table 2 on the next page. The tables also break down responses by geographical areas, including 'city', 'other urban' and 'rural'. 'City' areas are city boroughs, other urban is any area with a population between 1,500 and 10,000 and rural areas have populations of less than 1,500. The survey also asks respondents about how close their local Garda station is – the answer is based on respondents' estimates.

Differences between Annual Reports

A key difference between 2015 and 2016 annual reports and the latest 2017 report is the exclusion of don't know and refusal responses for the majority of survey questions, therefore figures will differ slightly from previous publications. Preliminary analysis of all variables was completed to assess the proportion of don't know responses. A decision was then taken about whether they were to be excluded from subsequent analyses. For questions where don't know responses accounted for less than 10% of responses to each question they were excluded from analysis and are not presented as part of this report. Don't know responses are a categorically different type of response and the majority of researchers are not interested in analysis of such responses. They were treated as user-defined missing values in SPSS⁴.

In cases where don't know responses totalled 10% or more of respondents' replies, analysis including and excluding such responses are presented for completeness. Don't know responses were greater for items positioned later in the questionnaire, which are known to suffer from fatigue effects as respondents become tired even though items/statements are rotated within questions.

For each question the number of remaining cases was still adequate for the statistical analyses being pro-posed, therefore don't know responses are excluded where population and area demographics are examined.

Since the beginning of 2017, Public Attitude Survey Quarterly Bulletins have been published by the Garda organisation, removing the necessity for quarterly comparisons in annual reports.

- 1 *This includes being a victim of burglary, theft, robbery, criminal damage, assault, or fraud.*
- 2 *Beasley, T. M., & Schumacker. R. E. (1995). Multiple Regression Approach to Analyzing Contingency Tables: Post Hoc and Planned Comparison Procedures. The Journal of Experimental Education, 64(1): 79-93*
- 3 *Sharpe, D. (2015). Your Chi-Square Test is Statistically Significant: Now What? Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation, 20(8)*
- 4 *Kent, R.A (2015). Analysing Quantitative Data Variable-based and Case-based Approaches to Non-Experimental Datasets. SAGE Publications Ltd*

Table 1: Public Attitudes Survey sample profile 2017

Gender	Age	Social Class	Region
Male	49%	18 - 24	12% AB
Female	51%	25 - 34	22% C1
		35 - 44	20% C2
		45 - 54	17% DE
		55 - 64	14% F
		65+	15%

Area	Nationality	Ethnicity	Religion
City	36%	Irish	86%
Other Urban	27%	UK	4%
Rural	37%	Polish	3%
		Lithuanian	1%
		Indian	1%
		Other	5%

Table 2: Definitions of social class groupings

Social Class	Description
A	Higher managerial, professional.
B	Intermediate managerial, professional, accountant.
C1	Supervisory or clerical, junior manager, Nurse, Teacher, sales representative, shop owner. Student.
C2	Skilled manual worker (e.g. Skilled Bricklayer, Carpenter, Plumber, Painter, Bus, Ambulance Driver, HGV driver, AA patrolman, publican), Hairdressers, fitter
D	Semi or unskilled manual work (e.g. Manual workers, all apprentices to be skilled trades, Caretaker, Park keeper, non-HGV driver, shop assistant), Postman, Barber, taxi driver, Bartender. Casual worker (not in permanent employment)
E	Housewife/homemaker. Retired and living on state pension. Unemployed or not working due to long term illness. Full time carer of other household member
F	Farmer

Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland



Survey respondents were asked how they perceived the level of crime nationally, as well as in their local area. Respondents perceived the national crime problem to be quite serious, however this has decreased over survey sweeps. They continue to see crime as a less significant issue in their local area.

Perceptions of crime in Ireland: national and local

During 2017, 24% of respondents considered national crime a very serious problem in Ireland, 50% considered it a serious problem, 23% thought it was something of a problem, while 2% stated it was not a problem. In comparison, when respondents were asked about crime in their local area, 3% reported it was a very serious problem, 17% perceived it was a serious problem, 51% stated it was something of a problem and 29% said it was not a problem.

Have perceptions of national and local crime changed between 2015, 2016 and 2017?

Overall, perception of crime as a serious or very serious problem have dropped from 2015 (where it ran at 78%) to

77% in 2016 and 74% in 2017. However, there were some variations within this. As can be seen in figure 1, between 2015 and 2016 a higher proportion of respondents reported that crime was a very serious problem nationally, however between 2016 and 2017 perceptions of national crime as a very serious problem dropped by 11%, from 35% to 24%.

Conversely, between 2015 and 2016, fewer respondents replied that crime was a serious problem nationally, however between 2016 and 2017 a greater proportion (+8%) reported that crime was a serious problem nationally. So, overall we have seen a reduction in the proportion of respondents who view crime as a serious or very serious problem, and recently a reduction in the proportion who view it a very serious.

In comparison, in 2015 the proportion of people who considered crime in their local area a very serious or serious problem stood at 31%, dropping to 23% in 2016. As shown in figure 2, the proportion expressing this perception dropped further to 20% in 2017. These changes outlined above were all statistically significant.

The survey collects a range of demographic and geographic information, as well as whether respondents had contact with

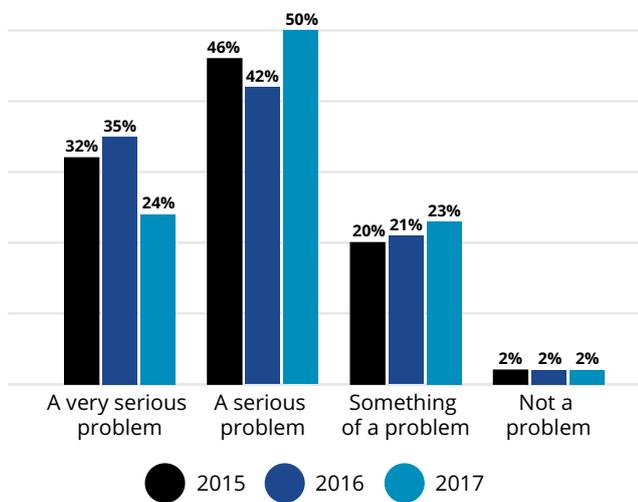
An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months. This allows the further exploration of perceptions of national and local crime.

Perceptions of national crime in Ireland by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Table 4 and 5 show that during 2017:

Gender: women were more likely to view national crime as a serious problem and less likely to view it as something of a problem.

Figure 1: Changes in perceptions of national crime in Ireland between 2015, 2016 and 2017



Age: those in older age groups viewed national crime as a more serious problem compared to those in younger age groups.

Social Class: a greater proportion of respondents from social class F considered national crime a very serious problem (36%) compared to social class AB (18%).

Nationality: a greater proportion of Irish nationals considered national crime a very serious or serious problem (77%) compared to Non-Irish nationals (59%).

Figure 2: Changes in perceptions of local crime in Ireland between 2015, 2016 and 2017

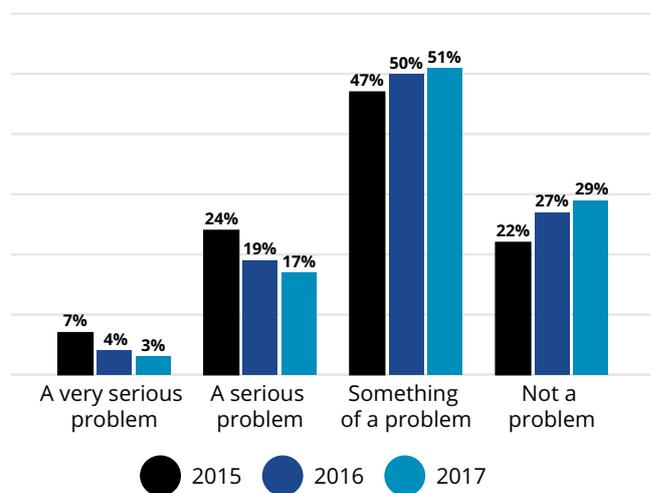


Table 4: Perceptions of national crime in Ireland by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
A very serious problem	24%	25%	13%	19%	22%	26%	31%	39%	18%	21%	25%	28%	36%	26%	13%
A serious problem	48%	52%	51%	51%	50%	52%	49%	46%	50%	50%	52%	48%	51%	51%	46%
Something of a problem	25%	21%	33%	27%	26%	20%	19%	14%	29%	27%	21%	22%	13%	22%	34%
Not a problem	3%	2%	-	4%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	3%	-	1%	8%

Table 5: Perceptions of national crime in Ireland by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Less than 1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
A very serious problem	16%	24%	32%	27%	19%	27%	29%	28%	22%	26%	29%	26%
A serious problem	49%	52%	51%	47%	50%	49%	51%	49%	51%	51%	54%	51%
Something of a problem	32%	22%	16%	25%	29%	22%	19%	21%	25%	20%	16%	21%
Not a problem	3%	2%	-	-	3%	2%	2%	-	2%	-	-	-

Region: respondents in Dublin (65%) perceived the national crime problem as less serious than those in Munster (83%).

Urban/Rural: rural respondents considered national crime a more serious problem with 29% reporting it as a very serious problem compared to 19% of 'city' respondents.

Distance from Garda station: no notable differences were evident between perceptions of national crime and how far respondents lived from a Garda station.

Perceptions of local crime by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Perceptions of local crime during 2017 by demographic and geographic variations are shown in table 6 and 7:

Gender: men and women viewed the severity of the local crime problem similarly.

Age: when asked about crime locally, 37% of those aged 18-24 reported that there was no problem with crime in their local areas compared to 26% of those aged over 65 years.

Social Class: there were relatively no differences in perceptions of local crime across social classes.

Nationality: a greater proportion of Non-Irish nationals (43%) stated that local crime was not a problem compared to Irish nationals (27%).

Region: respondents in the rest of Leinster were more likely to view local crime as a very serious or serious problem whilst those in Connaught/Ulster were least likely to do so.

Urban/Rural: respondents in 'city' areas were less likely to view local crime as 'not a problem' (24%) compared to those in rural (35%) areas.

Distance from Garda station: as above there were no notable differences in perceptions of local crime and distance from local Garda station.

Sources of information that influence perceptions of national and local crime (new for 2017)

Perceptions of crime can be influenced by many factors. When asked, 41% of respondents reported that 'TV' was their main source of information about the level of national crime in Ireland. This was followed by 'radio/local radio' (22%) and 'online news/media' (14%).

In comparison, when respondents were asked about the main source of information influencing their perceptions of local crime, 50% reported 'word of mouth/friends or family/ neighbours/locals', 15% stated 'radio/local radio' while 12% reported 'social media'.

Table 6: Perceptions of local crime in Ireland by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
A very serious problem	3%	3%	-	-	4%	4%	-	-	-	3%	3%	3%	-	3%	-
A serious problem	17%	17%	13%	15%	16%	20%	18%	18%	18%	16%	19%	16%	15%	18%	11%
Something of a problem	50%	53%	47%	51%	53%	51%	52%	54%	53%	53%	48%	51%	55%	53%	45%
Not a problem	30%	28%	37%	31%	26%	25%	28%	26%	27%	29%	30%	29%	28%	27%	43%

Table 7: Perceptions of local crime in Ireland by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Less than 1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
A very serious problem	3%	5%	3%	-	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	-	-
A serious problem	19%	21%	13%	12%	18%	19%	14%	18%	18%	17%	16%	10%
Something of a problem	58%	46%	50%	52%	55%	51%	48%	48%	53%	52%	45%	53%
Not a problem	20%	29%	34%	32%	24%	27%	35%	31%	26%	28%	37%	34%

Perceptions of national and local crime by contact with An Garda Síochána

Table 8 and 9 show the distribution of responses to the questions about perceptions of national and local crime, examined by whether respondents had one or more self-initiated or Garda initiated contacts with An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months. This aimed to examine whether having recent contact with the Garda organisation impacted on people's perceptions of the national and local crime problem.

Respondents who had initiated contact with Gardaí, as well as where Gardaí had initiated contact, perceived the national crime problem as more serious than those who had no contact with the Garda organisation. Respondents who had initiated contact with An Garda Síochána perceived the local crime problem as more serious compared to respondents where Gardaí had initiated contact. Those who had no contact with An Garda Síochána perceived national and local crime as less serious than those who had any contact with Gardaí in the preceding 12 months.

Table 8: Perceptions of national crime in Ireland by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No contact
A very serious problem	28%	29%	23%
A serious problem	51%	51%	50%
Something of a problem	20%	18%	25%
Not a problem	1%	2%	3%

Table 9: Perceptions of local crime in Ireland by contact with An Garda Síochána

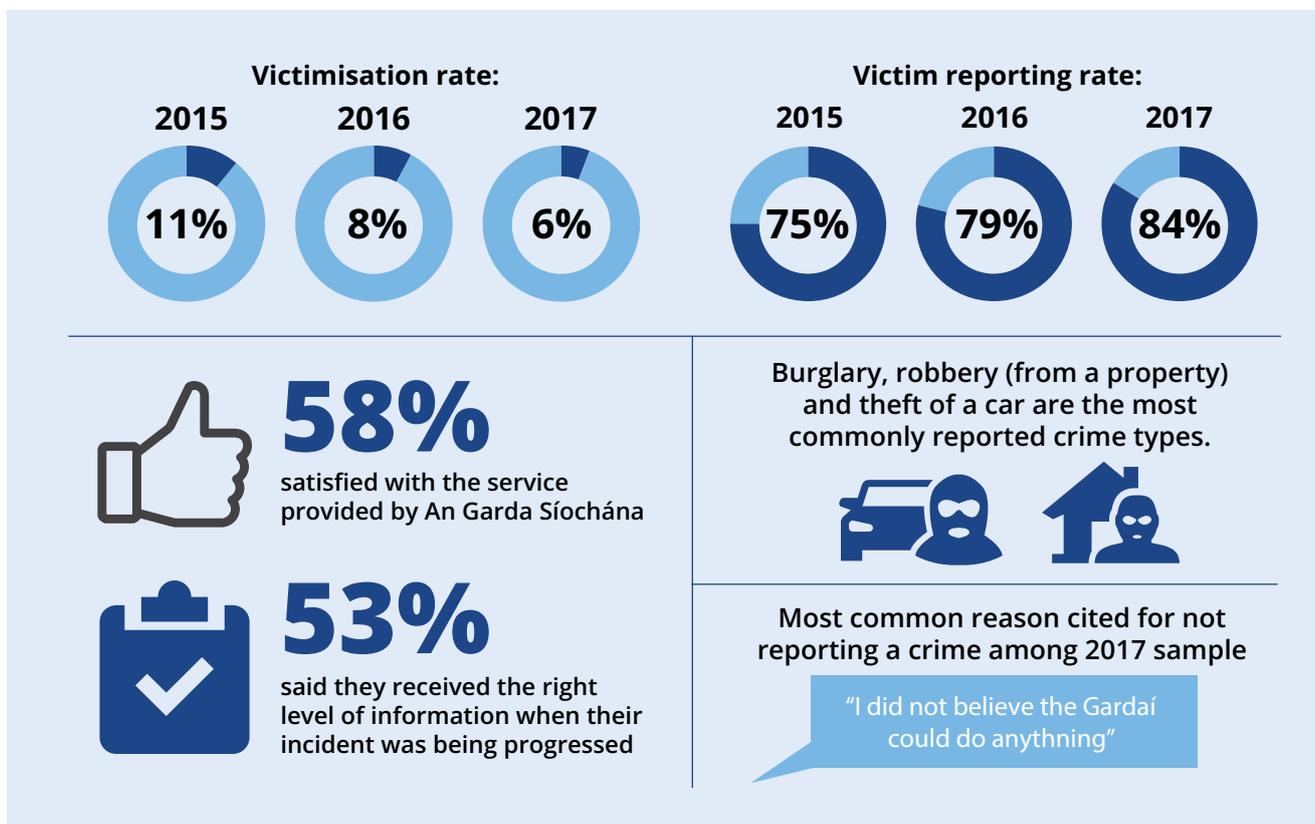
	Any self initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No contact
A very serious problem	5%	-	2%
A serious problem	22%	13%	15%
Something of a problem	49%	52%	52%
Not a problem	23%	32%	30%

Summary

- The national crime problem continues to be perceived as a more serious problem than at the local level; this was clear across all groups of respondents and geographical areas
- Between 2015 and 2017, the proportion of respondents reporting that the national crime problem was 'a serious problem' has fallen year on year
- There was a similar fall in those who thought that crime was a serious or very serious issue locally; there was an 11% decrease in the proportion of respondents who reported this between 2015 and 2017
- Perceptions of the seriousness of the national crime problem were greater among those in older age groups, as well as those of Irish nationality; there were relatively little differences detected when the seriousness of the local crime problem was examined by age
- Respondents in the rest of Leinster considered local crime to be most problematic, whereas this perception was lowest among respondents in Connaught/Ulster

In further sections, perceptions of the national and local crime problem are examined in relation to respondents' experience of victimisation, their fear and worry about crime, their satisfaction with the service provided to the local community by An Garda Síochána, and their trust in, as well as their views of the Garda organisation.

Victims of Crime



This section examines the percentage of survey respondents who were victims of at least one crime in the 12 months prior to their Public Attitudes Survey interview (often referred to as the victimisation rate). The survey measures the percentage of adults (aged 18 and over) who were victims of crime regardless of whether or not they reported their crime to Gardaí.

Victimisation in Ireland

The majority of 2017 Public Attitudes Survey respondents were not victims of crime. There was a victimisation rate of 6% within the 2017 sample. In other words, of the 6,000 people surveyed, 383 adults reported being a victim of at least one crime in the previous 12 months. Of those 383 victims, 34 reported they were victims of crime on more than one occasion.

As outlined in last year's report, between 2015 and 2016 the proportion of adults who were victims of crime decreased from 11% to 8%. Between 2016 and 2017 the victimisation rate fell even further, from 8% to 6%. These changes were all statistically significant.

Over the period 2015 to 2017, quarterly rates of victimisation have, however, fluctuated. As can be seen in figure 3, there has been a sustained decrease in the level of crime victimisation between Q1 2015 and Q4 2017, reaching its lowest level during Q2 2017 at 5.7%. It must be noted that as analysis is done on smaller proportions the margin of error increases, therefore such changes should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 3: Level of crime victimisation from Q1 2015 to Q4 2017

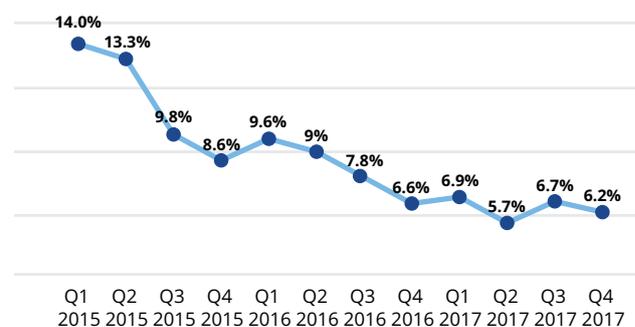
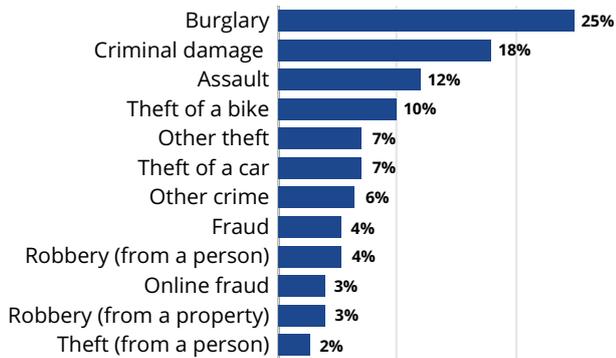


Figure 4 provides details of the most recent crime type experienced by victims of crime; burglary (25%), criminal damage (18%) and assault (12%) were the main crime that respondents experienced. These trends are broadly similar to those reported in 2015 and 2016.

Figure 4: Most recent crime experienced in the last 12 months



In the 2017 sample, gender had no impact on the likelihood of being a victim of crime. Age groups were condensed so that broad trends could be examined. Victimization did not vary considerably across age groups; 6.6% of 18-34 year olds were crime victims in the preceding 12 months, 7.3% of those aged between 35 and 54 years reported being a victim of crime, compared to 5.0% of those aged 55 and over.

Respondents in Dublin (10.7%) were more likely to be a victim of crime compared to those in Connaught/Ulster (3.7%). A greater proportion of respondents in 'city' areas (9.4%) reported they were victims of crime compared to those living in rural areas (4.3%). These differences were statistically significant.

Reporting victimisation in Ireland

Not all victims reported their crime to Gardaí. Of the 383 who were the victims of at least one crime, 323 had reported their most recent incident. Since the Public Attitudes Survey was re-launched, the proportion of victims reporting their crimes to Gardaí has steadily increased - from 75% in 2015 to 79% in 2016 to 84% in 2017. These changes were, however, not statistically significant.

Table 10 shows the crimes most often reported to Gardaí. According to the last three surveys; burglary, robbery (from a property) and theft of a car were the most commonly reported crime types. Between 2016 and 2017 there has been an increase in the reporting of all offences, except burglary.

Table 10: Reporting of most recent crime experienced

	2015	2016	2017
Burglary	91%	95%	92%
Robbery (from a property)	91%	92%	88%
Theft of a car	97%	89%	96%
Other crime	83%	81%	86%
Robbery (from a person)	81%	75%	81%
Criminal damage	76%	74%	84%
Assault	71%	68%	81%
Theft of a bike	57%	67%	76%
Other theft	77%	63%	79%
Fraud	42%	62%	73%
Theft (from a person)	33%	54%	82%
Online fraud	27%	36%	68%

Deciding whether or not to report crime to Gardaí can be influenced by many factors. Table 11 shows that overall the most common reasons for not reporting crime from the 2017 survey were: not believing the Gardaí could do anything (44%), not considering the crime serious enough (33%), or not believing the Gardaí would do anything (26%). These were largely similar to reasons provided by respondents in the 2015 and 2016 surveys.

Table 11: Reasons for not reporting crime 2017 results

I did not believe the Gardaí could do anything	44%
The incident was not serious enough	33%
I did not believe the Gardaí would do anything	26%
I sorted it out myself	21%
Other reason (Please specify)	4%
I reported it to another authority	8%
I did not want to involve the Gardaí	5%
No need to make an insurance claim	2%
Fear of reprisal from perpetrator or others	3%
I did not have the time	2%

Experience of reporting a crime

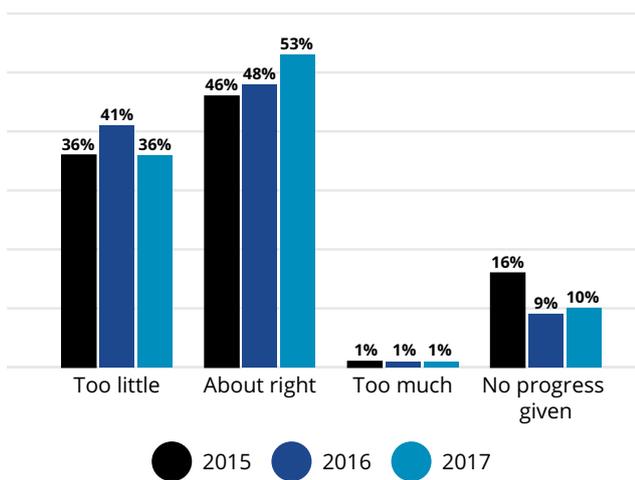
Victims who experienced a crime in the last 12 months were asked about their experience of reporting a crime to Gardaí.

- ▶ **65%** agreed that Gardaí responded quickly when they reported the incident, this has increased 5% points from the 2016 survey (60%) and 2% points from the 2015 survey (63%)
- ▶ **74%** reported being given the name of the investigating Garda/Gardaí, up 5% on the 2016 survey (69%) and 3% on the 2015 survey (71%)

- ▶ **70%** were given contact details of the Garda station, this has remained stable since 2016, but is down 3% on the 2015 survey (73%)
- ▶ **44%** of victims were given a PULSE number, an increase of 1% on last year (43%) and 10% since 2015 (34%)
- ▶ Finally, **50%** of victims reported being given a number of victim helplines/services, compared to 41% in the last survey and 33% in the 2015 survey

Respondents were also asked whether the information provided to them during their most recent incident was satisfactory; in 2017, 36% stated they received too little information; 53% said it was about right; while 1% said they received too much information. Within the sample, 10% reported they were given no update on the progress of the investigation. See figure 5 for comparisons between 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Figure 5: Information provided to victims 2015, 2016 and 2017



Satisfaction with Garda response among victims of crime

Among all victims who reported their crime in the 2017 sample, 22% said they were very satisfied with how Gardaí handled their case, 36% were quite satisfied, while 24% were dissatisfied, and 17% were very dissatisfied (see figure 6).

Between 2015 and 2016, there was no significant change in victims' level of satisfaction with An Garda Síochána's handling of their case (although within this, there were some variations between those who said that they were very satisfied and satisfied). Similarly, between 2016 and 2017, there was no significant change in victims' level of satisfaction.

Figure 6: Changes in satisfaction among victims 2015, 2016 and 2017

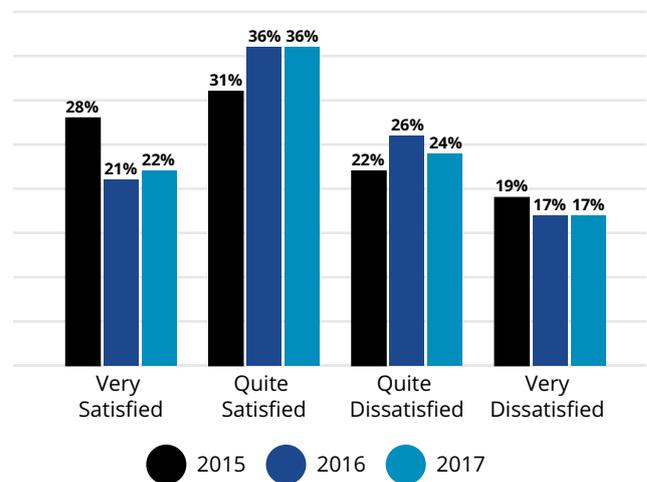


Table 12: Victim satisfaction with An Garda Síochána's handling of recent crime incident by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age			Social Class		Urban/Rural		
	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	ABC1	C2DEF	City	Other urban	Rural
Very satisfied	21%	23%	-	-	-	26%	18%	22%	-	-
Quite satisfied	31%	42%	38%	40%	-	33%	40%	40%	-	42%
Quite dissatisfied	29%	20%	26%	-	-	27%	23%	23%	-	-
Very dissatisfied	20%	15%	-	-	-	-	20%	-	-	-

Across the 2017 sample, there was some variation in levels of satisfaction when demographic, socio-economic, area, and victim groupings were examined (see table 12).

Gender: more female (65%) than male victims (52%) were satisfied with the service provided to them by An Garda Síochána.

Age: due to the small victim sample, age groups were condensed so broad trends could be examined. Levels of satisfaction among those aged between 35 and 54 were higher compared to those in other age groups; due to low cell counts these figures cannot be presented.

Social class: social class groupings were also condensed to allow for examination across two broad groupings. Social classes ABC1 and C2DEF reported similar levels of satisfaction.

Urban/Rural: victims in ‘other urban’ (49%) areas were slightly more dissatisfied compared to ‘city’ (38%) and rural areas (41%). These differences were, however, not statistically significant.

Does victimisation impact on perceptions of crime?

Differences in perceptions of national and local crime broken down by victim characteristics are shown in table 13. A slightly higher proportion of victims of crime (77%) considered national crime a serious or very serious problem in 2017, compared to non-victims (74%); this difference was, however, not statistically significant.

Differences are more pronounced when you examine perceptions of local crime; a greater proportion of victims (8%) considered local crime to be a very serious problem compared to non-victims (3%). Similarly, a greater proportion of victims (31%) than non-victims (16%) considered crime to be a serious problem locally; these differences were both statistically significant.

Table 13: Perceptions of crime by victimisation

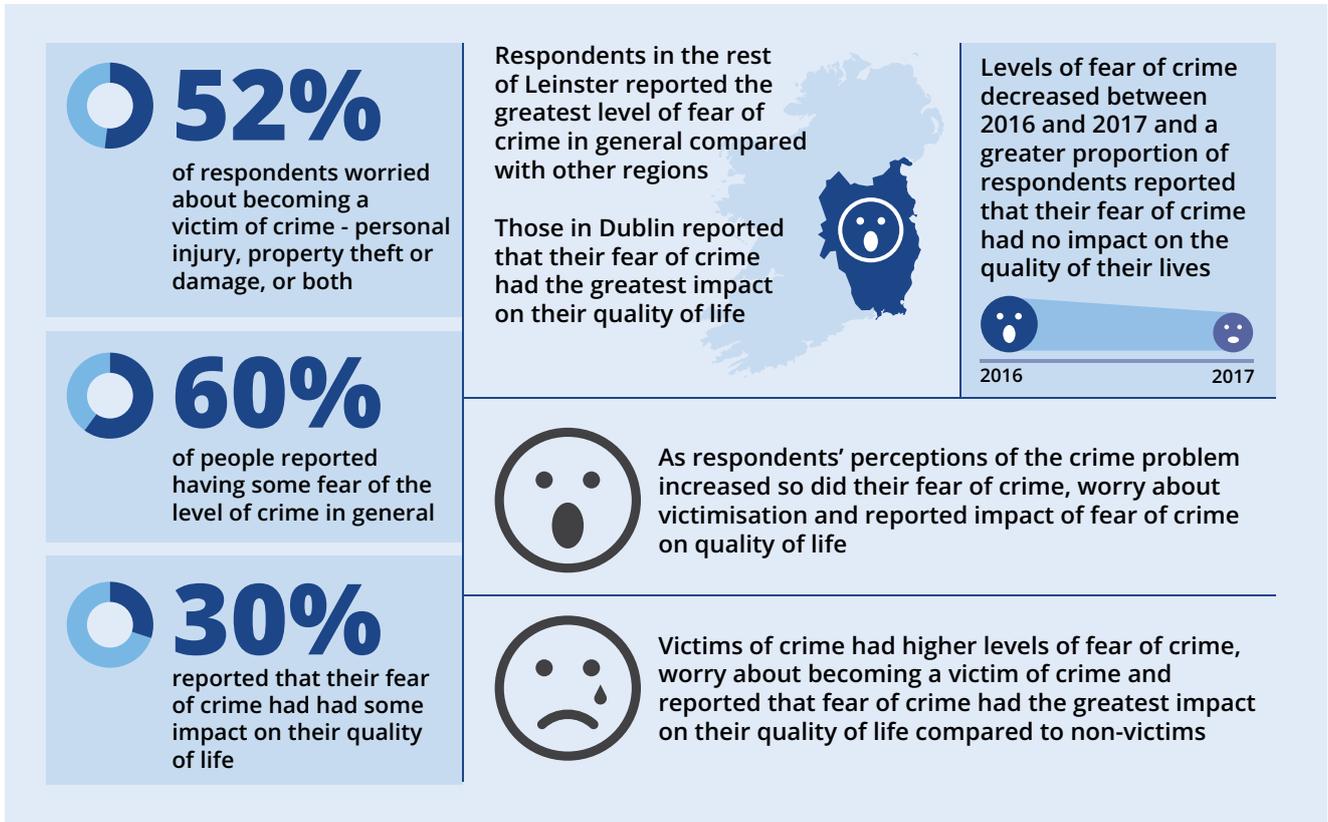
	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
National Crime		
A very serious problem	24%	31%
A serious problem	50%	46%
Something of a problem	23%	21%
Not a problem	2%	3%
Local Crime		
A very serious problem	3%	8%
A serious problem	16%	31%
Something of a problem	52%	47%
Not a problem	30%	14%

Summary

- ▶ The 2017 survey showed that the proportion of victims of crime (6%) in the sample was lower than that recorded in the 2016 (8%) and 2015 (11%) samples
- ▶ The most common crime types experienced by victims continue to be burglary, criminal damage and assault
- ▶ 84% of crime victims, across the 2017 sample, reported their crime experience to An Garda Síochána; theft of a car was the most reported crime, followed by burglary and robbery (from a property)
- ▶ The most common reason cited for not reporting a crime was “I did not believe the Gardaí could do anything”
- ▶ 58% of victims reported they were satisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána; 53% said they received the right level of information when their incident was being progressed
- ▶ Victims of crime were more likely to view local crime as a very serious or serious problem compared to non-victims

In further sections the impact of victimisation on respondents’ fear and worry about crime, their policing priorities, satisfaction with the service provided and trust in An Garda Síochána, as well as their views of the Garda organisation will be presented.

Fear and Worry about Crime



The majority of survey respondents reported having very few or no fears about crime and this fear of crime did not affect their quality of life. While more respondents worried about becoming a victim of crime, the proportion who reported not worrying increased between the latest two surveys.

The Public Attitudes Survey ask questions about respondents' fear of crime, their perceived likelihood of victimisation, and how much their quality of life is affected by their fear of crime. These aim to better our understanding around public anxiety about crime.

The chapter begins by examining respondents' perceived likelihood of victimisation.

Perceived likelihood of victimisation

The Public Attitudes Survey asks respondents if they worry that they, or anyone else who lives with them, might become a victim of personal injury, property crime, or both. During 2017, 3% of respondents worried about personal injury, 9% stated they feared being a victim of property crime, 40% worried about being a victim of both personal injury and property crime, while a large number of respondents (48%) reported not worrying about becoming a victim of any crime.

Figure 7: Perceived likelihood of victimisation 2016 and 2017

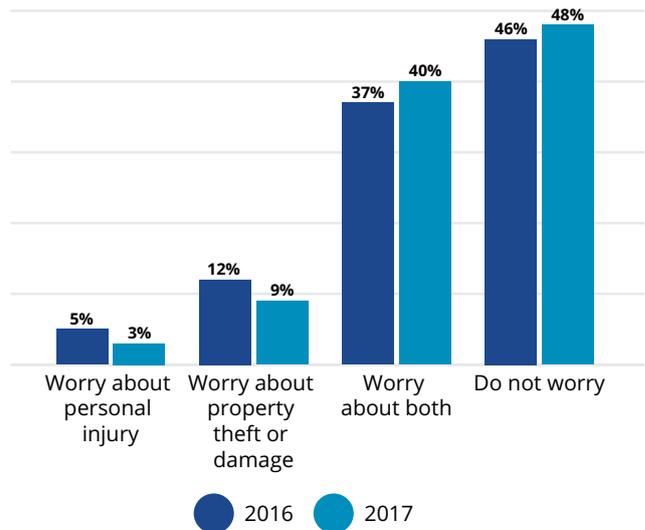


Figure 7 shows that, between 2016 and 2017, fewer respondents reported worrying about becoming a victim of personal injury, as well as a victim of property theft or damage. These changes were statistically significant. Although more respondents reported being worried about becoming both

a victim of personal injury and a victim of property theft or damage between 2016 and 2017, these changes did not reach statistical significance. Similarly, more respondents reported not worrying about becoming a victim of crime, however this change was also not statistically significant.

Perceptions of likelihood of victimisation by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Compared to female respondents, males were more likely to report not worrying about becoming a victim of crime (51% compared to 45%). As shown in table 14, respondents aged over 65 years were more likely to worry about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property damage or theft compared to those aged 18-24 years (48% versus 30%). Perceptions of likelihood of victimisation were broadly similar across social class groupings. A greater proportion of Non-Irish nationals reported not worrying about victimisation (58%) compared to Irish nationals (46%).

When area groupings were examined, 37% of respondents in Dublin reported not worrying about becoming a victim of crime, compared to 58% of respondents in Connaught/Ulster. Respondents from rural areas (53%) were more likely to report not worrying about victimisation compared to those in 'city' areas (40%) (see table 15).

Perceived likelihood of victimisation by contact with An Garda Síochána

Table 16 shows the distribution of responses to the questions about perceived likelihood of victimisation, examined by whether respondents had one or more self, or Garda initiated, contacts with members of An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months.

57% of respondents who had initiated contact with An Garda Síochána, worried about some future victimisation. This is compared to 46% of respondents whose contact had been initiated by An Garda Síochána, and 51% of respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána in the previous 12 months.

Table 16: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Worry about personal injury	3%	4%	3%
Worry about property theft or damage	10%	12%	8%
Worry about both	44%	31%	39%
Do not worry	43%	54%	49%

Table 14: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Worry about personal injury	2%	4%	-	3%	3%	-	3%	4%	-	3%	-	4%	-	3%	4%
Worry about property theft or damage	9%	9%	7%	9%	10%	10%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	13%	9%	8%
Worry about both	38%	42%	30%	36%	39%	42%	44%	48%	42%	40%	38%	41%	40%	41%	31%
Do not worry	51%	45%	61%	52%	48%	45%	44%	39%	46%	48%	52%	47%	44%	46%	58%

Table 15: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Less than 1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Worry about personal injury	3%	-	5%	3%	3%	2%	3%	-	3%	3%	-	-
Worry about property theft or damage	9%	9%	9%	10%	9%	9%	10%	12%	9%	8%	9%	-
Worry about both	51%	40%	36%	29%	48%	38%	34%	37%	43%	42%	36%	35%
Do not worry	37%	50%	50%	58%	40%	51%	53%	48%	46%	47%	52%	52%

Does experience of victimisation impact on perceived likelihood of re-victimisation?

Respondents who had been a victim of crime in the 12 months before their interview were less likely to report not worrying about becoming a victim of crime compared to non-victims. Nearly half (49%) of non-crime victims reported not worrying about becoming a victim of crime compared to 27% of respondents who perceived themselves to be at risk of further victimisation. More than half (54%) of recent crime victims considered themselves at risk of both personal injury and property theft or damage, compared to 39% of respondents who had not been victims of crime.

Table 17: Perceived likelihood of re-victimisation by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Worry about personal injury	3%	-
Worry about property theft or damage	9%	15%
Worry about both	39%	54%
Do not worry	49%	27%

Perceived likelihood of victimisation by fear of crime

As can be seen in table 18 below, those who thought it was likely that they would be the victim of personal injury, property theft or damage, or both, had greater levels of fear of crime in general than those who did not worry.

Table 18: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by fear of crime

	Fear about level of crime in general			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears
Worry about personal injury	-	7%	2%	-
Worry about property theft or damage	17%	19%	9%	1%
Worry about both	66%	56%	46%	23%
Do not worry	-	18%	43%	75%

Perceived likelihood of victimisation and perception of national and local crime problem

A person's level of worry that they will be a victim of crime may also be influenced by their perceptions of the national and local crime problem. Table 19 shows that 48% of those who considered national crime a very serious problem worried about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage. This, however, fell to 29% among those who considered national crime something of a problem. When perceived likelihood of victimisation and perceptions of local crime were examined, more pronounced differences were evident - 53% of those who considered local crime a very serious problem worried about both personal injury and property theft or damage, compared to 22% who did not consider local crime a problem.

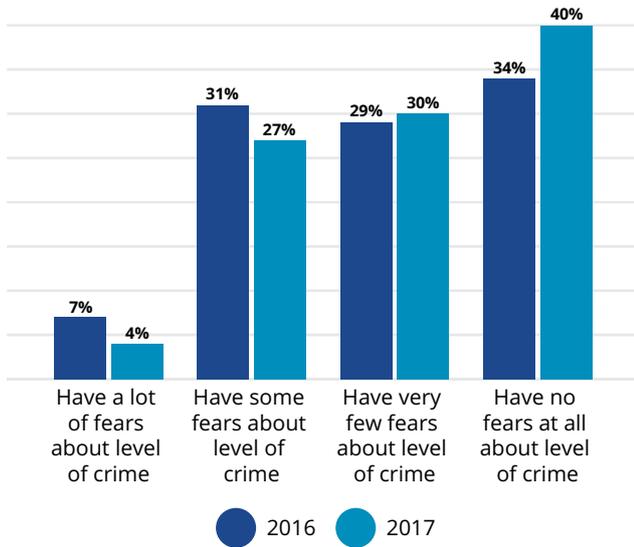
Table 19: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by perceptions of national and local crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Worry about personal injury	4%	3%	3%	-	-	-	3%	4%
Worry about property theft or damage	11%	9%	8%	-	-	12%	8%	8%
Worry about both	48%	43%	29%	-	53%	57%	44%	22%
Do not worry	37%	46%	61%	80%	26%	29%	45%	67%

Fear about the level of crime in Ireland

Figure 8 provides an overview of the fear of crime in Ireland. During 2017, 4% of respondents reported having a lot of fears about crime, 27% reported some fears, 30% had very few fears, while 40% stated they had no fears at all about the level of crime in general.

Figure 8: Levels of fear of crime in Ireland 2016 and 2017



Examining changes over time showed that between 2016 and 2017 there was a drop in the proportion of participants who had a lot of fears about the level of crime (7% vs. 4%), as well as some fears about the level of crime (31% vs. 27%). There was also a notable increase in the numbers reporting no fears at all about the level of crime (34% vs. 40%). These changes were all statistically significant.

Fears about the level of crime in Ireland by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Table 20 provides a breakdown of results by demographic characteristics. Men were more likely to report that they had no fears about the level of crime generally compared to women (43% vs. 37%). As age increased so did fears about the level of crime. There were no notable differences when fear of crime was examined by social class groupings. Non-Irish nationals were more likely to report that they had no fears about the level of crime (51%) compared to Irish nationals (38%).

The proportion of respondents who had a lot or some fears about the level of crime was highest in Munster (34%) and lowest in Connaught/Ulster (26%). More respondents in 'other urban' areas reported having a lot or some fears about crime (33%) compared to 'city' (30%) and rural (29%) respondents. How far respondents lived from their local Garda station had no notable association with fear of crime levels (see table 21).

Table 20: Fear of crime in Ireland by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	3%	4%	-	3%	4%	4%	6%	4%	5%	3%	3%	4%	-	4%	-
Have some fears about level of crime	24%	30%	18%	23%	28%	30%	28%	34%	30%	29%	24%	25%	32%	28%	20%
Have very few fears about level of crime	30%	30%	26%	31%	28%	29%	30%	33%	27%	30%	30%	30%	32%	30%	26%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	43%	37%	54%	43%	39%	38%	36%	29%	38%	39%	43%	40%	34%	38%	51%

Table 21: Fear of crime in Ireland by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	4%	5%	3%	-	4%	4%	3%	6%	4%	-	-	5%
Have some fears about level of crime	26%	26%	31%	24%	26%	29%	26%	32%	26%	26%	25%	28%
Have very few fears about level of crime	25%	36%	27%	31%	27%	31%	32%	28%	31%	28%	30%	31%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	44%	34%	39%	43%	43%	36%	39%	33%	39%	44%	43%	37%

Fear of crime by contact with An Garda Síochána

As can be seen in table 22, respondents who had any contact with An Garda Síochána in the previous 12 months had slightly greater levels of fear of crime compared to those who had no contact with Gardaí.

43% of respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months reported that they had no fears at all about the level of crime. This is compared to 33% of those who had initiated contact with Gardaí or those where Gardaí had in fact initiated contact.

Table 22: Fear of crime by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	6%	4%	3%
Have some fears about level of crime	31%	31%	25%
Have very few fears about level of crime	30%	32%	29%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	33%	33%	43%

Fear of crime and experience of victimisation

As can be seen in table 23, a greater proportion of crime victims reported having a lot of fears about crime compared to those who were not victims over the last 12 months (11% vs. 3%). Victims of crime were also less likely to report having no fears at all about crime (26% vs. 41%).

Table 23: Fear of crime by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	3%	11%
Have some fears about level of crime	26%	42%
Have very few fears about level of crime	30%	21%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	41%	26%

Does fear of crime impact on perceptions of national and local crime?

We saw in the previous section that greater levels of worry about future victimisation were associated with perceptions that the national and local crime problem were more serious.

Respondents reporting high levels of fear of crime also considered the national and local crime problem to be more serious than those with no fears about the level of crime.

- Among those who considered the national crime problem to be very serious, 31% had no fears at all about the level of crime compared to 76% of respondents who reported that national crime was not a problem
- Similarly, those without fears about the general crime problem had lower perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem locally (see table 24)

This chapter now goes on to explore the reported impact fear of crime has on respondents' quality of life.

Table 24: Fear of crime by perceptions of national and local crime problem

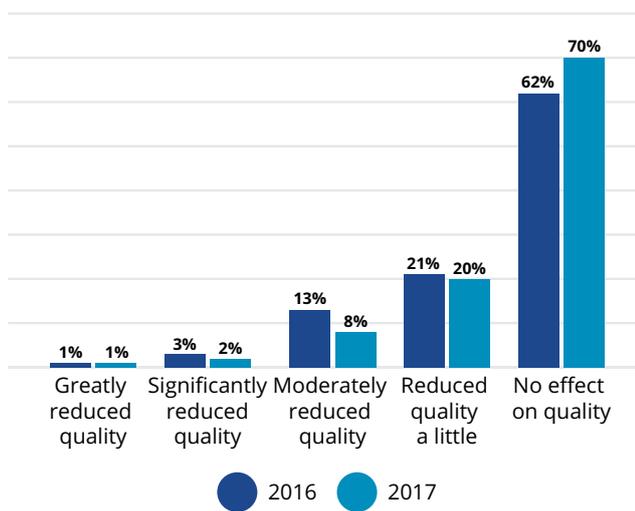
	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	9%	3%	-	-	25%	7%	2%	2%
Have some fears about level of crime	35%	27%	21%	-	30%	36%	29%	18%
Have very few fears about level of crime	25%	30%	36%	-	21%	25%	32%	29%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	31%	41%	43%	76%	24%	32%	37%	50%

The impact of fear of crime on respondents' quality of life

Since 2016, the Public Attitudes Survey has examined how much fear of crime affects respondents' quality of life. Fear and worry about crime is problematic if it has a detrimental impact on a person's quality of life.

As shown in figure 9, the majority of respondents indicated that fear of crime did not affect their quality of life significantly. During 2017, 1% of respondents reported that fear of crime greatly reduced their quality of life, 2% reported that their quality of life was significantly reduced, 8% said it was moderately reduced, 20% said it was reduced a little, while the remaining 70% of people reported that their fear of crime had not reduced their quality of life.

Figure 9: Impact of fear of crime on quality of life



Between 2016 and 2017, there was a decrease in the proportion of respondents reporting that their quality of life was greatly, significantly, or moderately reduced, as a result of their fear of crime. The proportion of respondents reporting that their fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life increased between 2016 and 2017 (62% vs. 70%). These changes were all statistically significant.

The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Men and women reported that their fear of crime had a similar impact on their quality of life. As respondents' age increased, their fear of crime had a greater impact on their quality of life. Trends across social class groupings and nationality showed no notable differences (see table 25).

Perceived reductions in respondents' quality of life, related to their fear of crime by area grouping, are shown in table 26. Respondents from Dublin reported the greatest impact on their quality of life (42%), whereas those in Connaught/ Ulster reported the lowest level of impact (17%). 'City' respondents reported greater impact than 'other urban' and rural respondents. The distance respondents lived from a Garda station had little impact on the effect of fear of crime on respondents' quality of life.

Table 25: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	1%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	2%	-
Moderately reduced quality	8%	9%	5%	6%	9%	10%	10%	11%	10%	9%	7%	8%	7%	9%	7%
Reduced quality a little	19%	21%	12%	18%	18%	21%	23%	28%	20%	21%	17%	21%	23%	20%	17%
No effect on quality	71%	68%	82%	74%	72%	67%	64%	59%	68%	68%	74%	69%	68%	69%	73%

Table 26: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	3%	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	1%	-	-	-
Moderately reduced quality	12%	9%	6%	5%	11%	8%	6%	9%	8%	8%	8%	9%
Reduced quality a little	26%	18%	21%	12%	24%	18%	17%	15%	22%	21%	19%	15%
No effect on quality	58%	71%	72%	83%	62%	73%	75%	73%	68%	69%	72%	74%

Impact on quality of life by contact with An Garda Síochána

Respondents who had any contact with An Garda Síochána in the previous 12 months reported a slightly greater level of impact on their quality of life due to their fear of crime, compared to those who had no contact with Gardaí.

Table 27: Fear of crime by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	2%	-	1%
Moderately reduced quality	10%	7%	8%
Reduced quality a little	22%	21%	19%
No effect on quality	64%	70%	72%

How does fear of crime impact on quality of life amongst victims of crime?

Victims of crime were much more likely to report a reduction in their quality of life due to fear of crime compared to non-victims (53% vs. 29%).

Table 28: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Greatly reduced quality	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	1%	-
Moderately reduced quality	8%	19%
Reduced quality a little	20%	25%
No effect on quality	71%	47%

Do those with greater levels of fear of crime and worry about victimisation report the greatest impact on their quality of life?

It can clearly be seen in table 29 that as the level of fear of crime increased so did the negative impact on respondents' quality of life; 22% of those with a lot of fears about the level of crime reported that their fear had no effect on their quality of life compared to 92% who had no fears about crime.

Respondents who reported worrying about personal injury reported the greatest impact on their quality of life; 37% of those who worried about personal injury said that fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life, compared to 90% of those who did not worry about future victimisation.

The impact fear of crime had on respondents' quality of life and how they perceived crime locally and nationally?

Respondents' perceptions of national and local crime were also explored to determine whether these perceptions varied depending on whether the respondents reported a reduced quality of life due to their fear of crime:

- Of those who considered national crime a very serious problem, 62% said that fear of crime had no effect on their quality of life compared with 82% who thought it was not a problem
- Respondents who reported no reduction in their quality of life were more likely to report that local crime was not a problem (84%) than a very serious problem (44%) (see table 30)

Table 29: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by fear of crime and worry about victimisation

	Fear of crime				Worry about victimisation			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft of damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	17%	3%	-	-	-	-	2%	-
Moderately reduced quality	32%	19%	7%	-	18%	16%	13%	2%
Reduced quality a little	16%	31%	27%	7%	39%	25%	33%	8%
No effect on quality	22%	47%	66%	92%	37%	54%	51%	90%

Table 30: The effect of fear of crime on quality of life by perceptions of national and local crime problem

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	3%	1%	-	-	-	4%	1%	-
Moderately reduced quality	12%	8%	7%	-	20%	16%	8%	4%
Reduced quality a little	22%	21%	18%	-	24%	23%	24%	11%
No effect on quality	62%	70%	74%	82%	44%	56%	67%	84%

Summary

- › In 2017, 52% of respondents worried about becoming a victim of crime (involving personal injury, property theft and property damage) down from 54% in 2016
- › Levels of fear of crime decreased between 2016 and 2017 and a greater proportion of respondents reported that their fear of crime had no impact on the quality of their lives
- › During 2017, 60% of people reported having some fear of the level of crime in general, while 30% reported that their fear of crime had had some impact on their quality of life
- › As age increased, so did fear about the level of crime in general and worry about becoming a victim of crime; those in older age groups reported that their fear of crime had the greatest impact on their quality of life
- › Respondents in Munster had the highest proportion of respondents reporting that they had a lot or some fears about the level of crime compared with other regions
- › Connaught/Ulster had the highest proportion of respondents reporting that they did not worry about becoming a victim of crime
- › Those in Dublin reported that their fear of crime had the greatest impact on their quality of life
- › Victims of crime had highest levels of fear of crime, worry about becoming a victim of crime and reported that fear of crime had the greatest impact on their quality of life compared to non-victims
- › As would be expected, as respondents' perceptions of the crime problem increased so did their fear of crime, worry about victimisation and reported impact of fear of crime on quality of life. It is important to note that while perceptions may influence fear and worry about crime, fear of crime may also influence perceptions of national and local crime
- › Further sections of this report examine how fear and worry about crime are impacted by levels of satisfaction with the service provided to local communities by the Garda organisation, and trust in, as well as perceptions of, An Garda Síochána

Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána

For one month in each quarter Public Attitudes Survey respondents were asked what crimes they think should be prioritised by An Garda Síochána. Questions relating to policing priorities were asked in January, April, July and October; the total sample size for this section is 2,000 respondents.

Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána

Respondents were asked to put forward what crimes they felt An Garda Síochána should focus on reducing. More than one issue could be selected in the low, medium and high priority categories.

The top priorities for respondents were sexual offences (97%), human trafficking (94%) and assaults (91%). Public order offences, criminal damage and traffic offences were the top medium and low priorities identified by respondents. See table 31.

Table 31: Policing priorities identified by respondents for An Garda Síochána

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Sexual offences	97%	3%	1%
Human trafficking	94%	4%	1%
Assaults	91%	8%	1%
Robberies	90%	9%	1%
Illegal weapons	89%	10%	1%
Drugs offences	86%	13%	2%
Fraud	78%	20%	2%
Burglaries	72%	25%	2%
Traffic offences	70%	26%	4%
Criminal damage	65%	31%	4%
Public order offences	41%	44%	15%

Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

To assess differences across socio-economic groupings and areas, ranks were assigned to priorities. Number one was assigned to the highest percentage priority and 11 to the lowest. Those with equal weighting were given the same rank score. Tables 32 and 33 provide a breakdown of results. As shown in table 32, irrespective of gender, age, social class and nationality the vast majority of respondents believed that An Garda Síochána should prioritise sexual offences, then human trafficking followed by assaults and robberies. Similarly, sexual offences and human trafficking were the top

Table 32: Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Sexual offences	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Human trafficking	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Assaults	3	3	3	3	5	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	5	3	4
Robberies	3	4	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	5	4	6	1	4	3
Illegal weapons	5	4	5	5	3	6	5	5	5	4	5	4	3	5	5
Drugs offences	6	6	6	6	5	5	4	5	6	6	6	5	5	6	6
Fraud	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	9	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Burglaries	8	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	9	8	8
Traffic offences	9	9	9	8	9	9	10	8	9	9	9	8	10	9	10
Criminal damage	10	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	7	10	9
Public order offences	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11

Table 33: Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Sexual offences	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Human trafficking	2	2	1	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4
Assaults	3	3	5	5	3	3	5	2	3	4	4	5
Robberies	4	4	4	2	4	5	2	4	4	5	1	2
Drugs offences	5	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	6	5	6	6
Illegal weapons	6	5	3	3	6	3	4	5	5	3	4	3
Fraud	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	7	7
Burglaries	8	8	9	8	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8
Traffic offences	9	9	8	10	9	8	9	8	8	8	8	8
Criminal damage	10	10	10	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Public order offences	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11

priorities for the majority of respondents, irrespective of area grouping. Notably, respondents in Connaught/Ulster, as well as those living more than 5km from a Garda station ranked robberies as their second most important priority. There was strong consistency in the bottom three priorities across demographic, socio-economic and area groupings: criminal damage, traffic offences, and public order offences.

Does becoming a victim of crime impact on policing priorities?

As can be seen in table 34, respondents who had been victims of crime also identified sexual offences and human trafficking as their top priorities for An Garda Síochána. The bottom three priorities (criminal damage, traffic offences and public order offences) were consistent when examined by victim status.

Table 34: Priorities for An Garda Síochána by victimisation grouping

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Sexual offences	1	1
Human trafficking	2	2
Assaults	3	3
Robberies	4	4
Illegal weapons	5	5
Drugs offences	6	6
Fraud	7	7
Burglaries	8	8
Traffic offences	9	10
Criminal damage	10	9
Public order offences	11	11

Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána by contact with An Garda Síochána

Differences in policing priorities were examined by whether respondents had self-initiated contact, Garda initiated contact, or no contact with members of the organisation in the preceding 12 months. As can be seen in table 35, priorities were largely similar across contact groupings, however those who had initiated contact with Gardaí ranked assaults as a greater priority than respondents who had Garda initiated contact.

Table 35: Policing priorities by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Self-initiated Contact	Medium priority	Low priority
Sexual offences	1	1	1
Human trafficking	2	2	2
Assaults	3	5	3
Robberies	4	3	4
Illegal weapons	4	3	5
Drugs offences	6	6	6
Fraud	7	7	7
Burglaries	8	9	8
Traffic offences	9	7	9
Criminal damage	10	10	10
Public order offences	11	11	11

Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by fear of crime

How fear of crime impacts priorities was also examined. As can be seen in table 36, there was strong consistency in the emphasis on sexual offences. However, respondents who had a lot or some fear of crime prioritised assaults and robberies over human trafficking (compared to those who had no or few fears about crime). The bottom four priorities were shared irrespective of respondents' fear of crime.

Table 36: Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by level of fear of crime

	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears
Sexual offences	1	1	1	1
Human trafficking	6	3	2	2
Assaults	2	4	5	3
Robberies	3	2	3	4
Illegal weapons	3	4	4	6
Drugs offences	3	6	6	4
Fraud	7	7	7	7
Burglaries	9	9	8	8
Traffic offences	8	8	9	9
Criminal damage	10	10	9	10
Public order offences	11	11	11	11

Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by perceptions of crime

The impact of respondents' views of how serious the national and local crime problem on what An Garda Síochána should prioritise was also examined. Table 37 shows that for those who consider national crime a very serious, serious or something of a problem, the key priority was sexual offences, followed by human trafficking. Those who consider national crime as not a problem prioritised robberies and assaults. As shown in table 38, those who considered local crime a very serious problem, something of a problem and not a problem prioritised sexual offences, whereas those who considered it a serious problem identified human trafficking as their highest priority.

Table 37: Priorities by perceptions of national crime

	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Some-thing of a prob-	Not a problem
Sexual offences	1	1	1	3
Human trafficking	2	2	2	4
Assaults	4	3	3	2
Robberies	6	4	5	1
Illegal weapons	2	5	4	5
Drugs offences	4	6	6	7
Fraud	7	7	7	8
Burglaries	9	8	8	6
Traffic offences	8	9	9	10
Criminal damage	10	10	9	9
Public order offences	11	11	11	11

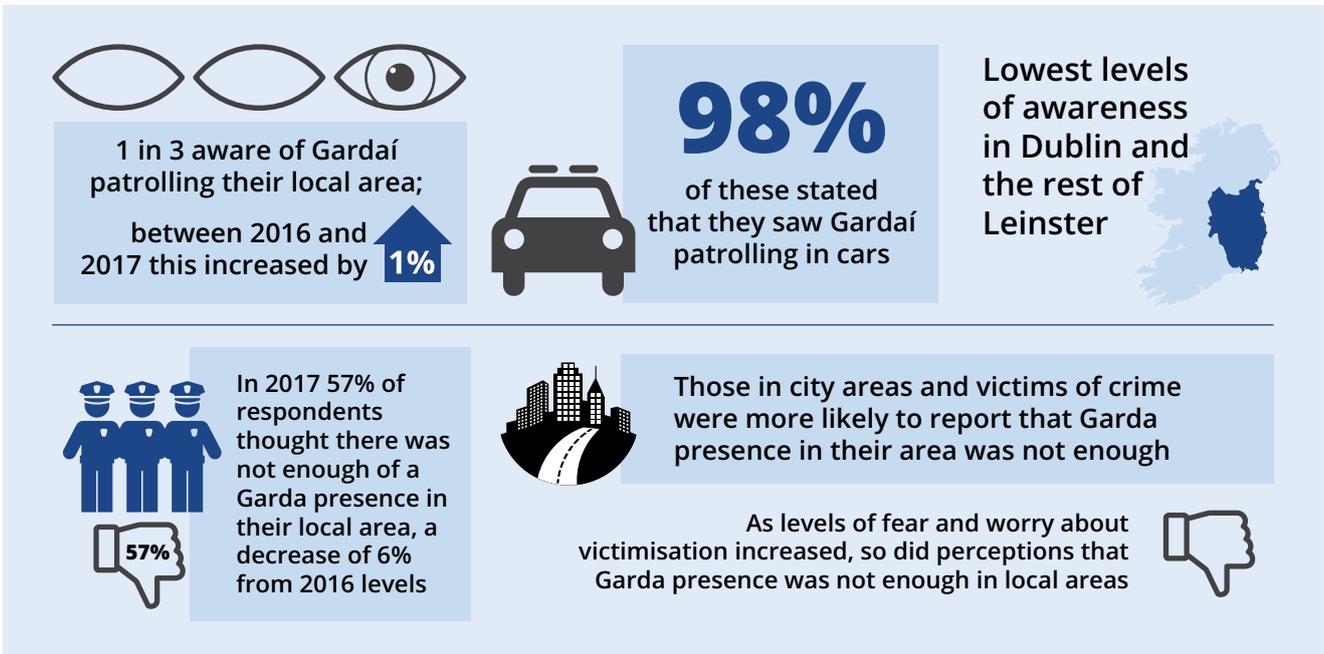
Table 38: Priorities by perceptions of local crime

	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Some-thing of a prob-	Not a problem
Sexual offences	1	2	1	1
Human trafficking	5	1	2	3
Assaults	3	3	3	2
Robberies	2	5	4	4
Illegal weapons	4	6	5	5
Drugs offences	7	4	5	6
Fraud	8	7	7	7
Burglaries	6	7	8	8
Traffic offences	9	9	8	9
Criminal damage	9	10	10	10
Public order offences	11	11	11	11

Summary

- ▶ Respondents felt that An Garda Síochána should prioritise reducing the following crimes: sexual offences, human trafficking and assaults. These remained largely stable across socio-demographic and area groupings
- ▶ Public order offences, traffic offences and criminal damage were considered a lower priority by respondents
- ▶ Respondents with greater levels of fear of crime prioritised the reduction of assaults and robberies over human trafficking
- ▶ Both traffic offences, public order offences and criminal damage have the lowest rating irrespective of the perception of crime levels

Garda Visibility and Perception of Garda Presence



Since 2016 questions exploring awareness of Garda patrols, as well as perceptions of Garda presence locally have been included as part of the Public Attitudes Survey.

During 2017, more than one third (36%) of respondents reported awareness of Garda patrols while 42% of respondents believed Garda presence in their local area was at about the right level.

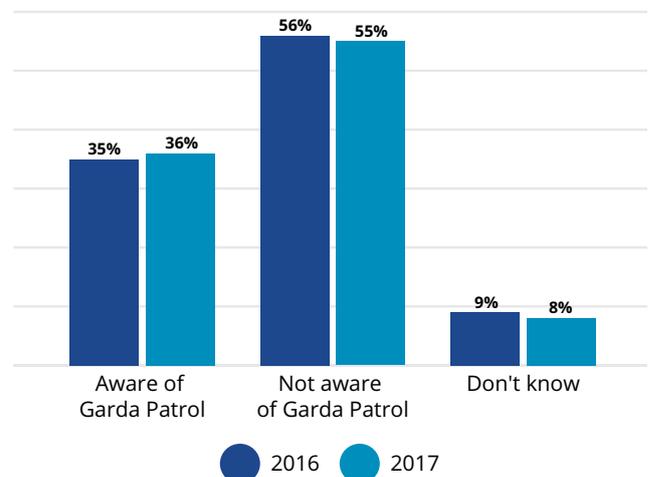
Awareness of Garda patrols

As can be seen in Figure 10, during 2017 36% of respondents were aware of Garda patrols in their local area, an increase of 1% on 2016 levels. This change was not statistically significant. Awareness of Gardaí patrolling in cars was the most common response, with 98% of those aware of Garda patrols reporting this happened regularly (see table 39).

Table 39: Garda patrolling practices

Aware of Garda patrols	36%
By car	98%
On foot	12%
By bicycle	5%
Not aware of Garda patrols	55%
Don't know	8%

Figure 10: Awareness of Garda patrol during 2016 and 2017



Awareness of Garda patrols by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Males (40%) and females (39%) had similar levels of recall of Gardaí patrolling their local area. Those aged 18-24 (47%) reported the highest level of awareness of patrols. As age increases, awareness reduces. Slightly lower levels of awareness were reported by those in the 55-64 (35%) and 65+ (35%) age groups. Awareness of patrols were very

similar across social class groupings. There was no significant difference between Non-Irish nationals and Irish nationals in their level of recall of Garda patrols (see table 40).

As can be seen in table 41, more notable differences were evident across area groupings. Respondents in Munster (44%) and Connaught/Ulster (47%) were more likely to report awareness of Garda patrols, compared to respondents in Dublin (36%) and the rest of Leinster (34%). 'City' (37%) respondents had the lowest level of recall when compared to 'other urban' (40%) and rural (42%) respondents. As would be expected, as respondents reported distance living from a Garda station increased, their reported awareness of Garda patrols decreased. Respondents who had replied don't know to awareness of Garda patrols were removed from this analysis.

Awareness of Garda patrols and perceptions of crime

There was some association between perceptions of the seriousness of the national crime problem and awareness of Garda patrols. Among respondents who reported that national crime was not a problem, 52% were aware of Gardaí

patrolling their local area, compared to 37% who considered national crime a very serious problem. Although perhaps expected, this difference was not as stark when perceptions of local crime and awareness of Gardaí patrolling local areas were examined (see table 42).

Awareness of Garda patrols and fear of crime

There were no notable differences between reported fear of crime in general and whether respondents were aware of Garda patrols in their local area. Those who were aware of Gardaí patrolling had similar levels of reported fear compared to those who were unaware of Garda patrols (see table 43).

Table 43: Awareness of Garda patrols and fear of crime

	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears
Aware of Garda patrol	37%	37%	42%	40%
Not Aware of Garda patrol	63%	63%	58%	60%

Table 40: Awareness of Garda patrol in local area by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Aware of Garda patrol	40%	39%	47%	42%	41%	38%	35%	35%	40%	39%	39%	42%	36%	39%	43%
Not aware of Garda patrol	60%	61%	53%	58%	59%	62%	65%	65%	60%	61%	61%	58%	64%	61%	57%

Table 41: Awareness of Garda patrol in local area by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Aware of Garda patrol	36%	34%	44%	47%	37%	40%	42%	50%	43%	36%	34%	33%
Not aware of Garda patrol	64%	66%	56%	53%	63%	60%	58%	50%	57%	64%	66%	67%

Table 42: Awareness of Garda patrols and perceptions of national and local crime

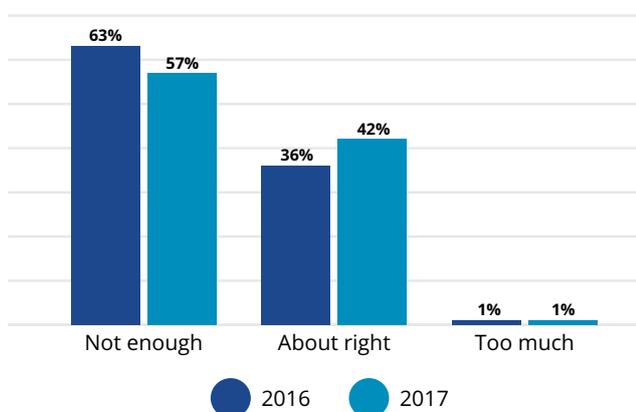
	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Aware of Garda patrol	37%	40%	42%	52%	40%	37%	39%	43%
Not Aware of Garda patrol	63%	60%	58%	48%	60%	63%	61%	57%

Perception of Garda presence in local areas

As part of this survey section, respondents were also asked whether they thought the level of police presence in their area was sufficient. Figure 11 shows that 57% of respondents thought Garda presence locally was not enough, 42% thought that it was about right, while a very small proportion considered Garda presence to be too much (1%).

Between 2016 and 2017 the proportion of respondents reporting Garda presence to be at the right level locally increased by 6%; this change was statistically significant.

Figure 11: Perceptions of Garda presence in local area 2016 and 2017



Reasons given that presence in local areas is 'not enough'

When probed why Garda presence locally was not enough, the most common reasons given by respondents was that they "never or rarely see the police" (66%), and there is "not enough/need more/don't see police on foot" (35%). Over one third replied that there they "only see police in cars" (34%) (see table 44).

Table 44: Reasons that local Garda presence is 'not enough'

Never or rarely see the police	66%
Not enough or need more or don't see police on foot	35%
Only see police in cars	34%
Used to be more police	24%
Only there [police] when there's a crime or trouble	24%
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	20%
See crimes happening, but no police	14%
Slow to respond	13%
Police can't do anything when crimes happen	11%
Rely too much on cameras	10%
Other (Please specify)	3%

Reasons given that presence in local areas is 'about right'

When questioned further, over half of respondents that stated that Garda presence was 'about right' in their local area was because "not much crime or no problem with crime" (56%). Nearly four in ten respondents said they "see them [police] quite often" (38%), while 30% said it was enough because they "see police patrolling in cars" (see table 45). The reasons outlined above were very similar to those provided by respondents in the 2016 survey.

Table 45: Reasons that local Garda presence is 'about right'

Not much crime or no problem with crime	56%
See them quite often	38%
See police patrolling in cars	30%
Police station nearby	19%
Not necessary to see them all the time	18%
Crime rates have reduced or area improving	13%
See police occasionally or don't see them much	11%
See police on foot	4%
Seeing too many is overwhelming	4%
Cameras everywhere	2%

Perception of Garda presence in local areas by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Females were more likely to report that Garda presence was not enough in their local area compared to male respondents. As respondents age increased, so too did perceptions that Garda presence was not enough in local areas. Non-Irish nationals were more likely to report that Garda presence in their local area was at about the right level (56% vs. 40%), while there were no notable differences across social class groupings (see table 46).

Respondents in Dublin were more likely to consider that Garda presence locally was not enough compared to other regions. Those in 'city' areas were less likely to report that Garda presence locally was at the right level compared to those in 'other urban' and rural areas. There were no notable differences when distance from local Garda station was examined (see table 47).

Table 46: Perception of Garda presence in local areas by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Not enough	54%	60%	42%	52%	58%	63%	63%	64%	59%	58%	56%	56%	55%	59%	44%
About right	45%	40%	56%	47%	42%	37%	37%	36%	40%	41%	44%	43%	45%	40%	56%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 47: Perception of Garda presence in local areas by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Not enough	71%	47%	57%	50%	69%	50%	50%	58%	59%	57%	47%	64%
About right	28%	52%	43%	50%	31%	49%	49%	42%	41%	43%	52%	35%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The impact of contact with An Garda Síochána on perceptions of Garda presence

A greater proportion of respondents whom Gardaí had initiated contact with reported that Garda presence was at about the right level, compared to those in other contact groupings (see table 48).

Table 48: Impact on perception of Garda presence by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
Not enough	56%	48%	59%
About right	44%	51%	41%
Too much	-	-	-

Perceptions of Garda presence by experience of victimisation

As shown in table 49, compared to respondents who had not experienced recent victimisation, victims of crime were more

likely to report that Garda presence in their local area was not enough (56% versus 70%).

Table 49: Perceptions of Garda presence by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Not enough	56%	70%
About right	43%	30%
Too much	1%	-

Do perceptions of Garda presence in local areas impact on respondents' fear of crime and worry about victimisation?

Respondents who had very few or no fears at all about the level of crime were more likely to report that Garda presence was at about the right level compared to those with higher levels of fear. Similarly, those who did not worry about becoming a victim of crime were more likely to report that Garda presence was at about the right level locally compared to those with a higher worry about victimisation (see table 50).

Table 50: Perceptions of Garda presence by levels of fear of crime and worry about victimisation

	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft of damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
About right	17%	31%	48%	49%	29%	33%	30%	55%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 51: Perception of Garda presence in local areas by perceptions of national and local crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Not enough	66%	59%	47%	23%	75%	74%	60%	39%
About right	34%	41%	52%	72%	25%	26%	39%	60%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Do perceptions of Garda presence in local areas impact on perceptions of crime?

Perceptions of Garda presence in local areas, by perceptions of national and local crime are shown in table 51.

Respondents who reported that national crime was something of a problem or not a problem were more likely to report that the level of Garda presence locally was about right, whereas those who considered national crime a very serious or serious problem were more likely to report that Garda presence was not enough. Similar trends were evident when perceptions of local crime were examined.

Summary

- › 36% of Public Attitudes Survey respondents reported awareness of Gardaí patrolling their local area; 98% of these stated that they saw Gardaí patrolling in cars
- › In 2017 the proportion of respondents reporting Garda presence to be at the right level stood at 42%, up 6% on the previous year
- › Respondents in Dublin, as well as the rest of Leinster were less likely to report awareness of Garda patrols
- › 57% of respondents thought there was not enough Garda presence in their local area; this response was more likely in 'city' compared to 'other urban' and rural areas
- › As levels of fear and worry about victimisation increased, so did perceptions that Garda presence was not enough in local areas
- › As perceptions of the seriousness of the national and local crime problem decreased, the proportion of respondents stating that Garda presence was about right increased

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

Between 2016 and 2017 satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána increased by



Victims of crime were less likely to report being satisfied with the service provided by the Garda organisation



Connaught/ Ulster

Respondents in Connaught/ Ulster were more likely to report that they were very satisfied with the service provided to them by An Garda Síochána



Over three quarters of people were satisfied with the service provided to their local community by An Garda Síochána



As fear about crime in general and worry about potential victimisation increase, we see decreases in satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána



Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána during 2017

Over three quarters of respondents were satisfied with the service provided to the local community by An Garda Síochána (76%) in 2017.

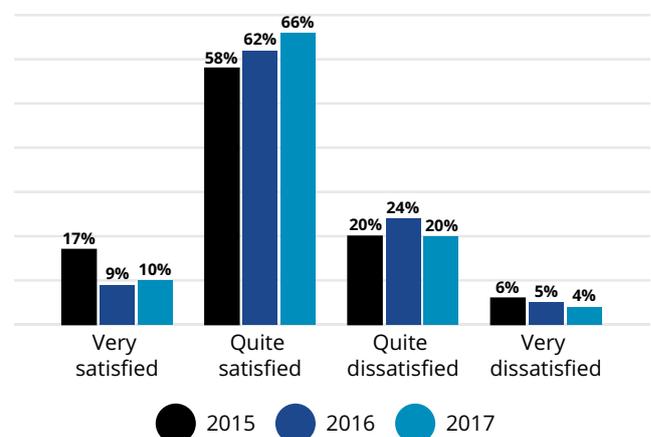
The Public Attitudes Survey ascertains how satisfied respondents are with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána. These questions are asked irrespective of whether respondents have had contact with Gardaí.

Changes in levels of satisfaction with An Garda Síochána between 2015, 2016 and 2017

There have been variations in reported satisfaction with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána. In 2015 75% of respondents reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied. This dropped to 71% in 2016 only to increase to 76% in 2017. Within this, there have also been shifts - between 2015 and 2016 less respondents reported being very satisfied and more reported being quite satisfied with

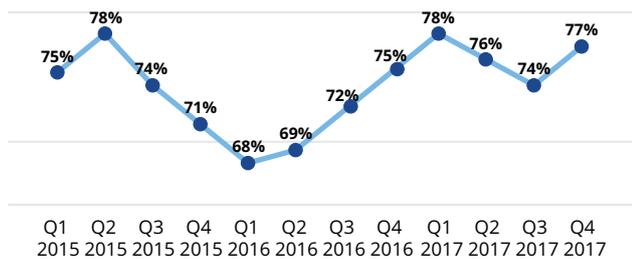
the service provided by An Garda Síochána (see figure 12). Between 2016 and 2017 less respondents reported being both quite dissatisfied and very dissatisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána locally; these changes were statistically significant.

Figure 12: Changes in satisfaction with An Garda Síochána between 2015, 2016 and 2017



As can be seen in figure 13 below, between Q2 2015 and Q1 2016 satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána declined quarter on quarter. From Q2 2016 to Q1 2017 respondents' views of An Garda Síochána were much more favourable, before declining again in Q2 2017 and Q3 2017. Over recent survey sweeps, satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána has varied between 74% and 78%.

Figure 13: Changes in satisfaction with An Garda Síochána between Q1 2015 to Q4 2017



Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic groupings

Exploring satisfaction levels with An Garda Síochána by respondents' demographic and socio-economic attributes showed no notable differences by gender. Males and females

had similar levels of satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána. Those in younger age groups were more satisfied when compared to those in older age groups. There were no differences across social class groupings. The only other notable difference was evident across nationality; non-Irish respondents were more likely to report being satisfied with the service provided to them by An Garda Síochána (see table 52).

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by area groupings

Whilst the majority of respondents were satisfied with the service provided to them by the Garda organisation, there were some variations when areas were compared.

Respondents in Connaught/Ulster and Munster were more satisfied with the service provided to them by An Garda Síochána compared to those in other regions, whereas respondents in Dublin were more dissatisfied. A greater proportion of respondents in 'city' areas (27%) were dissatisfied (quite or very dissatisfied) with the service provided to them by An Garda Síochána compared to 'other urban' (22%) and rural areas (21%). Distance from local Garda station had little impact on reported satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána (see table 53).

Table 52: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Very satisfied	10%	10%	11%	10%	9%	8%	10%	12%	10%	11%	8%	10%	10%	9%	14%
Quite satisfied	67%	66%	71%	68%	66%	66%	65%	64%	67%	64%	68%	67%	69%	66%	72%
Quite dissatisfied	19%	20%	15%	18%	20%	23%	22%	20%	20%	21%	20%	19%	17%	21%	12%
Very dissatisfied	4%	3%	-	3%	4%	4%	-	5%	-	4%	4%	4%	-	4%	-

Table 53: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Very satisfied	9%	8%	10%	13%	9%	11%	10%	17%	10%	8%	7%	7%
Quite satisfied	63%	66%	70%	67%	64%	67%	69%	60%	68%	67%	71%	64%
Quite dissatisfied	23%	21%	16%	18%	22%	18%	18%	18%	18%	22%	18%	25%
Very dissatisfied	4%	5%	4%	-	5%	4%	3%	6%	4%	3%	4%	5%

Does contact with An Garda Síochána impact on satisfaction with the level of service provided by An Garda Síochána?

The impact of having contact with An Garda Síochána on levels of satisfaction with the service provided was also examined. As shown in table 54, overall, those who had contact with An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months had similar levels of satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána. Those who had no contact had the highest level of satisfaction with An Garda Síochána.

Table 54: Impact on satisfaction with the level of service provided by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Very satisfied	12%	14%	8%
Quite satisfied	61%	63%	69%
Quite dissatisfied	21%	18%	19%
Very dissatisfied	5%	5%	3%

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána and experience of victimisation

As shown in table 55, victims of crime were less likely to report being satisfied with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána, when compared to respondents who had not experienced victimisation in the previous 12 months (60% vs. 78%).

Table 55: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by crime victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Very satisfied	10%	10%
Quite satisfied	68%	50%
Quite dissatisfied	19%	26%
Very dissatisfied	3%	14%

Do perceptions of crime impact on satisfaction levels?

Table 56 examines whether satisfaction with services provided to the local community by An Garda Síochána are impacted by perceptions of national and local crime. It is clear that respondents who considered national and local crime a serious problem were more likely to be dissatisfied with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána. For example, of those who viewed national crime as a very serious problem, 69% were satisfied with the service provided, compared to an 88% satisfaction rate among those who viewed national crime as not a problem.

This difference was even more pronounced when perceptions of local crime were examined. Among those who viewed local crime as a very serious problem, 50% were dissatisfied with the service provided to their local community by An Garda Síochána, compared to 14% who did not consider local crime a problem.

Satisfaction and fear of crime and worry about victimisation

Respondents' fear of crime and worry about victimisation were also associated with levels of satisfaction with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána. Respondents who reported having no fears about the level of crime in general reported higher levels of satisfaction with An Garda Síochána compared to those who reported having a lot, or some fears about the level of crime.

Similarly, those who did not worry about potential victimisation were more likely to report satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána to local communities (see table 57).

Table 56: Satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána by perceptions of local and national crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Satisfied	69%	78%	79%	88%	50%	65%	76%	86%
Dissatisfied	31%	22%	21%	12%	50%	35%	24%	14%

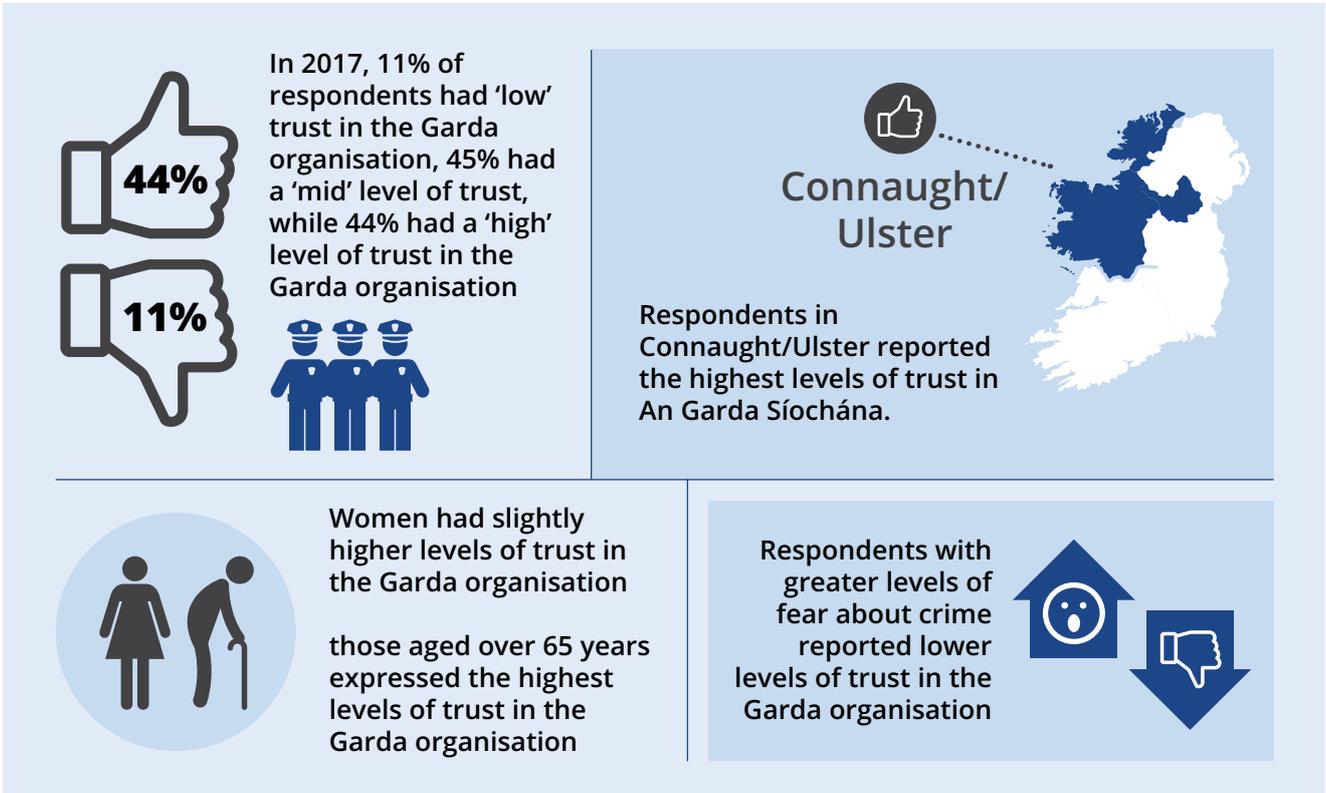
Table 57: Satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána by levels of fear of crime and worry about victimisation

	Fear of crime				Worry about victimisation			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft of damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
Satisfied	51%	69%	79%	82%	77%	72%	71%	81%
Dissatisfied	49%	31%	21%	18%	23%	28%	29%	19%

Summary

- › 76% of respondents were satisfied with the service provided to them locally by the Garda organisation during 2017
- › Between 2016 and 2017 satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána increased by 5%
 - › Non-Irish nationals were more likely to report satisfaction with the service locally
 - › Respondents in Munster and Connaught/Ulster were more satisfied with the service provided to them by An Garda Síochána compared to those in other regions
 - › Victims of crime were less likely to report being satisfied with the service provided by the Garda organisation
- › Dissatisfaction with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána was associated with perceptions of the seriousness of the national and local crime problem, as well as fear about crime in general and worry about potential victimisation

Trust in An Garda Síochána



Since 2015 trust in An Garda Síochána among the Irish public has remained at a high level; 89% of respondents expressed mid to high levels of trust in the organisation during 2017.

The importance of public trust in the Garda organisation should not be underestimated. The trust that respondents have in An Garda Síochána is critical to the successful operation of the organisation. Public Attitudes Survey respondents are asked to assign a rating between 1 and 10 to quantify their level of trust in An Garda Síochána. The highest trust level was assigned number 10 while the lowest trust level was 1. These were then recoded to 'low trust' (ratings 1, 2, 3 and 4), 'mid trust' (ratings 5, 6 and 7) and finally 'high trust' (ratings 8, 9 and 10).

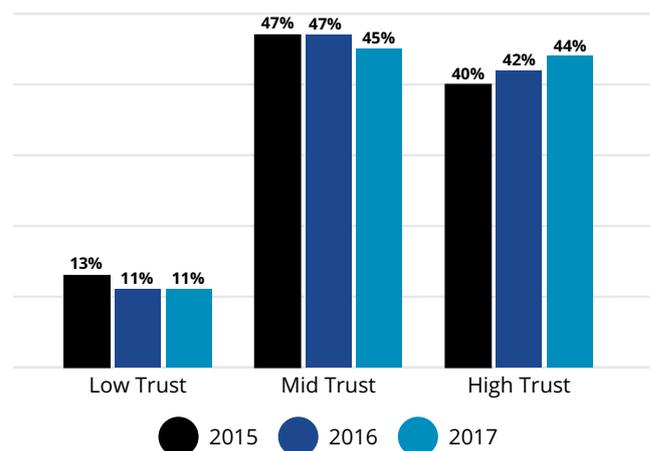
Trust in An Garda Síochána during 2017

During 2017, 11% of respondents had 'low' trust in An Garda Síochána, 45% reported a mid-level of trust, while 44% had 'high' levels of trust in the Garda organisation.

Changes in levels of trust between 2015, 2016 and 2017

As can be seen in figure 14, between 2015 and 2016 there was a decrease in levels of 'low' trust in An Garda Síochána, however levels of 'mid' and 'high' trust remained stable. Between 2016 and 2017 there were no significant changes in the levels of trust in An Garda Síochána expressed by respondents.

Figure 14: Changes in trust in An Garda Síochána between 2015, 2016 and 2017



Trust in An Garda Síochána by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

There were some variations in trust levels when demographic, socio-economic and area groupings were examined see (table 58 and 59):

Gender: Females were more likely to report 'high' levels of trust in the Garda organisation compared to male respondents (46% vs. 41%).

Age: Respondents aged 65+ reported the highest level of trust in the Garda organisation.

Social Class: Respondents in social class F were more likely to express 'high' trust in the Garda organisation.

Nationality: Non-Irish nationals were more likely to express 'high' trust in the Garda organisation.

Region: Respondents in Dublin reported the lowest levels of 'high' trust, whereas those in Connaught/Ulster expressed the highest levels of 'high' trust in An Garda Síochána.

Urban/Rural: Respondents living in 'city' areas were less likely to report 'high' levels of trust in the organisation, whereas those in rural areas were more likely to report 'high' levels of trust in An Garda Síochána (37% vs. 50%).

Distance from local Garda station: There were no notable trends in the distribution of trust in An Garda Síochána by respondents' distance to their nearest Garda station.

Table 58: Trust in An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Low Trust	12%	10%	12%	12%	10%	12%	10%	8%	9%	11%	11%	12%	8%	11%	8%
Mid Trust	47%	44%	49%	46%	50%	46%	43%	36%	50%	48%	47%	42%	38%	46%	42%
High Trust	41%	46%	39%	41%	39%	43%	46%	56%	41%	41%	42%	46%	54%	43%	50%

Table 59: Trust in An Garda Síochána by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Low Trust	13%	12%	10%	7%	12%	11%	10%	10%	11%	12%	10%	9%
Mid Trust	51%	45%	45%	38%	51%	44%	41%	40%	45%	46%	47%	42%
High Trust	36%	44%	45%	55%	37%	45%	50%	50%	44%	42%	42%	49%

Does contact with the Garda organisation impact on trust in An Garda Síochána?

Levels of trust in An Garda Síochána were not largely impacted by contact with the Garda organisation in the preceding 12 months. As shown in table 60, slightly lower levels of 'mid' to 'high' trust were evident among respondents where Gardaí had initiated contact.

Table 60: Trust in the Garda organisation by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Low Trust	11%	13%	11%
Mid Trust	42%	43%	45%
High Trust	47%	44%	44%

Does becoming a victim of crime impact on respondents' trust in An Garda Síochána?

Respondents who had been victims of crime in the preceding year were more likely to report having 'low' trust in An Garda Síochána compared to non-victims (22% vs. 10%). Crime victims reported lower rates of trust compared to non-victims (32% of victims of crime expressing levels of high trust versus 45% of non-crime victims). Levels of 'mid' trust were largely comparable. See table 61.

Table 61: Levels of trust in An Garda Síochána by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Low Trust	10%	22%
Mid Trust	45%	46%
High Trust	45%	32%

Trust in An Garda Síochána by fear of crime and worry about victimisation

Table 62 examines levels of trust in An Garda Síochána by respondents' fears of crime, as well as their worry about victimisation. Those with a greater fear of crime reported lower levels of trust in the Garda organisation. The association between worry about the likelihood of victimisation and trust in An Garda Síochána was not as evident.

Table 62: Trust in An Garda Síochána by fear of crime and worry about victimisation

	Fear of crime				Worry about victimisation			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft of damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
Low Trust	22%	12%	9%	11%	10%	10%	12%	10%
Mid Trust	40%	46%	45%	45%	40%	46%	47%	45%
High Trust	38%	42%	46%	44%	51%	44%	42%	45%

Table 64: Trust in An Garda Síochána by perceptions of national and local crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Low Trust	16%	9%	10%	9%	27%	16%	9%	9%
Mid Trust	41%	47%	49%	25%	43%	48%	50%	37%
High Trust	43%	44%	41%	66%	30%	36%	41%	54%

Trust in An Garda Síochána and Garda visibility

As shown in table 63, respondents who were aware of Garda patrols were more likely to report 'high' levels of trust in the organisation, whereas those who were unaware of Garda patrols were more likely to report 'low' levels of trust in An Garda Síochána.

Table 63: Trust in An Garda Síochána by awareness of Garda patrols

	Aware of Garda patrol	Not Aware of Garda patrol
Low Trust	7%	13%
Mid Trust	39%	50%
High Trust	52%	35%

Trust in An Garda Síochána by perceptions of national and local crime

In previous sections we saw there were associations between perceptions of national and local crime and respondents' fear and worry about victimisation as well as their levels of satisfaction with An Garda Síochána. Table 64 examines this in relation to trust.

Respondents who considered national crime a very serious problem were more likely to report having 'low' levels of trust in An Garda Síochána. As would be expected, those who

reported that national crime was not a problem were more likely to report having 'high' trust in the Garda organisation.

Similarly, those who viewed local crime as a very serious problem had greater levels of 'low' trust in An Garda Síochána compared to who viewed local crime as not a problem (27% vs. 9%).

Trust in An Garda Síochána and level of satisfaction with the service provided to the local community

Table 65 examines trust and satisfaction with the service provided locally by An Garda Síochána. There was a clear association between levels of satisfaction in the service provided by Gardaí and levels of trust in the organisation. 79% of respondents who reported being very satisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána had a 'high' level of trust in the organisation, whereas over half of those who were dissatisfied with the service provided reported having a 'low' level of trust.

Table 65: Trust in An Garda Síochána by satisfaction with service provided locally

	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Low Trust	-	6%	24%	52%
Mid Trust	18%	46%	54%	37%
High Trust	79%	48%	22%	-

Summary

- › Respondents' level of trust in An Garda Síochána has remained relatively stable since 2015
- › In 2017, 89% of respondents had a 'mid' to 'high' level of trust in the Garda organisation
- › When variances by demographics were explored, women had slightly higher levels of trust in An Garda Síochána and those aged over 65 years expressed the highest levels of trust in the Garda organisation
- › Respondents in Dublin had the lowest levels of 'mid' to 'high' trust, whereas respondents in Connaught/ Ulster reported the highest levels of trust in An Garda Síochána
- › Compared to non-victims, those who were victims of crime in the preceding 12 months had slightly lower levels of 'high' trust in the organisation
- › Trust was associated with some of the other factors included in the Public Attitudes Survey:
 - › Respondents with greater levels of fear about crime reported lower levels of trust in the Garda organisation
 - › Those who reported awareness of Garda patrols had higher levels of trust in the organisation
 - › As satisfaction with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána increased so too did the levels of trust reported by respondents

Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána



92%
of public attitude respondents agreed that members of An Garda Síochána would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason



82%
agreed that Gardaí locally treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are; (68% when don't know responses are included)



There was an association between satisfaction with An Garda Síochána and perceptions of equality of treatment by member of the Garda organisation

In 2017, two new questions were added to the Public Attitudes Survey. These questions asked respondents: *would members of An Garda Síochána treat individuals with respect and whether police treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are.*

In 2017, 92% of respondents agreed that members of An Garda Síochána would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason, while 82% agreed that Gardaí locally treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (68% when don't know responses are included).

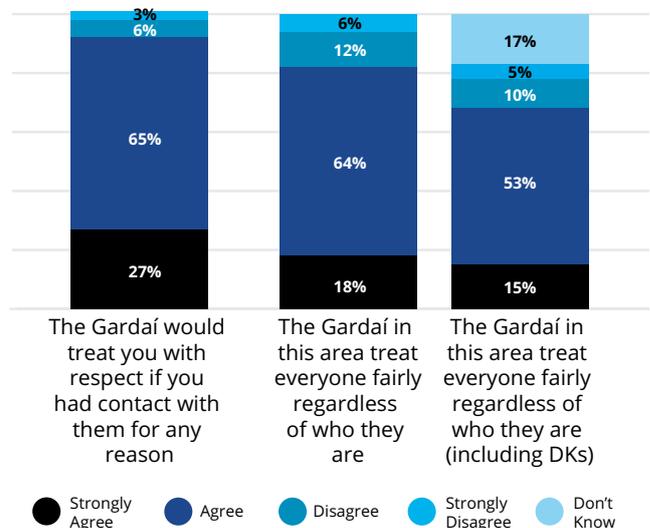
Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána

The majority of survey respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason; 27% strongly agreed, 65% agreed, while 6% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed. Similarly, when asked whether Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are 18% strongly agreed, 64% agreed, 12% disagreed while 6% strongly disagreed. When don't know responses (17%) are included these proportions fall to 15%, 53%, 10% and 5% respectively. See figure 15.

Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Tables 66 to 69 provide a breakdown of results relating to the two new equality of treatment questions by demographic characteristics.

Figure 15: Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána during 2017



The Gardaí treat people with respect

Male and female respondents did not differ when asked whether local Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. Those in older age groups tended to be more positive about this statement. There were no notable differences when nationality was examined.

Respondents in the rest of Leinster were more likely to disagree that local Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. There were no notable differences when area or distance to local Garda station were examined.

The Gardai treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are

Similarly, males and females did not differ in their perception of whether Gardai treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are. Those aged 65 and above were more likely to agree with this statement, while a greater proportion of those in younger age groups disagreed with this statement. A greater proportion of Non-Irish nationals also agreed with this statement.

Respondents in the rest of Leinster were more likely to disagree that Gardai treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are. Those in 'other urban' areas were also more likely to disagree, while distance from local Garda station had little impact on agreement.

Table 66: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic characteristics

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Strongly Agree	27%	27%	23%	26%	27%	25%	30%	29%	29%	28%	26%	24%	33%	27%	28%
Agree	65%	65%	68%	64%	64%	66%	63%	66%	65%	64%	64%	67%	62%	65%	66%
Disagree	6%	5%	6%	7%	6%	6%	5%	3%	5%	5%	7%	6%	-	6%	5%
Strongly Disagree	3%	3%	-	3%	3%	-	-	-	-	3%	3%	3%	-	3%	-

Table 67: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic characteristics

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Strongly Agree	18%	18%	19%	17%	18%	15%	19%	21%	17%	18%	17%	17%	23%	18%	19%
Agree	65%	63%	60%	62%	64%	66%	65%	68%	63%	65%	63%	64%	64%	63%	69%
Disagree	12%	12%	13%	14%	12%	12%	12%	8%	16%	11%	13%	12%	9%	13%	8%
Strongly Disagree	6%	7%	9%	8%	6%	6%	5%	-	-	6%	7%	6%	-	6%	5%

Table 68: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Strongly Agree	14%	34%	26%	37%	18%	32%	31%	31%	27%	24%	28%	28%
Agree	78%	54%	68%	57%	74%	58%	61%	65%	66%	65%	60%	67%
Disagree	7%	6%	5%	4%	7%	6%	4%	3%	6%	6%	6%	3%
Strongly Disagree	-	6%	-	-	-	4%	3%	-	1%	4%	6%	-

Table 69: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Strongly Agree	9%	21%	20%	24%	13%	19%	22%	19%	17%	17%	20%	21%
Agree	74%	55%	68%	57%	70%	61%	60%	64%	66%	64%	59%	62%
Disagree	14%	13%	9%	13%	13%	12%	11%	11%	12%	12%	11%	12%
Strongly Disagree	3%	11%	4%	5%	3%	8%	7%	6%	5%	7%	10%	-

Equality of treatment by contact with An Garda Síochána

As can be seen in table 70, respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána were more likely to agree that An Garda Síochána would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason (93%). There was no difference between respondents who had either self or Garda initiated contact with the organisation (90% vs. 89%).

When asked whether members of An Garda Síochána treat everyone equally regardless of who they are, levels of agreement were higher among those who had no contact with An Garda Síochána (85%) compared to those who had initiated contact (76%) or where Gardaí has initiated contact (73%) (see table 71).

Table 70: Respectful treatment by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Strongly Agree	34%	29%	23%
Agree	56%	60%	70%
Disagree	5%	7%	5%
Strongly Disagree	5%	-	1%

Table 71: Treatment of everyone fairly by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Strongly Agree	19%	17%	17%
Agree	57%	56%	68%
Disagree	13%	17%	11%
Strongly Disagree	10%	10%	4%

Table 74: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by perceptions of crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Agree	90%	93%	91%	92%	74%	90%	92%	94%
Disagree	10%	7%	9%	8%	26%	10%	8%	6%

Equality of treatment and experience of victimisation

When victim status was examined, respondents who had been victims of crime in the previous 12 months were less likely to agree that An Garda Síochána would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason, compared to non-victims (85% vs. 92%). Similarly, those who had experienced recent victimisation were less likely to agree that members of An Garda Síochána treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are compared to non-victims (64% vs. 83%). See tables 72 and 73 below.

Table 72: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Strongly Agree	27%	23%
Agree	65%	62%
Disagree	5%	9%
Strongly Disagree	2%	6%

Table 73: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Strongly Agree	18%	10%
Agree	65%	54%
Disagree	11%	21%
Strongly Disagree	6%	14%

Do perceptions of national and local crime impact on perceptions of equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána?

As outlined in table 74, perceptions of the seriousness of the national crime problem had little impact on agreement that members of An Garda Síochána would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason. In contrast, those who perceived local crime as a very serious problem were

Table 75: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by perceptions of crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Agree	76%	84%	81%	93%	58%	74%	84%	86%
Disagree	24%	16%	19%	7%	42%	26%	16%	14%

more likely to disagree with this statement compared to those who saw it as a serious problem, something of a problem or not a problem.

When asked whether members of An Garda Síochána treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are - those who considered national and local crime a very serious problem were more likely to disagree with this statement (see table 75). Respondents who consider crime a very serious problem appear to hold more negative views on how fairly Gardaí treat the public.

Does satisfaction with the service provided to local communities impact on perception of equality of treatment?

The association between satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána and its impact on perceptions of equality of treatment was also examined. As expected, those who were very or quiet satisfied with the service provided by the Garda organisation locally were more likely to agree that members of An Garda Síochána would be fair in their treatment of both themselves and others. See table 76.

Summary

Two new questions examining perceptions of fairness regarding treatment by members of An Garda Síochána were added to the survey in 2017.

- ▶ 92% of respondents agreed that members of An Garda Síochána would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason
- ▶ 82% agreed that Gardaí locally treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are; 68% when don't know responses are included
- ▶ There were no stark differences when demographic and area groupings were examined
- ▶ Those who had experienced recent victimisation were less likely to agree that An Garda Síochána would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason or would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, compared to non-victims
- ▶ Respondents who considered national and local crime a serious problem were more likely to disagree that members of An Garda Síochána treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are

Table 76: Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána by satisfaction with service provided locally

	Very satisfied	Quite satisfied	Quite dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Agree that AGS treats everyone respectfully	97%	96%	79%	62%
Disagree that AGS treats everyone respectfully	3%	4%	21%	38%
Agree that AGS treats everyone fairly regardless of who they are	92%	89%	60%	34%
Disagree that AGS treats everyone fairly regardless of who they are	8%	11%	40%	66%

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána



The Public Attitudes Survey explores respondents' views of An Garda Síochána. It asks whether respondents agree with six key statements. Three of these statements relate to interactions between the organisation and the public (i.e. whether it is friendly and helpful, community-focused and effective in tackling crime). The remaining three statements ask about how modern and progressive An Garda Síochána is, whether it provides a world class service, and whether the organisation is well managed.

Note: Don't know responses have been removed from the majority of analysis completed for the 2017 Annual Report, therefore figures will differ slightly from 2015 and 2016 reports. Due to the large number of don't know responses received for 4 of the 6 statements concerning the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána, figure 16 provides details of analysis both including (chart 1) and excluding (chart 2) don't know responses. Don't know responses accounted for less than 10% of views when respondents were asked whether AGS was community focused or friendly or helpful.

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána during 2017

During 2017 the majority of participants agreed that An Garda Síochána was community focused (70%), modern or progressive (66%) and friendly or helpful (91%). Over two fifths of participants agreed that the organisation

was effective in tackling crime (62%), while 42% of participants agreed that the organisation provided a world class police service. When asked whether the organisation is well managed 46% agreed. When don't know responses are included these figures change to 64%, 58%, 86%, 55%, 35% and 38%, respectively.

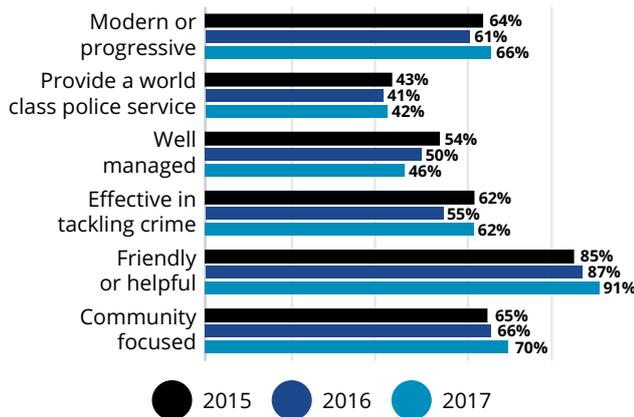
Changes in perceptions of An Garda Síochána between 2015, 2016 and 2017

Overall, respondents' views of An Garda Síochána in 2017 tended to be more positive when compared to 2016 and 2015. Figure 16 compares perceptions of An Garda Síochána in 2015, 2016 and 2017. It presents the proportions of respondents who claimed they 'strongly agree' or 'agree' with six statements concerning An Garda Síochána.

Between 2015 and 2016 more respondents agreed that AGS was friendly or helpful, while significantly less respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána was well managed and effective in tackling crime.

Between 2016 and 2017 less respondents disagreed that An Garda Síochána was community focused or friendly or helpful, however a greater proportion of respondents agreed that the Garda organisation was modern or progressive and effective in tackling crime. Finally, significantly less agreed that it was well managed.

Figure 16: Levels of agreement between 2015, 2016 and 2017 (chart 1)



Levels of agreement between 2015, 2016 and 2017 including don't know responses (chart 2)

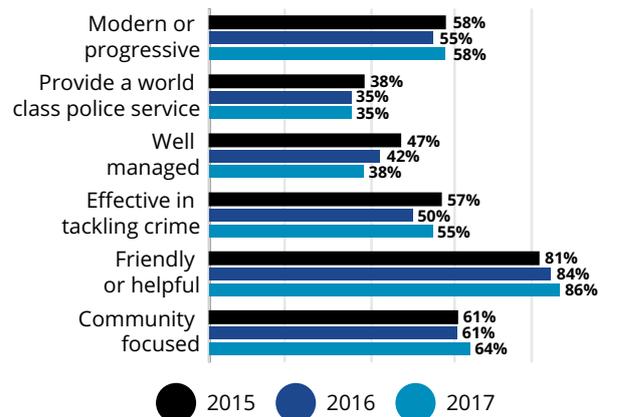


Table 77: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by demographic and socio-economic groupings

	Gender		Age						Social Class					Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Irish	Non-Irish
Community focused	69%	71%	72%	69%	71%	69%	70%	70%	69%	70%	68%	69%	81%	69%	78%
Modern or progressive	64%	68%	69%	65%	63%	61%	65%	72%	56%	63%	66%	69%	75%	65%	69%
Friendly or helpful	90%	91%	88%	89%	90%	90%	92%	94%	93%	91%	88%	89%	95%	90%	92%
Provide a world class police service	40%	44%	46%	42%	38%	38%	41%	51%	36%	41%	40%	46%	49%	41%	51%
Well managed	44%	48%	52%	47%	43%	42%	41%	52%	38%	44%	44%	51%	50%	43%	62%
Effective in tackling crime	62%	62%	62%	62%	59%	60%	60%	69%	56%	61%	60%	64%	72%	61%	68%

Table 78: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by area groupings

	Region				Urban/Rural			Distance to Garda Station				
	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	<1 km	1-3 kms	3-5 kms	5-10 kms	10+kms
Community focused	57%	72%	78%	74%	59%	73%	78%	74%	67%	72%	76%	70%
Modern or progressive	54%	71%	69%	69%	55%	69%	73%	66%	62%	69%	73%	69%
Friendly or helpful	86%	92%	92%	94%	87%	91%	94%	91%	90%	90%	92%	94%
Provide a world class police service	38%	40%	43%	52%	39%	42%	46%	42%	42%	45%	40%	44%
Well managed	38%	50%	51%	44%	40%	46%	51%	45%	44%	47%	50%	42%
Effective in tackling crime	49%	63%	71%	67%	53%	64%	69%	65%	61%	60%	67%	66%

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána by demographic and socio-economic groupings

Differences across demographic and socio economic characteristics were also examined. There were no significant variations in agreement with the six statements between males and females. Respondents aged 65 or over were more likely to agree that the organisation was modern or progressive, provide a world class police service, was well managed, and effective in tackling crime. As displayed in

table 77, respondents in social class F tended to have more positive perceptions of the Garda organisation, while those in social class AB tended to view the organisation more negatively. Non-Irish nationals were more likely to agree will all statements about the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána, except that the organisation is modern or progressive or friendly or helpful.

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by area groupings

There was some variation in respondents' level of agreement with the six statements across area groupings. Table 78 shows

that respondents from Dublin were less likely to agree that the Garda organisation is community focused, modern or progressive, friendly or helpful, well managed, or effective in tackling crime. Respondents from Munster were more likely to agree that the organisation was community focused, well managed and effective in tackling crime. Those in Connaught/ Ulster were more likely to agree that the organisation provides a world class police service, while respondents in the rest of Leinster were more likely to agree that AGS was community focused and well managed.

Respondents from rural areas tended to have more positive perceptions in comparison to 'city' and 'other urban' areas. There were no clearly identifiable trends between perceptions of An Garda Síochána and distance from a Garda station.

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by contact with An Garda Síochána

As can be seen in table 79, a greater proportion of respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána agreed that the organisation was well managed and provides a world class police service, compared to those who had contact with members. A greater proportion of those who had either initiated contact with Gardaí themselves or Gardaí had initiated contact considered An Garda Síochána community focused compared to those who did not have any contact with the organisation.

Table 79: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by contact with An Garda Síochána

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Community focused	71%	73%	69%
Modern or progressive	62%	66%	67%
Friendly or helpful	91%	91%	91%
Provide a world class police service	36%	37%	45%
Well managed	41%	40%	48%
Effective in tackling crime	59%	64%	63%

Table 81: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by national and local perceptions of crime

	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Community focused	67%	71%	70%	85%	54%	63%	69%	79%
Modern or progressive	65%	65%	65%	78%	54%	60%	64%	73%
Friendly or helpful	89%	92%	90%	91%	77%	89%	90%	93%
Provide a world class police service	36%	40%	49%	69%	27%	31%	41%	54%
Well managed	43%	45%	48%	70%	40%	36%	43%	57%
Effective in tackling crime	58%	62%	64%	78%	42%	47%	61%	75%

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by victimisation

The impact of recent victimisation was also examined in relation to respondents' views of An Garda Síochána. Table 80 shows that respondents who were victims of crime were less likely to agree with all six statements about the capability and effectiveness of the Garda organisation compared to those who had not experienced victimisation in the preceding 12 months.

Table 80: Agreement levels by experience of victimisation

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Community focused	71%	57%
Modern or progressive	67%	50%
Friendly or helpful	91%	83%
Provide a world class police service	43%	31%
Well managed	47%	33%
Effective in tackling crime	63%	44%

Do respondents' views of the seriousness of the crime problem effect how they perceive An Garda Síochána?

Table 81 examines whether respondent's perceptions of An Garda Síochána varies according to their views of the seriousness of the national and local crime problem.

Respondents who believed that national and local crime was not a problem were more likely to agree with the six statements describing the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána. For example, 85% of respondents who thought crime nationally was not a problem considered the Garda organisation community focused compared to 67% who through crime nationally was a very serious problem. Similarly, 42% of respondents who considered local crime a very serious problem considered the Garda organisation effective in tackling crime compared to 75% of respondents who believed local crime was not a problem.

Is fear of crime and worry of victimisation related to perceptions of the Garda organisation?

The associations between fear of crime, worry about victimisation and respondents' views of the Garda organisation were also examined. Do respondents who fear crime and worry about becoming victims of crime view An Garda Síochána less favourably than respondents who do not? In general, respondents who had a lot or some fears about the level of crime were more likely to disagree with statements about the efficiency and effectiveness of An Garda Síochána. For example, 47% of those with a lot of fears about crime agreed that the Garda organisation was effective in tackling crime compared with 60% who had no fears about the level of crime.

Worry about likely victimisation was also examined. Those who did not worry about becoming a victim of crime were more likely to agree with statements examining the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána. For example, among those who did not worry about becoming a victim of crime, 50% agreed that An Garda Síochána was well managed, compared to 40% who worried about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property damage (see table 82).

Are respondents' views of An Garda Síochána associated with their levels of trust in the Garda organisation?

Table 83 looks at this idea. A very strong association between having a high level of trust in An Garda Síochána and responding more positively about the Garda organisation across all six statements was uncovered. The inverse situation also holds true – respondents with the lowest levels of trust had more negative views of the organisation across all six statements.

Table 83: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána by levels by trust

	Low Trust	Medium Trust	High Trust
Community focused	31%	64%	86%
Modern or progressive	27%	58%	82%
Friendly or helpful	58%	90%	98%
Provide a world class police service	10%	29%	65%
Well managed	11%	35%	66%
Effective in tackling crime	19%	51%	83%

Summary

- During 2017 the majority of participants agreed that An Garda Síochána was community focused, friendly or helpful, effective in tackling crime and modern or progressive
- Respondents' views of An Garda Síochána in 2017 were for the most part more positive than during 2016
- Respondents from social class F tended to have more positive perceptions of An Garda Síochána across all six statements
- Non-Irish nationals tended to be more positive about the Garda organisation
- Location also played a role – on average respondents in Munster and rural areas tended to have more positive views compared to respondents from other regions and 'city' or 'other urban' areas
- Respondents who had been victims of crime tended to have more negative views of An Garda Síochána
- Respondents who believed that crime was not a problem both nationally and locally tended to have more positive views of the organisation
- Respondents' views also differed according to their levels of worry, fear and trust. Respondents who did not worry about victimisation tended to have more positive views of An Garda Síochána, while those who had fears about the level of crime were more negative across all six statements about the organisation

Table 82: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by fear of crime and worry of victimisation

	Fear of crime				Worry about victimisation			
	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Worry about personal injury	Worry about property theft of damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
Community focused	61%	67%	73%	71%	68%	67%	66%	74%
Modern or progressive	59%	64%	66%	67%	60%	64%	61%	70%
Friendly or helpful	87%	91%	92%	89%	89%	92%	90%	91%
Provide a world class police service	35%	38%	45%	43%	38%	39%	38%	46%
Well managed	38%	41%	49%	47%	38%	48%	40%	50%
Effective in tackling crime	47%	62%	66%	60%	63%	63%	56%	67%

16 and 17-Year-Old Booster Sample

Unweighted booster sample of 647 young people interviewed



83%

of respondents in the booster sample were satisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána to their local community



16 and 17 years old had a high rate of trust in the Garda organisation



Levels of fear about crime and worry about perceived victimisation were low among booster sample respondents



59%

of 16 and 17 year olds considered national crime to be a very serious or serious problem,



considered local crime a very serious or serious problem



The majority of booster sample respondents agreed with statements about the effectiveness and capability of AGS, expect that they provide a world class police service (49%)

Since the re-launch of the Public Attitudes Survey in 2014 interviews have been conducted with a nationally representative sample of adults aged 18+ years. The 2017 Policing Plan required the Garda organisation to increase the scope of the survey to include 16 and 17 year olds. In order to effectively tackle and help to prevent crimes against young people.

The participation of young people in crime victimisation surveys is crucial in building a more complete picture of the extent of crime experienced by this population. It is important to find out what young people think about An Garda Síochána from the young people themselves. This age group represent the views of the upcoming generation and their views are particularly important.

Since December 2016 a booster sample of 16 and 17 year olds have been interviewed as part of the Public Attitudes Survey. The main aim of collecting such data is to compare broadly the attitudes of those aged 16 and 17 years to other age groups, however by collecting this data we can also

examine this group in isolation. In future sweeps the re-basing of this sample as part of the main sample will be considered.

Methodology

In line with the main sample, households were chosen randomly to meet a monthly quota. If a young person aged 16 or 17 years was identified within the household, they were randomly selected using the "last birthday rule". Parents were asked to read an information sheet which included details of the survey, who was conducting it, and why their child was being asked to participate. Parents are then asked to read a participant consent form in which they were assured that their child's identity and the information they provide would only be used for the Public Attitudes Survey and will be held anonymously and confidentially at all times.

The booster sample of 647 young people aged 16 or 17 years is presented in isolation in this chapter, however some broad comparisons are made to the main 2017 sample – the 6,000 adults aged over 18 years. The sample of adults is designed

to be nationally representative, however no weighting has been applied to the 16 and 17-year-old cohort. Comparisons, therefore, must be read with a degree of caution. No statistical associations are presented due to a different sampling strategy being used for both samples. As with the main survey sample, preliminary analysis of all variables was completed to assess the proportion of don't know responses. A decision was then taken about whether they were to be excluded from subsequent analyses. For questions where don't know responses accounted for less than 10% of responses to each question they were excluded from analysis and are not presented as part of this chapter. In cases where don't know responses totalled 10% or more of respondents' replies, analysis including and excluding such responses are presented for completeness.

The smaller size of the booster sample is problematic. Where counts are very low, it is impossible to disaggregate the booster sample into certain sub-groups e.g. social class, categories of victims of crime. This limited the amount of analysis that could be carried out.

Demographics

There were differences in the gender composition of the main and booster samples, with slightly more males than females in the booster survey sample. The samples had very similar distributions across region and area, however the main survey sample contained more Non-Irish nationals. See table 84 for a breakdown of demographic and area information.

Table 84: Booster sample profile

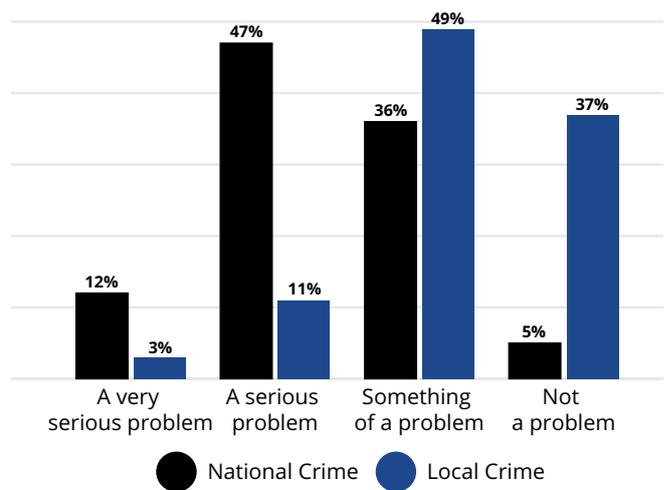
Gender	Social Class		Region		
Male	56%	AB	9%	Dublin	28%
Female	44%	C1	33%	Leinster (excluding Dublin)	26%
		C2	26%	Munster	28%
		DE	27%	Connaught or Ulster	18%
		F	5%		

Area	Nationality	Ethnicity		Religion			
City	37%	Irish	92%	White Irish	90%	Roman Catholic	73%
Other urban	26%	Polish	3%	Other white	6%	Church of Ireland	2%
Rural	37%	UK	1%	Other Asian	2%	Other Christian	3%
		Romanian	1%	Other	2%	Islam	2%
		Brazilian	1%			No religion	18%
		Other	2%			Refused	1%

Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland: 16 and 17-year-old sample

Among the booster sample of 16 and 17 year olds, 59% considered national crime either a very serious or serious problem, while 14% considered local crime a very serious or serious problem. These were both lower than the main sample. As outlined in chapter 1, those aged 18-24 were less concerned with both the national and local crime problem, this is echoed among the 16 and 17-year-old booster sample.

Figure 17: Perceptions of national and local crime unweighted booster sample



Perceptions of national and local crime by demographic, and area groupings - unweighted booster sample

As outlined above, the smaller size of the booster sample limited the amount of analysis possible by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings.

Table 85 and 86 provide a breakdown of results by gender, region and area. Females compared to males were slightly more concerned about the seriousness of the national crime problem. As with the main survey sample, perceptions of the seriousness of the national crime problem were highest among those in rural areas.

Examining perceptions of local crime among the 16 and 17-year-old booster sample showed no significant variations between demographic and area groupings.

The size of the booster sample allowed for cross examination of perceptions of national and local crime by whether this

cohort of young people had any contact with An Garda Síochána in the last 12 months. It is well known that younger people have a disproportionate level of contact with police, therefore their attitudes and experiences are very important to measure. There were no significant variations between these two groups as regards perceptions of national crime or local crime.

Victims of Crime - 16 and 17-year-old sample

The majority of 16 and 17 year-olds had not experienced victimisation in the 12 months before their Public Attitudes Survey interview. Across the entire sample, 32 respondents aged 16 or 17 years (5%) had experienced victimisation in the previous 12 months, among whom 66% had reported their most recent crime to An Garda Síochána. Further analysis by demographic variations was not possible due to the low victim sample.

Table 85: Perceptions of national crime in Ireland during 2017 by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
A very serious problem	9%	16%	-	-	-	-	-	-	15%	15%	11%
A serious problem	45%	49%	47%	54%	52%	28%	48%	51%	44%	42%	49%
Something of a problem	41%	30%	38%	29%	34%	48%	37%	31%	39%	39%	35%
Not a problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	5%

Table 86: Perceptions of local crime in Ireland during 2017 by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
A very serious problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4%	2%
A serious problem	12%	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14%	10%
Something of a problem	46%	52%	55%	48%	44%	48%	52%	52%	43%	48%	49%
Not a problem	41%	33%	26%	38%	44%	43%	31%	34%	45%	34%	39%

Fear and Worry about Crime - 16 and 17-year-old sample

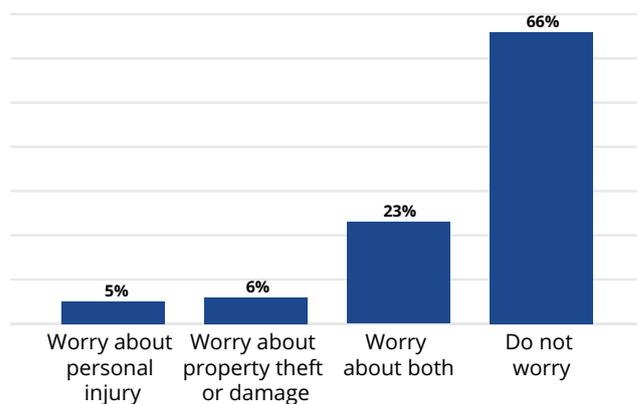
Perceived likelihood of victimisation

During 2017, 5% of respondents aged 16 or 17 years worried about personal injury, compared to 3% among the main survey sample; 6% stated they feared being a victim of property crime, compared to 9% among the adult sample, 23% worried about being a victim of both personal injury and property crime, compared to 40% of the adult population; while over three quarters of respondents (66%) reported not worrying about becoming a victim of any crime compared to 48% among those aged 18 years and over (see figure 18).

Perceptions of likelihood of victimisation by demographic and area groupings

Examining differences across demographic and area groupings showed no significant differences by gender. Respondents in Dublin were less likely to report that they did not worry about becoming a victim of crime, while those in Munster were more likely to worry about their perceived likelihood of victimisation. As with the main sample, a smaller proportion of respondents aged 16 or 17 years in 'city' areas reported not worrying about future victimisation compared to 'other urban' and rural areas. There were no differences when contact with An Garda Síochána in the previous year was examined by perceived likelihood of victimisation (see table 87).

Figure 18: Perceived likelihood of victimisation unweighted booster sample



Fear about the level of crime in Ireland

Figure 19 provides an overview of fear of crime data among 16 and 17 year olds. This younger cohort was much less fearful of crime as compared to the general survey population: 3% of respondents reported having a lot of fears about crime, 17% reported some fears, 23% had very few fears, while 57% stated they had no fears at all about the level of crime in general.

Figure 19: Levels of fear of crime unweighted booster sample

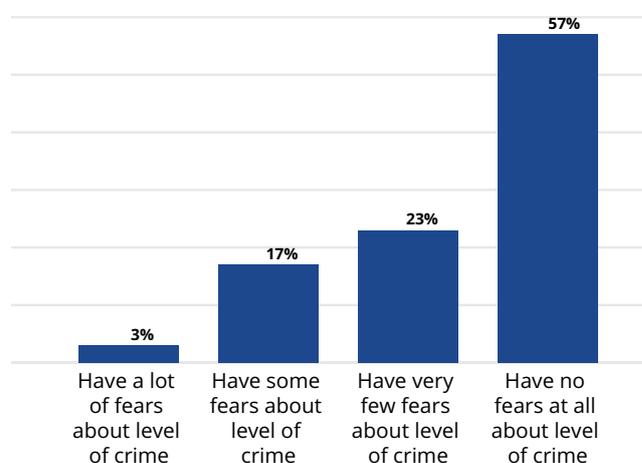


Table 87: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Worry about personal injury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worry about property theft or damage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worry about both	23%	23%	38%	18%	14%	-	32%	23%	13%	27%	21%
Do not worry	67%	65%	46%	71%	80%	70%	54%	69%	77%	58%	70%

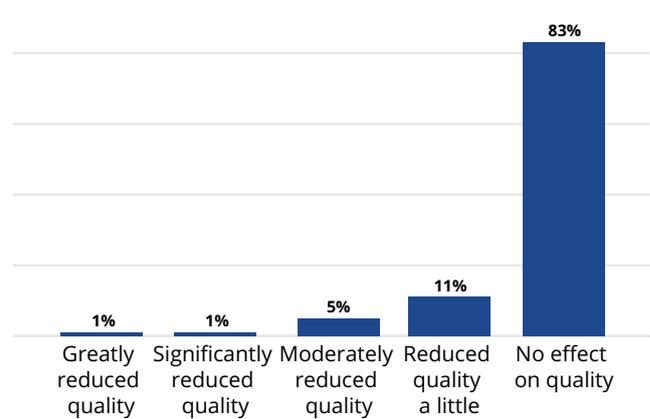
Fear about the level of crime in Ireland by demographic and area groupings

Examining differences across gender showed that females were more fearful than males when asked about the level of crime in Ireland. In contrast to findings from the main survey, young people in Munster were more likely to report that they had no fears at all about the level of crime in general. There were no notable differences when ‘city’, ‘other urban’ and rural areas were examined. As above, there were no substantial differences between those who had, or had not, had contact with the Garda organisation and their fear about level of crime in Ireland (see table 88).

The impact of fear of crime on respondents’ quality of life

Fear about crime can have a harmful impact if it effects a person’s quality of life. As part of the Public Attitudes Survey respondents are asked what impact their fear of crime has on their quality of life. As seen above, young people were not as fearful about the level of crime in general, therefore as would be expected its impact on their quality of life was not as great as reported by the main sample. Over eighty percent (83%) of 16 and 17 year olds reported that their fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life (see figure 20).

Figure 20: Impact of fear of crime on quality of life unweighted booster sample



Fear about the level of crime in Ireland by demographic and area groupings

There were no significant differences between males and females as regards the impact of fear of crime had on their quality of life. As with the main sample, a smaller proportion of respondents in Dublin reported that their fear of crime had not impacted on their quality of life compared to those in other regions, and those in ‘city’ areas reported that their fear of crime had the greatest impact on their quality of life. The impact fear of crime had on young peoples’ quality of life was not effected by whether they had come in contact with An Garda Síochána of not (see table 89).

Table 88: Levels of fear of crime by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Have some fears about level of crime	13%	22%	23%	-	-	-	20%	18%	13%	17%	17%
Have very few fears about level of crime	24%	22%	21%	31%	16%	27%	22%	29%	21%	29%	21%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	60%	52%	51%	52%	70%	50%	53%	51%	63%	49%	59%

Table 89: Impact of fear of crime on quality of life by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moderately reduced quality	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reduced quality a little	10%	12%	20%	-	-	-	17%	-	-	-	10%
No effect on quality	85%	81%	67%	89%	89%	86%	71%	90%	90%	80%	84%

Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána - 16 and 17-year-old sample

As with the adult survey sample, each quarter respondents were asked what crimes they thought An Garda Síochána should prioritise. Crime issues were graded as high, medium and low by respondents. The top high priorities identified by those aged 16 or 17 years were sexual offences (95%), illegal weapons (87%) and assaults (87%). Top medium and low priorities were criminal damage, public order and fraud. High priorities identified by the main sample were largely similar to those identified by the 16 and 17-year-old cohort, the only difference was that the younger cohort prioritised illegal weapons over human trafficking (see table 90).

Table 90: Policing priorities identified by 16 and 17-year-old respondents

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Sexual offences	95%	4%	<1%
Illegal weapons	87%	11%	2%
Assaults	87%	13%	0%
Robberies	86%	14%	0%
Human trafficking	83%	9%	8%
Drugs offences	77%	20%	3%
Burglaries	66%	33%	2%
Traffic offences	65%	30%	5%
Fraud	61%	37%	2%
Criminal damage	53%	41%	6%
Public order offences	31%	38%	37%

Garda Visibility and Perception of Garda Presence - 16 and 17-year-old sample

Awareness of Garda patrols was quite high among the 16 and 17-year-old cohort – 40% of respondents were aware of Gardaí patrolling their local area (see figure 21). This was higher than the main sample, however comparisons should be interpreted with caution due to the variation in sampling techniques. A large proportion of the booster sample (16%) replied don't know when asked about awareness of Garda patrols locally.

Table 92: Garda visibility by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Aware of Garda Patrol	42%	38%	38%	33%	44%	49%	41%	45%	37%	43%	39%
Not aware of Garda Patrol	45%	43%	46%	55%	35%	38%	45%	40%	46%	44%	44%
Don't know	13%	19%	-	-	-	-	15%	-	17%	-	17%

Of those who were aware of local patrols, the vast majority (98%) of respondents were aware of Gardaí patrolling in cars.

Figure 21: Awareness of Garda patrols unweighted booster sample

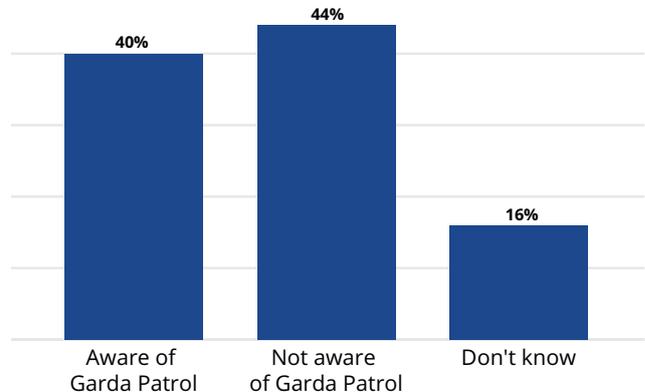


Table 91: Garda patrolling practices unweighted booster sample

Aware of Garda patrols	40%
By car	98%
On foot	16%
By bicycle	6%
Not aware of Garda patrols	44%
Don't know	16%

Garda visibility by demographic and area groupings

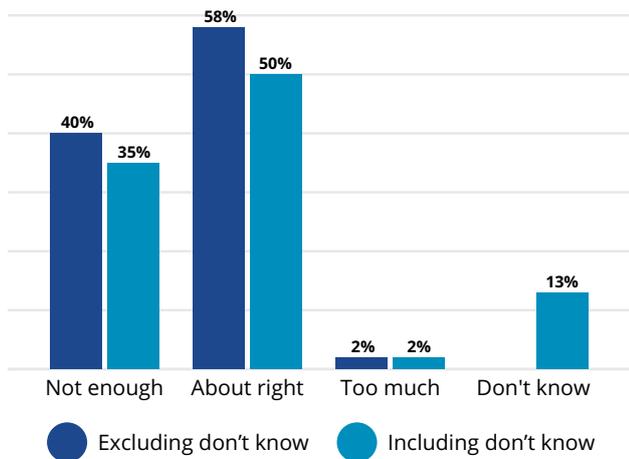
A breakdown of awareness of Garda patrols by demographic and area groupings can be seen in table 92. Males and females were generally comparable in their level of awareness, while respondents in Leinster were more likely to report that they were unaware of Garda patrols locally (55%), when compared to those in other regions. Awareness of patrols were very similar across urban and rural areas. Contact with An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months had no impact on awareness of Garda patrols among 16 and 17 year olds.

Perception of Garda Presence

Booster sample respondents were also asked if they considered Garda presence in their local area to be at the right level. Figure 22 shows that when don't know responses

are excluded, nearly 60% of 16 and 17 year-old respondents considered Garda presence locally to be about right. This is similar to findings from the main sample that found more positive perceptions among respondents aged 18-24 (56%). As outlined at the beginning of this report, when don't know responses account for 10% or more of respondents answers percentage frequencies are presented both with and without don't know responses - 13% of respondents aged 16 or 17 years replied don't know when asked about their perception of Garda presence locally.

Figure 22: Perceptions of Garda presence unweighted booster sample (including and excluding don't know responses)



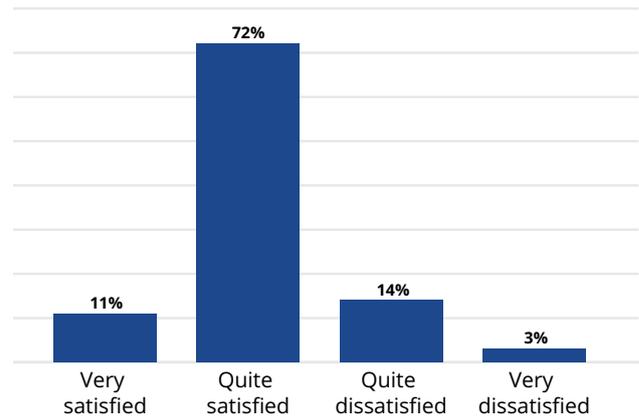
Perceptions of Garda presence by demographic and area groupings

A similar proportion of males and females agreed that Garda presence was at about the right level locally. A much greater proportion of 16 and 17 year-olds in Dublin stated that Garda presence was not enough when compared to other regions. As with the main sample, respondents in "city" areas were less likely to report that Garda presence was about right. Whether respondents had contacted An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months did not impact perceptions of the level of Garda presence locally (see table 93).

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána- 16 and 17-year-old sample

As can be seen in figure 23, 83% of respondents in the booster sample were satisfied (very satisfied 11% and quite satisfied 72%) with the service provided by An Garda Síochána to their local community, while 14% stated they were quite dissatisfied, 3% were very dissatisfied.

Figure 23: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána unweighted booster sample



Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings

As can be seen in table 94, males and females in the booster sample reported similar levels of satisfaction with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána. Similarly, there was little variation across regions and urban or rural splits; this is in contrast to findings from the main survey sample (see findings chapter 6).

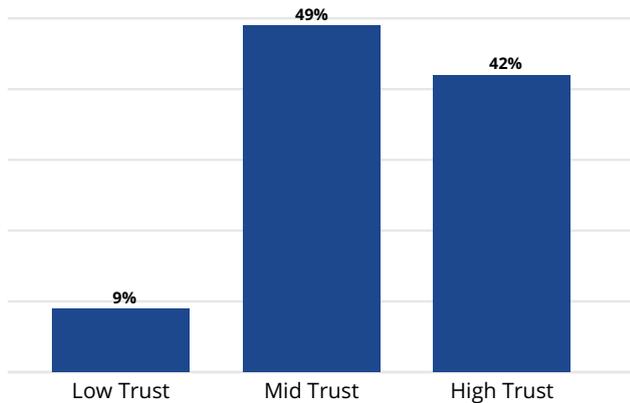
Trust in An Garda Síochána - 16 and 17-year-old sample

As with the main sample, booster respondents are asked to assign a rating between 1 and 10 to quantify their level of trust in An Garda Síochána. The highest trust level was assigned number 10 while the lowest trust level was 1. These were then recoded to 'low trust' (ratings 1, 2, 3 and 4), 'mid trust' (ratings 5, 6 and 7) and finally 'high trust' (ratings 8, 9 and 10).

Table 93: Perceptions of Garda presence by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Not enough	38%	42%	60%	30%	35%	35%	52%	26%	39%	39%	40%
About right	59%	57%	38%	68%	62%	64%	45%	72%	60%	56%	59%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 24: Levels of trust in An Garda Síochána unweighted booster sample



As can be seen in figure 24, 91% of 16 and 17 year-old respondents had a medium, or high level of trust in the Garda organisation. This is slightly higher than that expressed by respondents in the main survey sample.

Trust in An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings

There were no notable variations in levels of trust in the Garda organisation when gender and area groupings were examined. Similarly, respondents who had had any contact with the Garda organisation did not differ as regards levels of reported trust when compared to those who did not have contact with members of An Garda Síochána (see table 95).

Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána - 16 and 17-year-old sample

The majority of booster sample respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason; 25% strongly agreed, 66% agreed, while 6% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed. These results are similar to those found among respondents in the main survey.

Similarly, when asked whether Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are 18% strongly agreed, 62% agreed, 12% disagreed while 8% strongly disagreed. As with the main survey sample, a large proportion (18%) of 16 and 17 year olds replied don't know when asked this question, therefore

Table 94: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Very satisfied	12%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
Quite satisfied	70%	74%	73%	69%	74%	73%	73%	76%	69%	64%	75%
Quite dissatisfied	14%	14%	-	-	-	-	13%	8%	20%	23%	11%
Very dissatisfied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

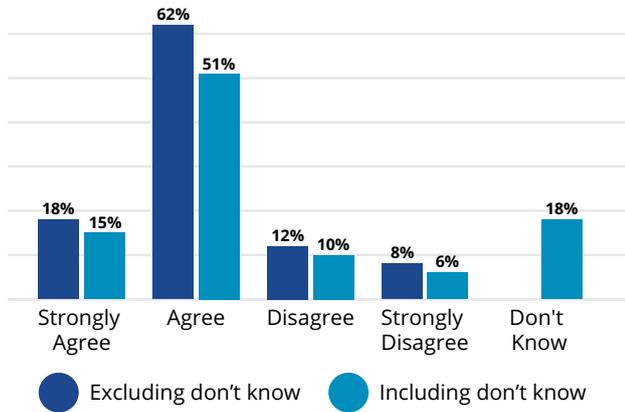
Table 95: Levels of trust in An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Low Trust	12%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%
Mid Trust	46%	52%	52%	47%	51%	42%	51%	49%	46%	50%	48%
High Trust	41%	42%	37%	45%	37%	51%	37%	42%	46%	38%	43%

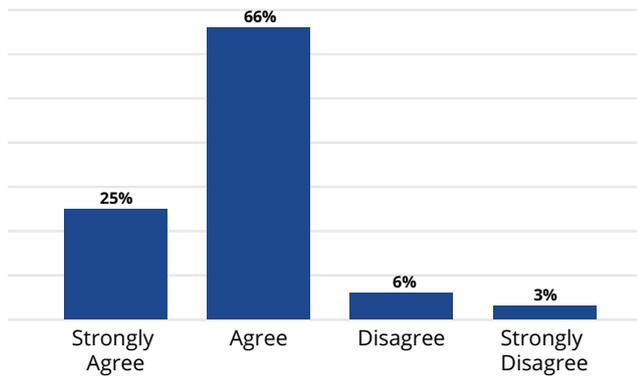
frequencies are presented including and excluding don't know responses (see figure 25).

Figure 25: Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána unweighted booster sample

The Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason



The Gardaí in this area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (including and excluding don't know responses)



Equality of treatment by demographic and area groupings

Examining variations by demographic and area characteristics showed that males and females did not differ when asked whether local Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason, or as regards treatment of everyone fairly by Gardaí regardless of who they are. Similarly, there were no notable differences when regions

or areas were compared. Of note, however, is that young respondents who had had contact with An Garda Síochána were more likely to disagree with both equality of treatment questions compared to those who had not had any contact with Gardaí in the previous 12 months.

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána - 16 and 17-year-old sample

As can be seen in figure 26, overall perceptions of the effectiveness and capability of the Garda organisation among 16 and 17 year olds were largely positive. It must, however, be noted that as with the main survey sample a large number of survey respondents answered don't know when asked whether they agreed to six key statements about the Garda organisation. A potential reason for this is that because these survey items are included at the end of the interview respondents may be suffering from fatigue effects.

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings

For the most part perceptions of the effectiveness and capability of the Garda organisation were similar across gender and area groupings. Differences were detected in the following areas: Females aged 16 or 17 years were less likely to disagree that AGS was friendly or helpful and booster sample respondents in Dublin were less likely to agree that An Garda Síochána was effective in tackling crime (see table 98).

Figure 26: Levels of agreement unweighted booster sample

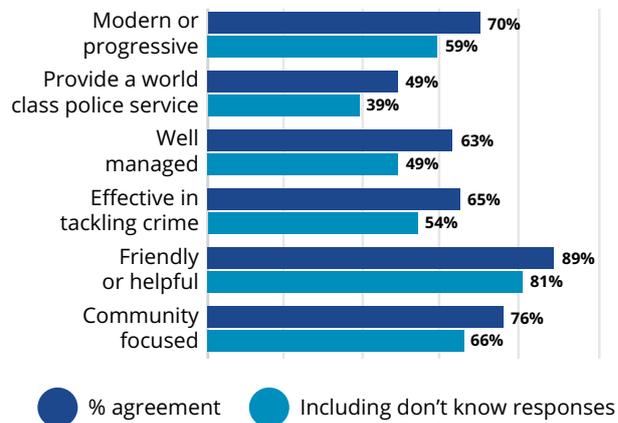


Table 96: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Agree	88%	93%	91%	87%	93%	92%	90%	91%	90%	86%	92%
Disagree	12%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%

Table 97: Treatment of everyone fairly by An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Agree	78%	83%	83%	80%	83%	75%	79%	79%	82%	72%	84%
Disagree	22%	17%	-	-	-	-	21%	-	18%	28%	16%

Table 98: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by demographic and area groupings unweighted booster sample

	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Community focused	76%	75%	68%	78%	77%	82%	69%	80%	79%	73%	77%
Modern or progressive	67%	73%	65%	75%	66%	73%	65%	74%	71%	69%	70%
Friendly or helpful	85%	93%	84%	91%	86%	95%	85%	88%	92%	87%	90%
Provide a world class police service	50%	51%	44%	45%	51%	62%	47%	51%	51%	42%	53%
Well managed	61%	64%	59%	63%	62%	69%	60%	67%	62%	57%	65%
Effective in tackling crime	64%	66%	53%	67%	68%	71%	57%	66%	71%	61%	66%

Summary

The relationship between young people and An Garda Síochána is important as early interactions and perceptions about Gardaí are likely to have a lasting impact upon attitudes and behaviours.

- Nearly 60% of 16 and 17 year olds considered national crime to be a very serious or serious problem, while 14% considered local crime a very serious or serious problem. Their views are similar to the proportion of respondents aged 18-24 who expressed these sentiments
- 32 respondents aged 16 or 17 years (5%) had experienced victimisation in the previous 12 months
- Levels of fear about the level of crime and worry about perceived victimisation were proportionally lower among booster sample respondents compared to the general adult population
- Female 16 and 17-year-olds were more fearful about the level of crime compared to males in the booster sample.
- As with the main sample 16 and 17 years old had a high rate of trust in the Garda organisation
- Respondents who had had contact with An Garda Síochána were more likely to disagree with both equality of treatment questions compared to those who had not had any contact with Gardaí in the previous 12 months.
- Overall perceptions of the effectiveness and capability of the Garda organisation among 16 and 17 year olds were largely positive

Conclusion

This Public Attitudes Survey report is the third in a series of national surveys of the Irish adult population since the survey was re-launched. The work is commissioned by An Garda Síochána and the fieldwork completed by Amarách Research. Since December 2016, a booster sample of approximately 600 young people aged 16 or 17 years have been included.

The survey examined respondents' perceptions of crime; their experience of victimisation, as well as victims' satisfaction with the service received from An Garda Síochána. The public's fear and worry about the level of crime and its effect on their quality of life; the public's relationship with An Garda Síochána including their overall satisfaction with the service provided to local communities and the trust they have in the Garda organisation were also measured. Finally, whether respondents believe members of An Garda Síochána would treat everyone fairly, as well as how respondents view the capabilities and effectiveness of An Garda Síochána were explored.

Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland

Since 2015 the proportion of respondents who consider national and local crime to be a very serious or serious problem has decreased year on year. As previous sweeps of the survey have highlighted, there is a notable gap between perceptions of crime levels locally and in the country as a whole. Overall, respondents see crime as a serious or very serious problem nationally whilst at a local level they do not see crime as a significant issue.

There were also some notable differences when different groups were examined:

- ▶ Women were more likely to view the national crime problem more seriously, but not crime in their local area
- ▶ Adults in older age groups viewed national and local crime more seriously
- ▶ Non-Irish nationals continue to consider national and local crime as less of a problem compared to Irish nationals
- ▶ Respondents in Dublin perceived the national crime problem as less serious compared to those in other regions, while those in the rest of Leinster were more concerned with the local crime problem
- ▶ Those in rural areas viewed national crime more seriously than crime in their local area

- ▶ Perception of local crime had a stronger relationship with perceived likelihood of victimisation, as well as levels of fear of crime, than perception of national crime levels

Victims of Crime

Analysis shows that crime is not a common experience for most people. There were 383 respondents in this 2017 sample who had been a victim of crime in the last 12 months. This represents a victimisation rate of 6 percent, down from 11 percent in 2015 and 8 percent in 2016.

Not all incidents were reported to Gardaí by victims of crime. Since the survey was re-launched the proportion of victims reporting their crimes to Gardaí has steadily increased - from 75% in 2015 to 79% in 2016 to 84% in 2017. These changes were, however, not statistically significant. The most common reason for not reporting crime was - I do not believe the Gardaí could do anything (44%).

Victims' experiences of reporting a crime were also examined.

- ▶ Across the 2017 sample a significant majority of respondents said Gardaí responded quickly when called (65%)
- ▶ 74% were given the name of the investigating Garda
- ▶ 70% reported they had received the contact details of the Garda station
- ▶ 44% of reported receiving a PULSE number
- ▶ Finally, half of respondents reported being given a number of victim helplines/services

There have been increases across all of these experiences between the latest two survey sweeps.

Among all victims who reported their crime, 22% said they were very satisfied with how Gardaí handled their case, 36% were quite satisfied, while 24% were dissatisfied, and 17% were very dissatisfied. Those who had been a victim of crime in the last year were more likely to consider both local and national crime a problem.

Fear and Worry about Crime

It is difficult to determine whether perceptions of the seriousness of crime cause fear about crime and worry about the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, or whether

individuals who fear or worry about crime pay more attention to levels of national and local crime compared to those who do not fear crime. During 2017, 52% of respondents worried about becoming a victim of crime, 60% reported that they had some fear of crime, while 70% reported that their fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life.

Across these three questions, women and those in older age groups reported greater levels of fear of crime and worry about the likelihood of victimisation. It is claimed that worry about crime and victimisation may be linked with perceived vulnerability factors⁵, therefore variations may actually be in how respondents view their own vulnerability rather than their risk of victimisation or general fear of crime.

As mentioned previously perceptions of both national and local crime levels was generally associated with worry and fear about crime.

Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána

According to respondents An Garda Síochána should prioritise sexual offences. Irrespective of gender, age, social class, nationality and area groupings this offence remained the main priority for survey respondents.

Garda Visibility

Survey questions also asked about An Garda Síochána's presence in local areas.

- ▶ 36% of respondents reported that Gardaí patrolled their local area regularly
- ▶ Awareness of Gardaí patrolling in cars was the most common response, with 98% of those aware of Garda patrols reporting this happened regularly

When asked whether they considered Garda presence to be at about the right level, 42% of respondents thought that it was about right. There were a number of respondents who reported don't know when asked this question (7%).

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

Over three quarters (76%) of survey respondents were satisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána. Between 2015 and 2017 the proportion of respondents satisfied with An Garda Síochána has fluctuated between 71% and 76%.

Examination of demographic and area variations showed that those in younger age groups were more satisfied compared to

older respondents. Non-Irish respondents were more satisfied with An Garda Síochána than Irish respondents. Respondents in Connaught/Ulster and Munster were more satisfied with the service provided to them by An Garda Síochána, whereas respondents in Dublin were less likely to report being satisfied.

Respondents who considered that crime was a problem were more likely to report that they were dissatisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána.

Trust in An Garda Síochána

In 2017 a large majority (89%) of respondents had a medium to high level of trust in the Garda organisation. Trust in the Garda organisation has remained very stable over the last three sweeps of the Public Attitudes Survey. Trust is a crucial element to the successful operation of policing by the Garda organisation.

Male adults, older respondents and those from social class grouping F were more likely to report high levels of trust in the Garda organisation. Respondents in Dublin and those living in 'city' areas were less trusting of An Garda Síochána when compared to respondents in other regions and areas. Victims of crime also tended to have lower levels of trust in An Garda Síochána.

Equality of Treatment

Two new questions examining perceptions of fairness regarding treatment by members of An Garda Síochána were added to the survey in 2017. Across the 2017 sample, 92% of respondents agreed that members of An Garda Síochána would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason, while 82% agreed that Gardaí locally treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are. There were no stark differences when demographic and area groupings were examined.

Perceptions of the Garda Organisation

Overall, respondents' views of An Garda Síochána in 2017 tended to be more positive in comparison to 2016 and 2015 survey sweeps. Between the latest two sweeps of the survey more respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána was community focused, friendly or helpful, effective in tackling crime, provide a world class police service and are modern or progressive. Fewer respondents believed that AGS was well managed.

As seen in other sections, those who regarded crime as a problem, both locally and nationally, also tended to report

5 Jackson, J (2009) *A psychological perspective on vulnerability in the fear of crime*, Psychology, crime and law, 15 (4).

poorer perceptions of the organisation (in this case, its effectiveness and capability). Similarly, those with a significant fear of crime and worry about victimisation also reported poorer perceptions of the organisation. The reverse also holds for both questions.

16 and 17-year-old Booster Sample

The 2017 Policing Plan required the Garda organisation to increase the scope of the Survey to include 16 and 17 year olds. In order to effectively tackle and help to prevent crimes against young people.

Overall, findings from analysis of the unweighted booster sample of 16 and 17 year-olds were very similar to those aged 18-24 years in the main adult sample. There was a low rate of victimisation, low levels of fear and worry about crime, and in general, this cohort were largely positive about An Garda Síochána and the service it provides to local communities. Further work on the relationship between young people and the police is important as young people, compared to adults, have a disproportionate level of contact, therefore it is important to promote positive attitudes and behaviour at the earliest juncture.



