

# An Garda Síochána Public Attitudes Survey Bulletin



Q3 2018

Research conducted by



This bulletin presents high level findings from the third quarter of the Public Attitudes Survey conducted between July and September 2018.

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

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

This is a survey of a random sample of the population; therefore, we have to accept that there will be some margin of error. This has been calculated at +/- 2.53 per cent for the quarterly sample. It is important to note that as analysis is done on smaller proportions, the margin of error increases. This should be taken into account when examining analysis of victims of crime. Not all charts where percentages are used will add up to 100 percent because of the rounding of figures. In line with the methodology used in the 2017 Annual Report, 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. Don't know and refused responses have been removed from analysis if they account for less than 10% of responses at all

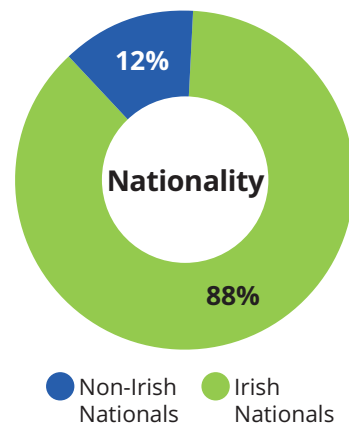
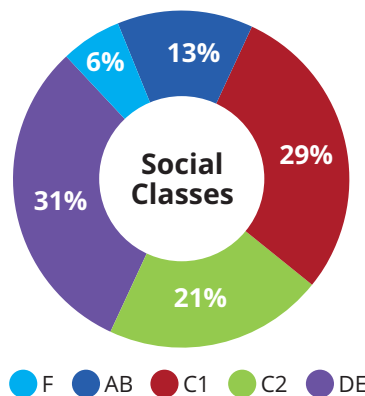
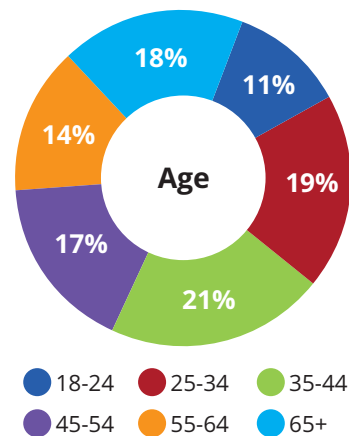
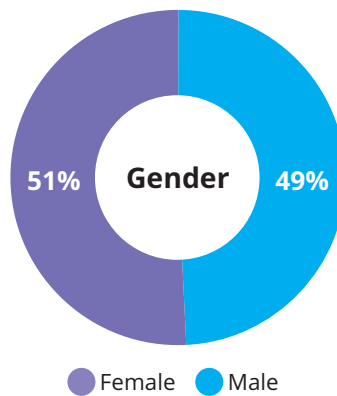
measurement points. In cases where don't know responses totalled 10% or more of respondents' replies, analysis including and excluding such responses are presented for completeness or where relevant comparisons are deemed necessary. Monitoring of don't know/refused responses is ongoing to ensure data quality is maintained. It is not possible to present analysis of the 16 and 17 year old cohort on a quarterly basis due to the small sample size.

## Demographics

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

## CONTENTS

- 2 Perceptions of crime
- 2 Victimisation
- 3 Fear and worry about crime
- 3 Garda visibility
- 4 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána
- 4 Trust in An Garda Síochána
- 5 Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána
- 6 Perceptions of the Garda organisation
- 6 Conclusion

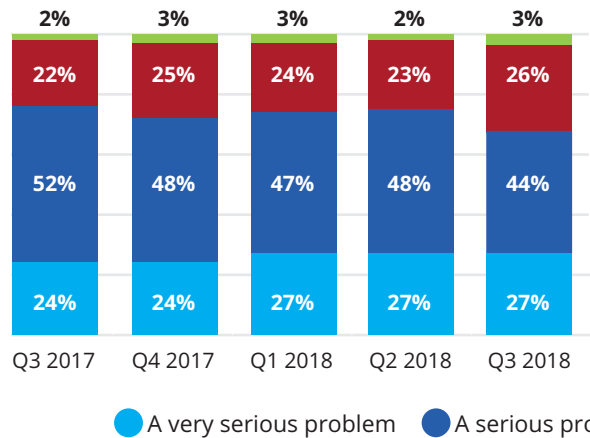


# Perceptions of Crime

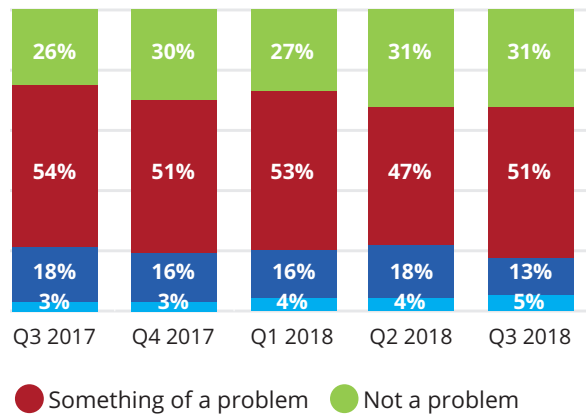
In Q3 2018, 71% of respondents perceived national crime to be either a very serious or serious problem. This has decreased 4 percentage points between the last two quarters. In comparison, during Q3 2018 18% of

respondents considered local crime to be a very serious or serious problem, a decrease of 4% since Q2 2018. Survey respondents continue to perceive national crime as a more serious problem compared to crime in their local area.

## Perceptions of National Crime

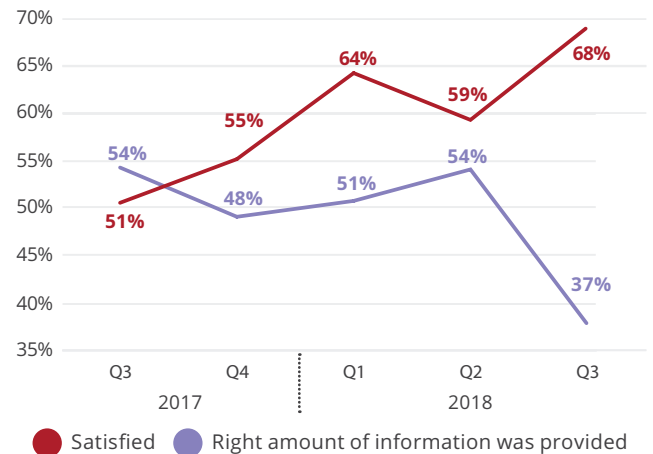
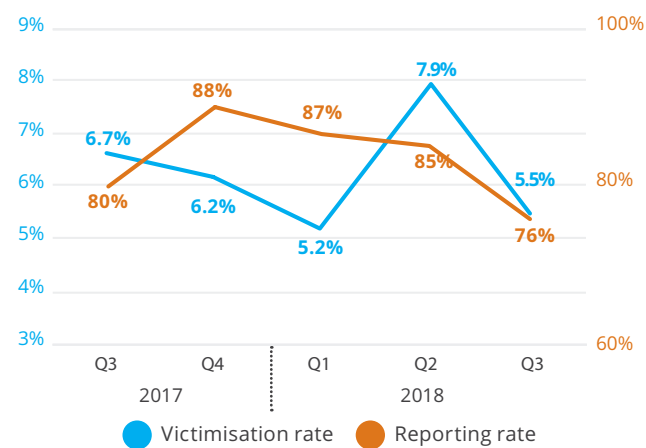


## Perceptions of Local Crime



● A very serious problem ● A serious problem ● Something of a problem ● Not a problem

# Victimisation



The victimisation rate<sup>1</sup> stood at 5.5%<sup>2</sup> during Q3 2018 with 76%<sup>3</sup> of victims interviewed stating they had reported their most recent crime incident to An Garda Síochána. Between the last two survey sweeps the victimisation rate and the proportion of victims reporting their crime incident to An Garda Síochána both decreased. During Q3 2018, satisfaction among victims of crime (*who reported their crime to Gardaí*)

stood at 68%, an increase of 17 percentage points when compared to the same quarter last year. During Q3 2018 the proportion of victims that felt the right amount of information had been provided to them stood at 37%, this is a notable decrease since the last survey sweep, however the low quarterly victim of crime sample size means that changes must be interpreted with caution.

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

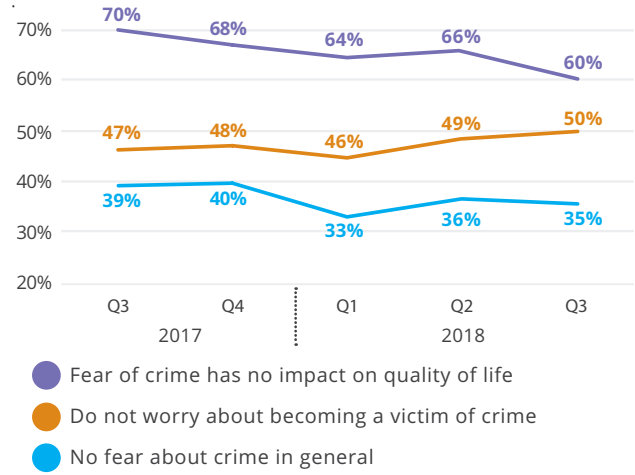
2 83 respondents experienced victimisation in the previous 12 months

3 63 victims reported their crime to An Garda Síochána

# Fear and Worry about Crime

During Q3 2018, half of respondents reported that they did not worry about becoming a victim of crime. Over recent survey sweeps the proportion of respondents reporting that they did not worry about becoming a victim of crime has gradually increased. Among those who did worry about becoming a victim of crime; 3% worried about becoming a victim of personal injury, 11% worried about property theft or damage, and 36% worried about becoming a victim of both. Over the same period, 35% of respondents reported having no fears about the level of crime in general; this has remained relatively stable over recent survey sweeps. Among those who reported being fearful, 3% had a lot of fears, while 28% reported having some fears and 35% had very few fears. Sixty percent of respondents reported that their fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life, a decrease of 6% since Q2 2018 and down 10 percentage points between Q3 2017 and Q3 2018. Among those who reported that fear of crime had impacted their quality of life, 26% stated that it had reduced

quality a little, 11% reported it had moderately reduced quality, while 2% stated it had significantly and 1% stated that it had greatly reduced their quality of life.

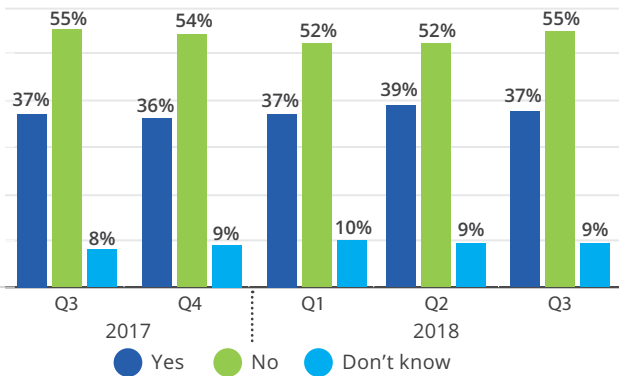


# Garda Visibility

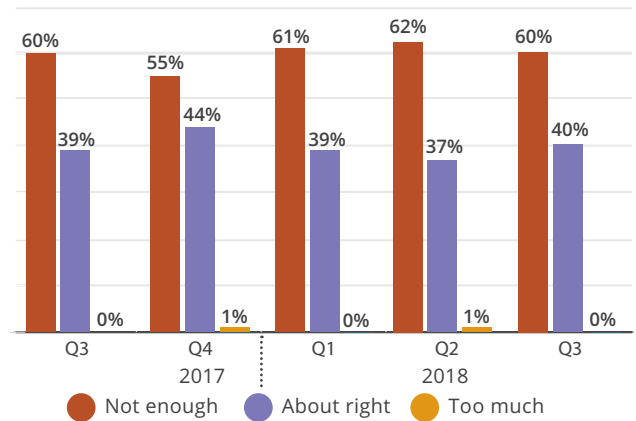
In Q3 2018, 37% of respondents were aware of Garda patrols in their local area. Garda visibility has remained very stable fluctuating between 36% and 39% since Q3 2017. During Q3

2018, 4 in 10 respondents considered Garda presence in their local area to be at about the right level. This has remained relatively stable over the period Q3 2017 to Q3 2018.

## Garda Patrols Locally



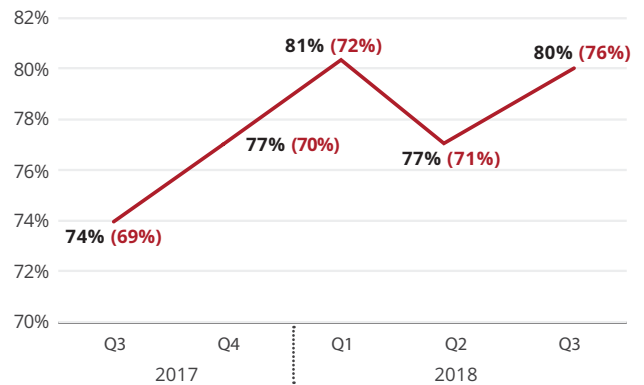
## Garda Presence Locally



# Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

In Q3 2018, 80% of respondents reported they were satisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána to local communities, an increase of 6% from the same period in 2017, and up 3% since the last measurement point. In general, over recent survey sweeps, satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána to local communities has been trending upwards. Four new questions investigating specific aspects of service provided to local communities were added in January 2018. In Q3 2018, 76% of respondents agreed that the Gardaí could be relied upon to be there when you need them and over one third of respondents (37%) agreed that community relations with the police were poor. Eighty-one percent believed that Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people, this has decreased over the past number of quarters. Finally, 43% of respondents agreed that the Gardaí are not dealing with the things that matter to people in the local community. As outlined in the introduction, don't know and refused responses are removed from analysis if they account for less than 10% of responses. In the interest of completeness, proportions excluding and including don't know responses are presented in the chart (in brackets) and table.

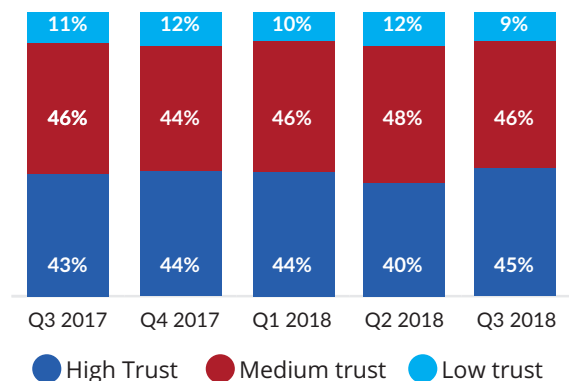
## Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána



	Q1 2018 % Agreement excluding don't know responses	Q1 2018 % Agreement including don't know responses	Q2 2018 % Agreement excluding don't know responses	Q2 2018 % Agreement including don't know responses	Q3 2018 % Agreement excluding don't know responses	Q3 2018 % Agreement including don't know responses
The police in this area can be relied upon to be there when you need them	79%	70%	74%	66%	76%	70%
Community relations with the police are poor	35%	29%	37%	31%	37%	32%
The police in this area listen to the concerns of local people	84%	69%	83%	70%	81%	70%
The police are not dealing with the things that matter to people in this community	38%	31%	45%	36%	43%	36%

# Trust in An Garda Síochána

During Q3 2018, 91% of respondents stated they had a mid to high level of trust in An Garda Síochána. Trust in the Garda organisation continues to remain stable over survey sweeps.

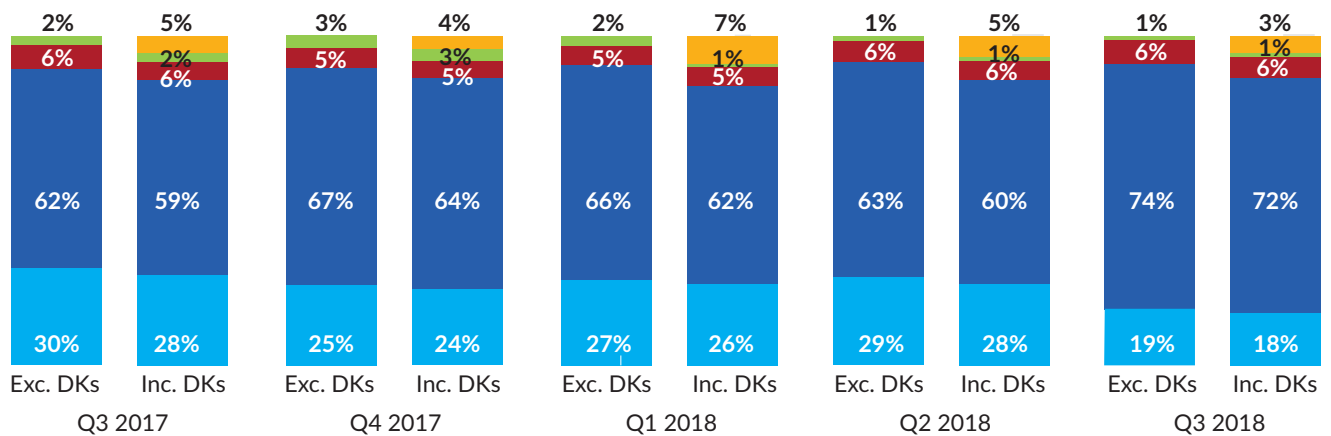


# Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána

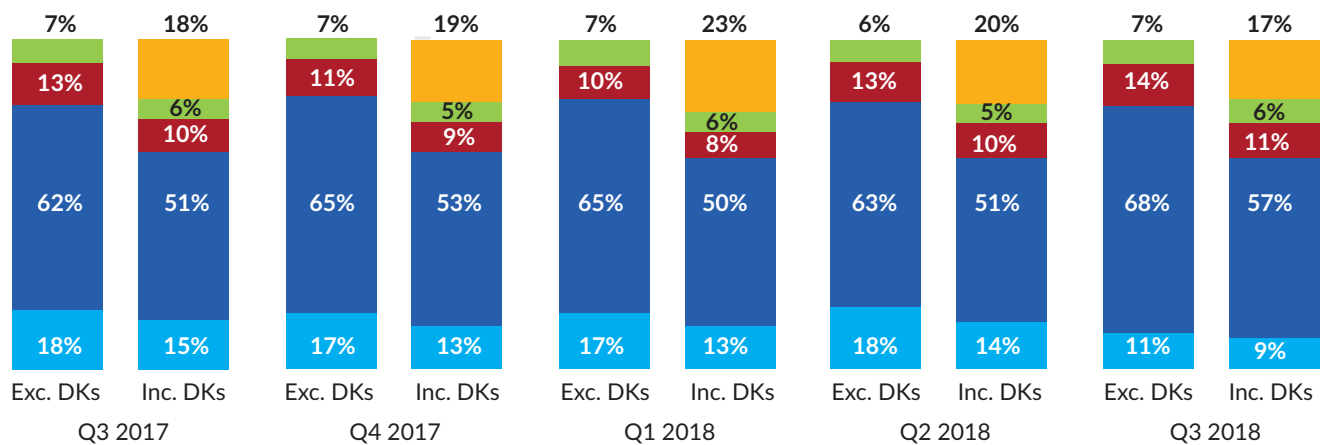
In Q3 2018, 93% of respondents agreed (90% when don't know responses are included) that the Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason. There has, however, been a decline in the proportion who strongly agreed with this statement over recent survey sweeps. When respondents were asked if the Gardaí in the area treat

everyone fairly regardless of who they are, 79% agreed (66% when don't know responses are included). When asked this question considerably more than 10% of respondents replied 'don't know', therefore proportions including and excluding don't know responses are presented for both questions in the charts below.

## The Gardaí treat people with respect

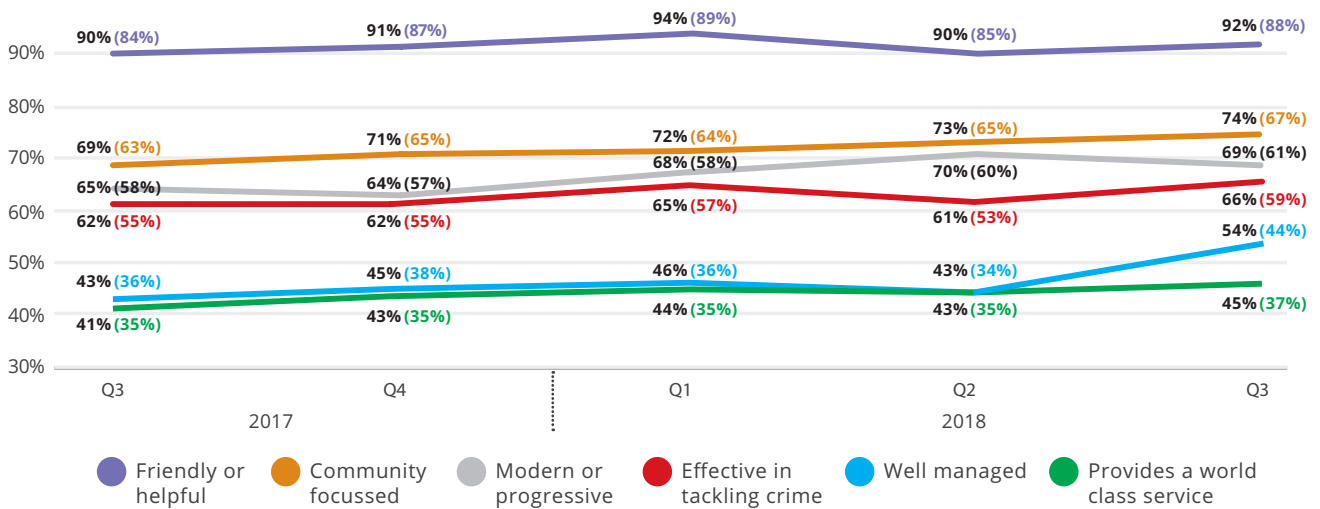


## The Gardaí treat everyone fairly



● Strongly agree ● Agree ● Disagree ● Strongly disagree ● Don't know

# Perceptions of the Garda Organisation



As outlined already, don't know and refused responses are removed from analysis if they account for less than 10% of responses. In the interest of completeness, proportions excluding and including don't know responses (*in brackets*) are presented in the chart. During Q3 2018, 92% of respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána was friendly or helpful; 74% agreed that the organisation was community focused; 69% thought the organisation was modern or progressive; 66% reported that An Garda Síochána was effective in tackling crime; while 54% agreed that the organisation was

well managed and 45% thought that An Garda Síochána provides a world class police service. Between the last two survey sweeps perceptions of the Garda organisation across measures of effectiveness and capability have for the majority increased, most notable regarding the perception that the organisation is well managed (+11%). The vast majority of respondents continue to have positive views about the capability of An Garda Síochána to be friendly and helpful, community focused and modern or progressive.

## Conclusion

An Garda Síochána now publishes results from its Public Attitudes Survey on a quarterly basis. The work is commissioned by An Garda Síochána and the fieldwork completed by Amarách Research. Previous bulletins and annual reports are available at [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie).

When respondents were asked about their perceptions of crime, the majority considered the national crime problem to be more serious than the crime problem in their local area. The perception of seriousness of both the national and local crime problem decreased between the last two survey sweeps.

During Q3 2018, the victimisation rate stood at 5.5%, while the proportion of victims reporting their crime to Gardaí was 76%. Between the last two measurement points the victimisation rate and the proportion of victims reporting their crime have trended downwards. It is important to note that as analysis is done on smaller proportions of the sample the margin of error increases. As noted already, caution should be taken when interpreting results of analysis from small victim proportions.

Between Q3 2017 and Q3 2018 there has been a very slight increase in the proportion of respondents reporting they

did not worry about the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, however there has been a decrease in the proportion of those reporting no fear about the level of crime in general and that their fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life. Monitoring will continue as quarterly results are published.

Awareness of Garda patrols in local areas stood at 37% for Q3 2018 while perceptions of Garda presence being at the right level stood at 40% for Q3 2018. Eight in ten respondents reported they were satisfied with the service provided by An Garda Síochána to local communities. This has increased 6 percentage points since Q3 2017.

The public's trust in the Garda organisation remains high at 91%. The vast majority of respondents believed that the Gardaí would treat them, or others, with respect, regardless of who they are, if they had contact with them for any reason. In general, agreement across measures of the effectiveness and capability of the Garda organisation has remained stable over measurement points, however most recently perceptions that the Garda organisation is well managed have increased.