

Information Note

Update on delays in processing Section 19 Referrals from Financial Institutions.

29 January 2025

In December 2024, An Garda Síochána provided a description of the delay in processing Section 19 referrals from financial institutions. The purpose of this information note is to provide users of crime statistics with an update on measures to address the high volume of referrals and their impact on crime data.

(1) ICCS 09 Fraud Official Statistics

Section 19 referrals have been processed centrally by the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau (GNECB) since August 2023. This is in addition to fraud incidents reported directly to Gardaí including by victims. There is no backlog in the recording and investigation of directly reported fraud incidents. An Garda Síochána encourages every victim of crime to report it.

As reported in December, it is likely that there will be a significant increase in volume for crime statistics under (only) the Fraud ICCS 09 (Fraud, Deception and Related Offences) category as the high volume of referrals is processed. In order to preserve the existing time series, An Garda Síochána has introduced a flag for fraud incidents which enables those resulting from centrally reported Section referrals to be readily identified.

An Garda Síochána expects to provide the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in February 2025 with details of these specific Section 19 originating fraud crime incidents for the period August 2023 to December 2024. This will enable them to be distinguished from the existing time series of fraud crime statistics. An Garda Síochána and the CSO will continue to collaborate on how to report the higher volume Section 19 referrals in the future. This high volume fraud data will provide a new highly valuable secondary data source that will help identify the prevalence of (ICCS 09) fraud crime, as well as providing intelligence that will assist Gardaí in investigating fraud and prosecuting offenders.

(2) Streamlining the recording of Section 19 Referrals

An Garda Síochána is extending an existing online reporting portal to handle Section 19 referrals. This is expected to be operational during 2025 and will replace existing email reporting. The system will improve the consistency and efficiency of the reporting process for financial institutions. The increased level of automation will also improve the speed at which crime incidents highlighted by Section 19 referrals are recorded and available for policing and statistical use.