



An Garda Síochána

# Public Attitudes Survey 2018

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# Foreword

The Public Attitudes Survey is an important report as it adds to our understanding of policing in Ireland more than what crime statistics alone can offer. Essentially, it provides an insight of the public's perception of An Garda Síochána's performance in the preceding year.

It identifies how we are performing on a number of key areas:

- ▶ Public satisfaction with Garda service
- ▶ Victim satisfaction with Garda service
- ▶ Garda visibility
- ▶ Fear of Crime and its impact on quality of life
- ▶ Trust in An Garda Síochána

Primarily, as the Public Attitudes Survey has been conducted since 2015 yearly (after a break of some years), we can track our performance and see where we are improving or not, on a yearly basis. Quarterly Reports are also conducted which guide us throughout the year.

One aspect examined is policing priorities. This highlights what the public believe are the most relevant and immediate policing issues. Generally, personal crimes are ranked highly. Illegal weapons has come to the fore now as well.

Fear of crime was also explored. While research shows that individuals who have less probability of being victimised have more fear of crime and indeed less crime does not reduce that fear, it is important to examine it in an Irish context. Furthermore, gathering the views of young people aged 16 and 17 is also significant in examining their behaviour and perception of crime and fear.

Especially relevant in this report has been the introduction of 4 new questions/statements on equality of Garda service.

These relate to:

1. Police Community Relations
2. Whether An Garda Síochána can be relied upon
3. Listening to the concerns of the public
4. Dealing with the matters that concern the community

These questions are welcomed as they provide further knowledge of the public's perception of Garda service. It is through this consultation with the public via the Public Attitudes Survey forum that we ascertain the issues that are perceived to be problematic and strive to correct them.

This is the second year that 16 and 17 year olds have been surveyed. Having two years data will allow us to identify patterns and trends and the ability to compare young people's perceptions with the adult population surveyed. We are committed to young people, to finding out their perspective and understanding how we can better interact and support young people.

Overall, the Public Attitudes Survey makes An Garda Síochána accountable for our actions. In conjunction with the Policing Authority, it provides key measures for targets. The goal is to identify areas where standards are not met, to improve them and continue with a high level of service for all members of the public.

**Sara Parsons**







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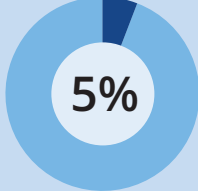



# Main Findings from the 2018 Public Attitudes Survey

 <p><b>90%</b> said that Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason.</p>  <p><b>37%</b> agreed Community Relations are poor (31% when don't know responses are included).</p>  <p><b>75%</b> agreed that Gardaí in their area can be relied on to be there when they are needed (68% when don't know responses included).</p>	<p><b>6%</b> of respondents in this sample were victims of crime - no change from the 2017 survey.</p>  <p><b>84%</b> reported their most recent crime to An Garda Síochána.</p> <p><b>63%</b> were satisfied with how Gardaí handled their incidents.  <b>5%</b></p>  <p>Like 2017, more than 1 in 3 adults (38%) reported that Gardaí patrolled their local area regularly in 2018.</p> <p><b>39%</b> felt the Garda presence was 'about right', a decrease of 3% from 2017.</p>
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 <p><b>36%</b> reported that their fear of crime had impacted their quality of life.</p> <p><b>51%</b> of respondents worried about becoming a victim of crime.</p> <p><b>66%</b> felt some fear of the level of crime in general – up 6%.</p>	 <p><b>6,000</b> respondents – sample is nationally representative of the population on the basis of age, gender, social class and nationality</p> <p>Unweighted booster sample of 593 young people aged 16 or 17 years</p>	 <p>More people (73%) perceive national crime as a very serious or serious problem than local crime (19%).</p>  <p>Public ranked sexual offences as the top priority for An Garda Síochána across gender, age, social class, nationality or experience of victimisation.</p>
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 <p>Eight out of ten respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the service provided to the community by An Garda Síochána.</p>	 <p>The majority of respondents considered that the Gardaí are community focused, friendly and helpful, effective in tackling crime and modern or progressive.</p> <p>Less than half of respondents considered AGS well-managed or a world-class service.</p>  <p><b>90%</b> of respondents reported a medium to high level of trust in An Garda Síochána.</p>
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<p><b>BOOSTER SAMPLE</b></p>  <p><b>5%</b> Experienced victimisation.</p>	<p>Low level of fear of crime and worry about victimisation.</p> <p>Mainly positive views about the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána.</p> 
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# Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from An Garda Síochána's 2018 Public Attitudes Survey – a survey of 6000 adult respondents in Ireland on a range of crime and policing issues. The survey is representative of the population in terms of age, gender, social class and nationality. A booster sample of 16 and 17-year-olds were also surveyed (introduced in 2017).

The findings are presented in this report under the following headings:

## Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland

**Seventy-three percent of adults viewed national crime to be either 'very serious' or 'serious'. In contrast, local crime was viewed as 'serious' or 'very serious' by approximately 1 in 5 adults (19%).**

- ▶ Overall, the proportion of respondents who viewed crime on a national level as a 'very serious' or a 'serious' problem has decreased over the last three years since 2016 (77%, 74% and 73% consecutively). In terms of respondents' views about crime at a local level, 23 percent in 2016 viewed it as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem with this figure dropping to 19 percent in 2018.
- ▶ The main sources of information for respondents about national crime were 'TV' (36%), radio (23%), online news/media (17%) and social media (13%). As for sources of information about local crime, 'word of mouth/friends' accounted for 39 percent of respondents' answers, followed by radio/local radio (16%) and social media (14%).

## Victims of Crime

**Sixty-three percent of victims were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with how Gardaí handled their case in 2018. This has increased from 58 percent in 2017 and 57 percent in 2016.**

In the 2018 Public Attitudes Survey, there were 348 respondents who had been victimised in the preceding twelve months (out of 6000), representing a victimisation rate of 6 percent – no change from the 2017 survey.

There was an 84 percent reporting rate to Gardaí. The most common reason cited for not reporting a crime was respondents did not believe the Gardaí could do anything, followed by believing the incident was not serious enough to warrant its reporting. Thirty-six percent of respondents stated the information received from Gardaí in relation to their case

was 'too little', with 48 percent stating it was 'about right', a decrease of 5 percentage points from 2017. Fifteen percent were given no update on the status of their investigation, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2017.

## Fear and Worry about Crime

**In 2018, the majority of survey respondents reported having no fears about crime and the proportion that worry about becoming a victim has decreased slightly from 2017. A little over half of respondents (51%) worried about victimisation (this includes worry about personal injury, property theft or damage, or both).**

The proportion of respondents who 'have a lot of fears' about the level of crime in Ireland has decreased from 7 percent in 2016 to 3 percent in 2018. The proportion of respondents that have 'some fears' has risen from 27 percent in 2017 to 30 percent in 2018. There has been an increase in those respondents who have 'very few fears' from 29 percent in 2016, to 33 percent in 2018. The proportion of respondents who have no fears about crime in Ireland has decreased from 40 percent in 2017 to 34 percent in 2018.

Fear of crime does not have a notable impact on quality of life. The proportion of respondents who reported that it greatly impacts on quality of life has remained at 1 percent in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 survey sweeps. However, the proportion of respondents who consider that it has no effect on quality of life has decreased from 70 percent in 2017 to 64 percent in 2018. Victims of crime reported greater levels of impact on their quality of life by fear of crime than non-crime victims (47% vs. 36%).

## Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána

**Regardless of gender, age, social class, nationality or experience of victimisation, respondents ranked sexual offences as the top priority for An Garda Síochána.**

The vast majority of respondents, across all demographics, highlighted illegal weapons, human trafficking and robbery as their next priorities.

## Garda Visibility

**In 2018, 38 percent of survey respondents reported being aware of Garda patrols in their local areas (the majority of these were aware of Gardaí patrolling in cars). Thirty-nine percent felt that Garda presence in their local areas was 'about right', with 61 per cent considering it 'not enough'.**

- ▶ The proportion of respondents who reported being unaware of Garda patrols has decreased each year since 2016 (56%, 55% and 53% respectively for the last three years).
- ▶ There is an association between awareness of Garda patrols in local areas and perceptions of national and local crime. As respondents' views of the national crime problem being serious decrease, awareness of Garda patrols increases. While this association was similar for local crime, the differences were not as pronounced.

## Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

**There was 80 percent satisfaction among respondents with Garda service in 2018. Seventy percent of respondents reported that they were 'quite satisfied' with the level of service provided by Gardaí in their local communities, with 10 percent being 'very satisfied'.**

Satisfaction levels (both 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied') among respondents with the service provided to their local communities by Gardaí, has increased year on year since 2016 (71%, 76% and 80% for each respective year) - a statistically significant development.

Victims of crime reported lower satisfaction levels. Those who were 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with Garda service provided to local communities stood at 63 percent.

When satisfaction levels with Garda service provided to local communities is examined against perceptions of national and local crime, it is clear that there is a correlation, although this is more evident at a local level. As perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem increase, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service.

## Trust in An Garda Síochána

**In 2018, 90 percent of respondents reported a medium to high level of trust in An Garda Síochána. This has remained very stable in recent survey sweeps – an important measure due to the importance of trust in the Garda organisation for effective policing.**

Females were more likely to have greater trust in the organisation than males, as were older respondents and non-Irish nationals. 'City' respondents were less likely to have 'high trust' in the organisation than those from 'other urban' and rural areas. Respondents who had been victims of crime in the preceding 12 months to the survey interview had lower levels of 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána.

## Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána

**In 2018, 93 percent of respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. Similarly, 80 percent agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (this figure was 65% when 'don't know' responses were included).**

- ▶ Eighty-six percent of respondents who had been victims of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview, agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect should they have contact with them for any reason.
- ▶ Victimisation impacted on whether respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, with 66 percent of crime victims agreeing. In contrast, 81 percent of non-crime victims agreed with this statement.
- ▶ The majority of respondents (75%) either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the Gardaí in their area can be relied on to be there when they are needed. (When 'don't know' responses were included this figure becomes 68 percent).
- ▶ The majority (64%) disagreed that Garda-community relations were poor. When 'don't know' responses were included this became 53 percent.
- ▶ Eighty-three percent of respondents agreed (70% when 'don't know' responses were included) that Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people.
- ▶ Finally, 58 percent disagreed that Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the community (48% when 'don't know' responses are included).

## Perceptions of the Garda Organisation

**In 2018, the majority of respondents considered that the Gardaí are community-focused (72%), friendly and helpful (92%), effective in tackling crime (64%) and modern or progressive (68%). Forty-eight percent agreed the organisation is well-managed, while 44 percent agreed that it provides a world-class service.**

In general, respondents' views of An Garda Síochána have been more positive over each of the last three survey sweeps. Those respondents who had been a victim of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were less likely to be positive about the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána than those who had not experienced victimisation.

## Booster Sample (16 and 17-year-olds)

**This is the second year in which the views of 16 and 17-year-olds were captured within the Public Attitudes Survey. The relationship between young people and An Garda Síochána is important and one which must be explored fully. Early interactions with the Gardaí and perceptions of the organisation are relevant as they inform lasting attitudes and behaviours.**

Satisfaction was high among 16 and 17-year-olds with service provided by Gardaí to the local community - 86 percent were either 'satisfied' or 'quite satisfied'. Eighty-eight percent had mid to high trust in the Gardaí and three quarters felt Gardaí would treat individuals in a respectful and fair manner. Perceptions of the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána were also largely positive. Views on the friendliness or helpfulness of Gardaí were the most positive compared to the organisation being a world-class police service. This is in line with the main survey.

Fifty-seven percent of 16 and 17-year-olds considered national crime to be either a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem (lower than the main sample). As with the adult sample, local crime was considered far less of a problem than national crime.

In 2018, the majority of 16 and 17-year-olds had not been a victim of crime in the preceding 12 month period. Five percent of respondents had been victimised. Young people were far less worried about becoming a victim than the main sample of adults - the majority (73%) did not worry about victimisation. Similarly, the younger cohort had less fear of crime than the adult sample.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

An Garda Síochána's Public Attitudes Survey is a social survey of the Irish public's attitudes towards crime and policing in Ireland. Relunched in 2014 (it was discontinued in 2008) the survey consists of 6000 face-to-face interviews with adults aged 18 years and over. The 2018 survey is the fourth sweep since the re-launch. A booster sample, which was introduced in 2017, surveys the attitudes of 16 and 17-year-olds. In addition to the annual report, An Garda Síochána publishes quarterly bulletins. All previous publications are available on [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie).

### 1.1 The Public Attitudes Survey aims to:

- ▶ Gather the views of a representative sample of the Irish public about crime in Ireland and the Garda organisation. This also includes a small percentage of victims of crime. Their view of crime and their experience of the service provided by An Garda Síochána is also ascertained.
- ▶ Measure perceived levels of crime on a national and local level.
- ▶ Identify the crime types viewed by the public as priority areas for An Garda Síochána.
- ▶ Assess satisfaction levels among the public with the service provided by An Garda Síochána.
- ▶ Measure the public's level of trust in An Garda Síochána and perceptions of the organisation.

### 1.2 Methodology: How is the Public Attitudes Survey conducted?

The first stage of the process involved a public tendering competition. As a result, Amárach Research was commissioned to conduct the survey. The questionnaire was designed in consultation between An Garda Síochána and Amárach Research. Questions were tested prior to their inclusion in the final survey. The survey runs on a continuous basis (i.e. the population is being surveyed continuously) and involves in-home, face-to-face interviews. The results of the survey are reported on a quarterly and annual basis.

There are 200 sampling points (not all used at one time) which were selected from a database of approximately 3,500 District Electoral Divisions/Wards. Fifty points are sampled each month, with each sampling point visited three times during the year (rotating the sampling points reduces 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 approach every house at set intervals – or one quarter mile in rural areas – until an eligible respondent is secured). Face-to-face interviews, conducted in the respondents' homes, are conducted throughout the day (two shifts of interviewers are deployed between 10am and 2pm and between 2pm and 8pm). This ensures an even spread of interviews are conducted across all groups. Details of the sampling method used for 16 and 17-year-olds are outlined in chapter 11.

### 1.3 Sample Profile

The Public Attitudes Survey primarily samples adults aged 18 years and over and is designed to be nationally representative.

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 weighted when the analysis is conducted to ensure it is in line with the national population. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the 2018 survey sample.

Respondents were asked whether they had been a victim of crime in the 12 months prior to the month of the interview (the reference period). However the victimisation section<sup>1</sup> does not capture data on all crimes: crimes of a sexual nature are excluded from the survey.

### 1.4 Differences between annual reports

Since the 2016 annual report (maintained in 2017 and now the latest 2018 report) is the exclusion of don't know and refusal responses for the majority of the survey questions. Therefore, for reports prior to 2016, figures will differ, but



for the last three sweeps, as the same practice has occurred, figures should not differ due to this methodical choice.

## 1.5 New for 2018

In 2018, four new questions (which are reported on in this report), were added to the survey. These are reported on under the chapter heading 'Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána' and relate to the reliability of the Gardaí in local areas and police-community relations.

## 1.6 Interpreting tables and figures

Frequency and percentage tables are used to explore survey responses within this report. Where appropriate, comparisons are made between surveys (the previous two or three) and changes are measured for statistical significance. Statistically significant differences are identified within the text.

Low sample sizes can provide unreliable findings as well as presenting confidentiality issues. 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 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 and 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 per cent. This is due to the rounding of figures.

This is a survey of a random sample of the population. It must, therefore, be accepted that there will be some margin of error. This has been calculated at +/- 1.1 percent for the full sample of 6,000 respondents. This means that when we are reporting figures for the sample as a whole, for example noting that 80 percent of respondents agree with a statement, the true value will sit between 78.9 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 sizes (for example, victims of crime).

The tables use a breakdown of social class as used by market research companies. Table 2, on the next page, sets out the definition of these social classes. 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 a population of less than 1,500. The survey also asks respondents about distance to their local Garda station – answers are based on respondents' estimates.

## 1.7 Structure of this report

This report is divided into twelve chapters (chapter one being the introduction):

- ▶ Chapter 2 presents the findings on perceptions of crime in Ireland during 2018. Comparisons are made with the 2016 and 2017 survey findings.
- ▶ Chapter 3 examines victimisation among respondents and the reporting rate to Gardaí. It also explores levels of satisfaction among victims of crime with the Garda service as well as perceptions about the information and support provided.
- ▶ Chapter 4 focuses on respondents' perceived likelihood of victimisation and their worry about specific crimes, as well as the impact on their quality of life.
- ▶ Chapter 5 examines the crime types viewed as priorities for An Garda Síochána by respondents.
- ▶ Chapter 6 explores levels of Garda visibility and whether respondents view Garda presence in local communities as sufficient.
- ▶ Chapter 7 examines the public's satisfaction with the service provided to local communities by An Garda Síochána.
- ▶ Chapter 8 explores the level of trust in An Garda Síochána by respondents.
- ▶ Chapter 9 focuses on respondents' perceptions of equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána
- ▶ Chapter 10 examines respondents' perceptions of the Garda organisation including its ability to tackle crime and the degree to which it provides a world-class police service
- ▶ Chapter 11 provides the analysis of the 16 and 17-year-old booster sample.
- ▶ Chapter 12 presents the conclusion.

The themes explored above are examined by demographics (gender, age, social class and nationality) and area groupings.

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

**Table 1: Public Attitude Survey sample profile 2018**

Gender	Age	Social Class	Region
Male	49%	18 - 24	11% AB
Female	51%	25 - 34	19% C1
		35 - 44	21% C2
		45 - 54	18% DE
		55 - 64	14% F
		65+	18%

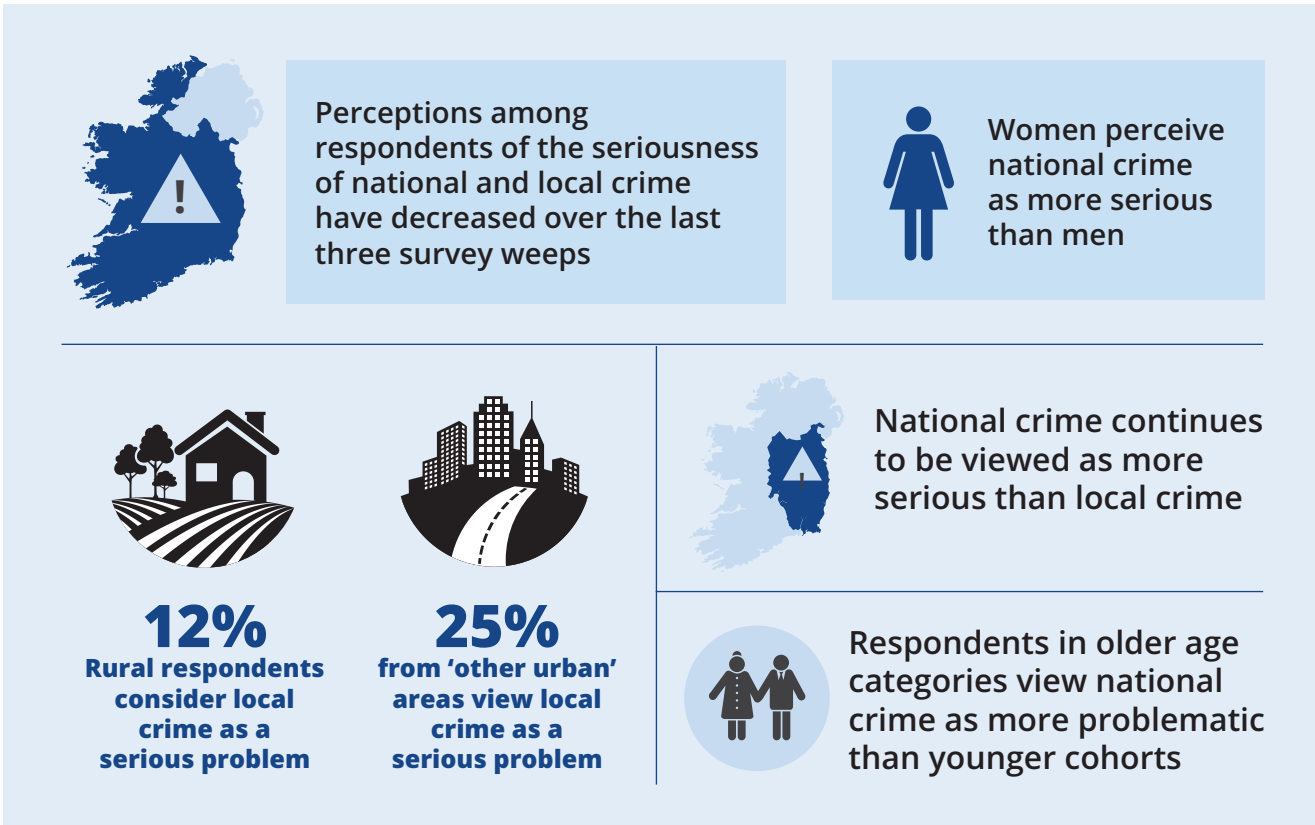
Area	Nationality	Ethnicity	Religion
City	38%	Irish	88%
Other Urban	25%	UK	3%
Rural	37%	Polish	2%
		Lithuanian	1%
		Indian	1%
		Other	5%

**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

# Chapter 2

## Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland



Respondents were asked about their perceptions of the level of crime nationally and in their local area. As with previous surveys, respondents perceive national crime to be serious, but this has decreased year on year since 2016. Local crime is considered less of a problem and this too has decreased over survey sweeps.

### 2.1 Perceptions of crime in Ireland: national and local

During 2018, 28 percent of respondents viewed national crime in Ireland as a 'very serious' problem. Forty-five percent considered it a 'serious' problem with 24 percent viewing it as 'something' of a problem. Three percent of respondents considered crime in Ireland on a national level as 'not a problem'. In comparison, 4 percent of survey respondents felt that crime in their local area was a 'very serious' problem and 15 percent considered it a 'serious' problem. Fifty percent stated that it was 'something' of a problem with 31 percent perceiving it as 'not a problem'.

### 2.2 Have perceptions changed between 2016, 2017 and 2018?

Overall, the proportion of respondents who viewed crime on a national level as a 'very serious' problem or a 'serious' problem has decreased over the last three years since 2016 (77%,

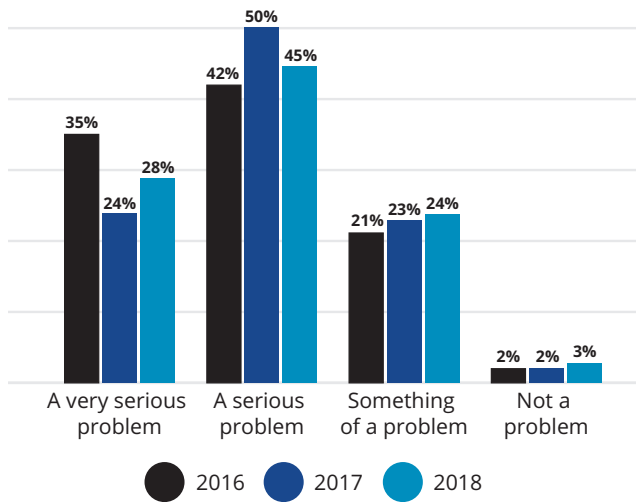
74% and 73% consecutively). However, within that there has been an increase between 2017 and 2018 in the proportion of respondents who view crime on a national level as a 'very serious' problem (24% in 2017 and 28% in 2018). These changes were statistically significant.

Conversely, fewer respondents viewed crime as a 'serious' problem nationally in 2018 (45%) than in 2017 (50%). Therefore, overall there has been a reduction in the proportion of respondents who view crime nationally as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem and a reduction in the proportion who view it as a 'serious' problem.

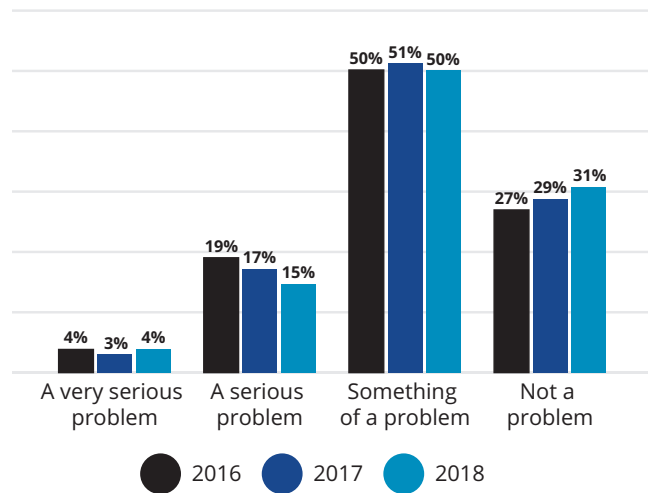
In terms of respondents' views about crime at a local level, 23 percent in 2016 viewed it as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem with this figure dropping to 19 percent in 2018. The proportion of respondents who felt that crime was not a problem in their local areas has increased from 27 percent in 2016 to 31 percent in 2018, a statistically significant change. Figures 1 and 2 outline the changes in perception of crime over the last three years.

To further explore perceptions of national and local crime, the survey collects a range of demographic and geographic information in addition to information about respondents' contact with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey interview.

**Figure 1: Changes in perceptions of national crime in Ireland between 2016, 2017 and 2018**



**Figure 2: Changes in perceptions of local crime in Ireland between 2016, 2017 and 2018**



### 2.3 Perceptions of national crime by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

Tables 4 and 5 show respondents' perceptions of national crime by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings during 2018:

**Gender:** women were more likely to view national crime as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem.

**Age:** respondents in older age groups considered national crime a more serious problem than those in younger age

groups. A greater proportion of those in younger age groups considered national crime 'something' of a problem than those in older age groups.

**Social Class:** collectively those from social class DE and F (66%) viewed national crime as a 'very serious' problem compared to those from AB and C1 (51%). Thirty-six percent from DE and F thought national crime was 'something' of a problem compared with 57 percent from AB and C1.

**Nationality:** a greater proportion of Irish respondents (76%) viewed national crime as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem than non-Irish respondents (55%).

**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	27%	29%	18%	21%	26%	30%	35%	37%	25%	26%	29%	30%	36%	30%	15%
A serious problem	45%	46%	45%	46%	45%	46%	45%	44%	42%	45%	46%	46%	49%	46%	40%
Something of a problem	25%	23%	35%	30%	26%	23%	18%	16%	30%	27%	23%	22%	14%	22%	38%
Not a problem	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	6%

**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	19%	38%	30%	27%	22%	34%	31%	26%	24%	36%	34%	31%	
A serious problem	38%	44%	52%	48%	41%	46%	49%	45%	48%	42%	49%	51%	
Something of a problem	39%	16%	16%	23%	34%	18%	18%	26%	25%	21%	15%	17%	
Not a problem	4%	2%	2%	2%	4%	3%	1%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	



**Region:** respondents in Dublin (57%) perceived the national crime problem as less serious than in other regions: rest of Leinster (82%); Munster (82%) and Connaught or Ulster (75%). Respondents in city areas (63%) viewed national crime as less of a problem than in 'other urban' and rural areas (80% respectively).

**Distance from Garda station:** those respondents who lived greater than 5 kms from a Garda station were more likely to view crime as a problem than those who lived less than 5kms away.

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

Respondents' perceptions of crime at a local level during 2018, by demographic and geographic groupings, are shown in tables 6 and 7.

**Gender:** there was little difference between how males and females viewed crime in their local areas with approximately half considering it 'something of a problem.'

**Age:** younger age groups were less likely to view crime as a serious problem in their local areas than older age groups.

**Social Class:** there were no notable differences across social class in terms of views of crime in local areas.

**Nationality:** non-Irish respondents (43%) considered crime as 'not a problem' in their local areas compared with 29 percent of Irish respondents.

**Region:** a greater proportion of respondents from Dublin and the rest of Leinster (49% combined) considered crime a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem in their local areas than those in Munster and Connaught or Ulster (25% combined). Rural respondents (12%) were less likely to view crime in their local areas as a serious problem than in city (20%) and other urban areas (25%).

**Distance from Garda station:** 27 percent of respondents who lived between 3-5 kms from a Garda station viewed crime as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem compared to those who lived greater than 10 kms away (10%).

## 2.5 Sources of information that influence perceptions of national and local crime

The survey sought to ascertain how perceptions of crime are influenced. Thirty-six percent of respondents reported 'TV' was their main source of information about national crime in Ireland, followed by radio (23%), online news/media (17%) and social media (13%).

As for sources of information about local crime 'word of mouth/friends' accounted for 39 percent of respondents' answers, followed by radio/local radio (16%) and social media (14%). These sources of information are similar to those identified by respondents in the 2017 survey.

**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	4%	5%	3%	3%	5%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%
A serious problem	14%	15%	14%	13%	15%	17%	14%	15%	15%	15%	14%	15%	11%	15%	13%
Something of a problem	50%	51%	45%	50%	50%	54%	52%	51%	54%	50%	48%	50%	55%	52%	42%
Not a problem	32%	30%	39%	34%	29%	25%	30%	31%	28%	31%	33%	31%	30%	29%	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	4%	8%	2%	3%	3%	7%	3%	3%	3%	10%	4%	2%
A serious problem	19%	18%	10%	10%	17%	18%	9%	16%	16%	17%	12%	8%
Something of a problem	56%	45%	47%	55%	55%	47%	48%	48%	53%	47%	45%	50%
Not a problem	21%	30%	41%	33%	25%	28%	39%	34%	29%	26%	39%	40%

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

This section aims to examine whether having contact with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey interview impacts perceptions of national and local crime. As can be seen from tables 8 and 9, respondents who initiated contact with An Garda Síochána themselves or had Garda-initiated contact (76% respectively) were more likely to view national crime as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem compared to those who had no contact (72%).

Respondents' perceptions of local crime being 'very serious' or 'serious' were more pronounced for those who had self-initiated contact (24%) than those where contact was Garda-initiated (16%) or for those who had no contact (17%).

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

	Any self initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
A very serious problem	34%	29%	25%
A serious problem	42%	47%	47%
Something of a problem	22%	23%	25%
Not a problem	2%	2%	3%

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

	Any self initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
A very serious problem	7%	3%	3%
A serious problem	17%	13%	14%
Something of a problem	50%	50%	51%
Not a problem	26%	35%	33%

## 2.7 Summary

- Survey respondents continue to view national crime as a more serious problem than local crime.
- Since 2016, the proportion of respondents who perceived crime on a national and local level as a 'very serious' problem or a 'serious' problem has decreased.
- Women and those respondents in older age groups consider national crime a serious problem more so than men and those in younger age categories. Irish respondents too were more likely to consider it a problem than non-Irish respondents.
- Respondents in Dublin were less likely to view the national crime problem as serious, than in other regions.
- Non-Irish respondents were more likely to view crime as 'not a problem' in their local areas compared to Irish respondents.
- Local area crime was viewed as more serious by respondents from Dublin and the rest of Leinster than those in Munster and Connaught or Ulster.

The following sections will examine perceptions of national and local crime further in terms of victimisation, fear and worry about crime, satisfaction with Garda service, trust in the Gardaí and views of the Garda organisation.

# Chapter 3

## Victims of Crime



**63%**

satisfied among victims with how the Gardaí handled case



**84%**

Victim reporting rate unchanged from 2017



**Victimisation rate has remained unchanged between 2016 and 2017 at 6%**



**4.5%**

Q4 of 2018 saw the lowest victimisation rate in the last three years

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

### 3.1 Victimisation in Ireland

In the 2018 Public Attitudes Survey, there were 348 victims of crime (out of 6000), of which 25 reported they were victims of crime on more than one occasion in the preceding twelve months (5 of these were victims on more than two occasions). The victimisation rate was, therefore, 6 percent – no change from the 2017 survey.

As can be seen from figure 3, there were fluctuations within the victimisation rate over the four quarters of 2018. Victimisation peaked in quarter two (7.9%) before dropping to 4.5 percent in quarter four (the lowest it has been in the last three years). The victimisation rate has declined steadily

(except for the noticeable peak in quarter two of 2018) from quarter one of 2016 to quarter four of 2018. These changes were statistically significant. However, it should be noted here that as analysis of quarterly victimisation rates is done on smaller sample sizes the margin of error increases.

**Figure 3: Level of crime victimisation from Q1 2016 to Q4 2018**

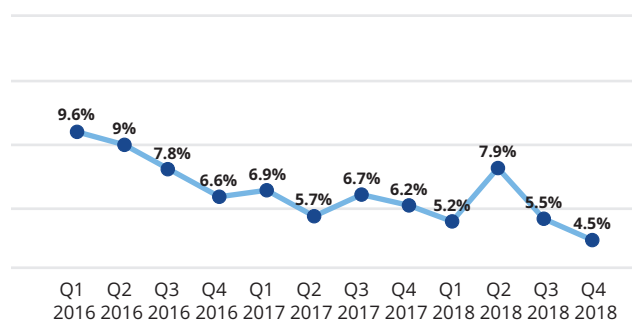
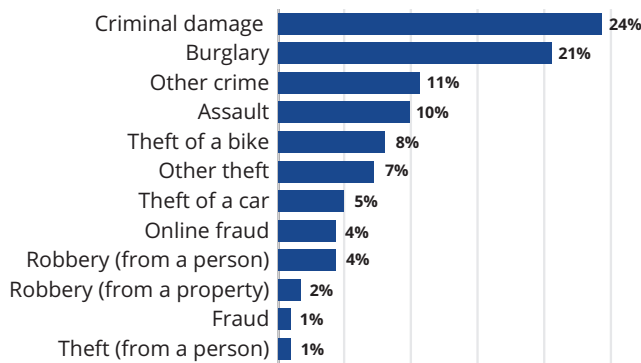


Figure four provides details of the most recent crime type experienced by victims of crime; criminal damage (24%), burglary (21%), other crimes (11%) and assault (10%) were the most common type of crime experienced in the 2018 survey. In 2017 and 2016, burglary was the most prevalent crime experienced.

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



In the 2018 sample, gender had no impact on the likelihood of being a victim. Age groups were condensed so that broad trends could be examined. Victimization did not vary considerably across age groups; 6.9 percent of 18-34 year olds reported being a victim of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview; victimisation among 35-54 year olds was 6.7 percent and for over 55's was 3.7 percent.

### 3.2 Reporting victimisation in Ireland

Of the 348 victims of crime in the sample, 290 had reported their most recent crime. This reflects an 84 percent reporting rate to Gardaí. This is in line with 2017. Respondents in Dublin (9%) were more likely to report being a victim of crime compared to Connaught/Ulster (5%) and Munster (3%). A greater proportion of respondents in 'city' areas (8%) reported they were victims of crime compared to those living in rural areas (5%). These differences were statistically significant.

Table 10 outlines those crimes that were most often reported to Gardaí. Robbery (from the person) and burglary were the two most reported in 2018. In relation to table 10, caution is advised as the sample sizes are quite small.

**Table 10: Reporting of most recent crime experienced**

	2016	2017	2018
Burglary	95%	92%	93%
Robbery (from a property)	92%	88%	79%
Theft of a car	89%	96%	79%
Other crime	81%	86%	86%
Robbery (from a person)	75%	81%	94%
Criminal damage	74%	84%	89%
Assault	68%	81%	82%
Theft of a bike	67%	76%	73%
Other theft	63%	79%	70%
Fraud	62%	73%	59%
Theft (from a person)	54%	82%	89%
Online fraud	36%	68%	42%

Reasons that were most commonly cited for not reporting a crime are presented in table 11. The most common reason at 31 percent was respondents did not believe the Gardaí could do anything followed by believing the incident was not serious enough to warrant its reporting (22%). These were the same two reasons cited most frequently by respondents in the 2016 and 2017 surveys.

**Table 11: Reasons for not reporting crime**

I did not believe the Gardaí could do anything	31%
The incident was not serious enough	22%
I did not believe the Gardaí would do anything	21%
I sorted it out myself	18%
Other reason (Please specify)	7%
I reported it to another authority	17%
I did not want to involve the Gardaí	5%
No need to make an insurance claim	4%
Fear of reprisal from perpetrator or others	3%

### 3.3 Experience of reporting a crime

Victims were asked about their experience of reporting a crime to the Gardaí:

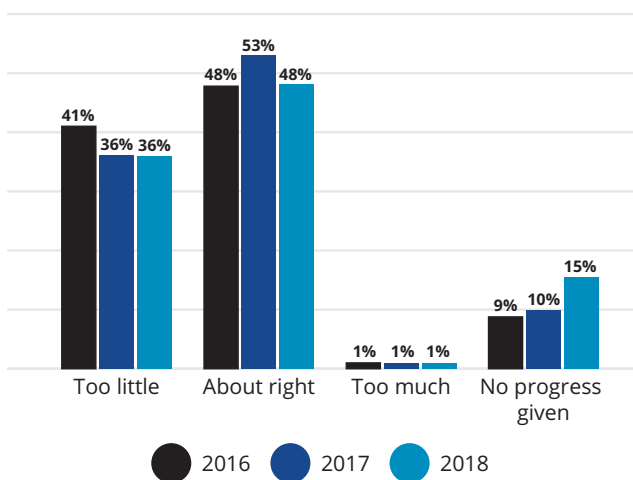
- 60% of respondents agreed that the Gardaí responded quickly when they reported the incident (down 5 percentage points from the 2017 survey).
- 77% were provided with the name of the investigating Garda - up 3 percentage points from 2017 (74%) and 8 percentage points from 2016 (69%).



- ▶ Contact details were provided to 77% of respondents – up 7 percentage points from 2017.
- ▶ PULSE identification numbers were given to 44% of respondents (in line with 2017).
- ▶ Finally, 51% of respondents reported being given a number of a victim helpline or service (up 1 percentage point from 2017).

Respondents were also asked whether the information they received from Gardaí during their most recent incident was satisfactory. Figure 5 outlines the comparisons between 2016, 2017 and 2018. As in the 2017 survey, 36 percent stated the information received was 'too little', with 48 percent stating it was 'about right', a decrease of 5 percentage points from 2017. Fifteen percent were given no update on the status of their investigation, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2017.

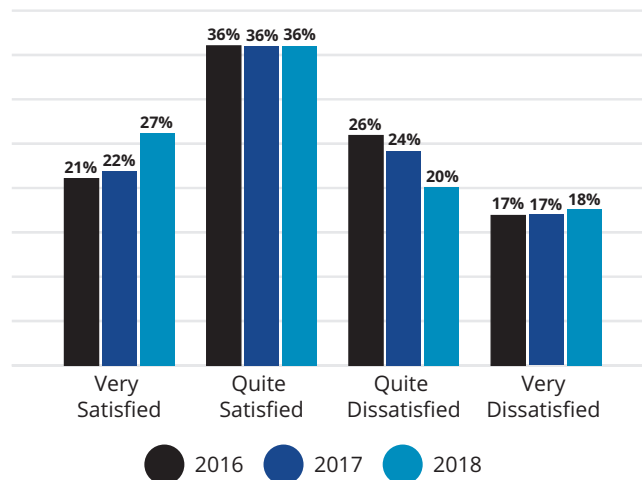
**Figure 5: Information provided to victims 2016, 2017 and 2018.**



### 3.4 Satisfaction with Garda response among victims of crime

Of the 348 victims of crime within the 2018 survey, 63 percent were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with how Gardaí handled their case. This has increased from 58 percent in 2017 and 57 percent in 2016. Within that, 27 percent stated they were 'very satisfied', an increase from 22 percent in 2017. There has been no significant change in dissatisfaction levels over the last three survey sweeps (see figure 6).

**Figure 6: Changes in satisfaction among victims 2016, 2017 and 2018**



**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 and Quite Satisfied	67%	58%	58%	63%	66%	67%	58%	64%	65%	55%
Very and Quites Dissatisfied	33%	42%	42%	37%	34%	33%	42%	36%	35%	45%

Within the 2018 survey sample there were some variations in levels of satisfaction across demographic, socio-economic, area and victim groupings when examined (see table 12).

**Gender:** more males (67%) than females (58%) expressed satisfaction with the Gardaí's handling of the crime reported. This varies from 2017 when more females (65%) than males (52%) expressed satisfaction.

**Age:** due to the small size of the victim sample, age groups were condensed to allow analysis. As age increased so too did satisfaction with Garda handling of the crime most recently reported. Sixty-six percent of those in age category 55 and over expressed satisfaction compared to 58 percent in the 18-34 years age group.

**Social Class:** social class groupings were also condensed. Social class ABC1 expressed greater satisfaction (67%) than C2DEF (58%).

**Urban/Rural:** victims from city (64%) and 'other urban' (65%) areas expressed greater satisfaction with Garda handling of the crime than those from rural areas (55%). These differences were not statistically significant.

### 3.5 Does victimisation impact on perceptions of crime?

Table 13 illustrates whether being a victim of crime impacts on perceptions of national and local crime. There was no difference between victims of crime and non-victims in terms of perception of national crime being a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem (74% for each). Crime victims (37%) were more likely to consider local crime a serious problem than non-victims (18%). Seventeen percent of victims considered local crime as 'not a problem' compared with 32 percent of non-crime victims.

**Table 13: Perceptions of crime by victimisation**

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
<b>National Crime</b>		
A very serious problem	28%	33%
A serious problem	46%	41%
Something of a problem	24%	23%
Not a problem	3%	3%
<b>Local Crime</b>		
A very serious problem	4%	12%
A serious problem	14%	25%
Something of a problem	51%	47%
Not a problem	32%	17%

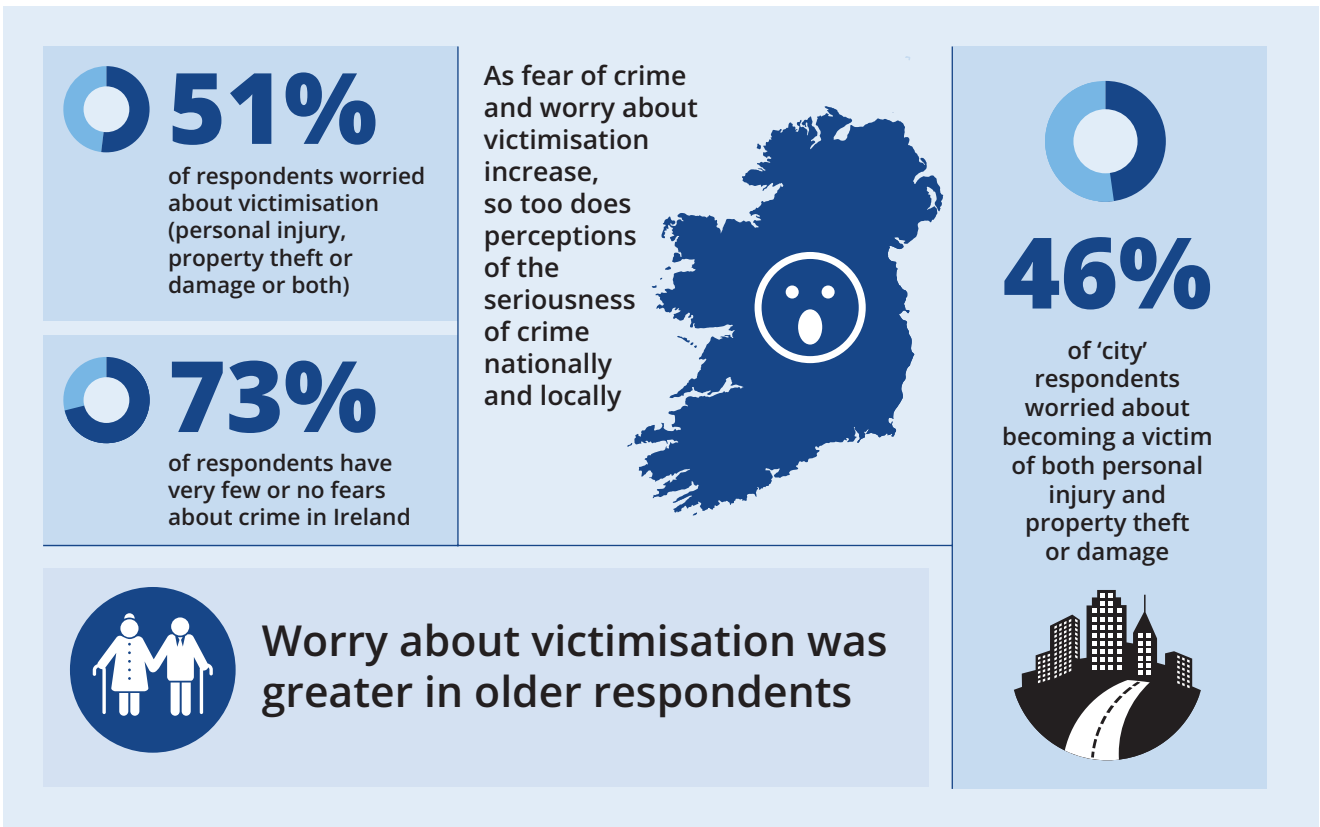
### 3.6 Summary

- › Overall, there was no change from 2017 in the victimisation rate. It remained at 6 percent during 2018. However, quarter four of 2018 saw the lowest victimisation rate in the last three years at 4.5 percent.
- › Criminal damage was the most common crime type experienced by victims in 2018, followed by burglary, 'other crime' and assault. This differed to 2016 and 2017 when burglary was the most common crime type experienced.
- › Eighty-four percent of victims in the 2018 survey sample reported their crime to Gardaí. The most reported crimes were robbery (from the person) and burglary. In terms of information received by victims during the reporting of their crime incident, 48 percent of victims stated that this was 'about right'. This has decreased from 53 percent in 2017.
- › The most common reason cited for not reporting a crime to Gardaí was a belief that Gardaí could not do anything about it.
- › Sixty-three percent of victims were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with how their incident was handled by Gardaí - an increase from 58 percent in 2017.
- › Crime victims were more likely to perceive the local crime problem as 'very serious' or 'serious' than non-crime victims.

Victimisation will be examined further in later sections. Its impact on fear and worry about crime, policing priorities, satisfaction with Garda service, trust in An Garda Síochána and views of the Garda organisation will be examined.

# Chapter 4

## Fear and Worry about Crime

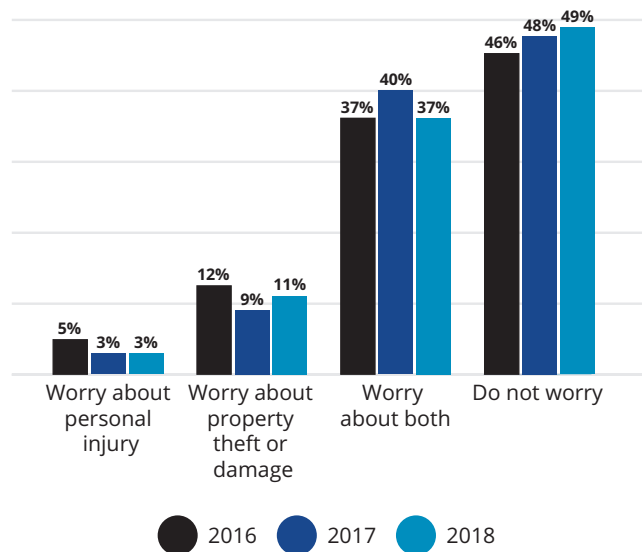


The Public Attitudes Survey explores respondents' perceptions about the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, their fear and worry about crime and the impact of these fears on their quality of life. The majority of survey respondents reported having no fears about crime and the proportion that worry about becoming a victim has decreased slightly from 2017.

### 4.1 Perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime

Respondents were asked whether they worry that they, or anyone who lives with them, might become a victim of personal injury, property crime or both. During 2018, 3 percent worried about personal injury, 11 percent worried about property theft or damage and 37 percent worried about both. Forty-nine percent reported they did not worry about becoming a victim. Figure 7 shows that more respondents worried about being a victim of property theft or damage than in 2017 and fewer respondents worried about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage. The changes above were all statistically significant.

Figure 7: Perceived likelihood of victimisation 2016, 2017 and 2018



## 4.2 Perceived likelihood of victimisation by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings

As in 2017, more men (52%) reported that they do not worry about becoming a victim than women (46%). Similarly, fewer men (34%) than women (40%) worried about being the victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage.

Younger respondents were less worried about becoming a victim of crime than older age groups. Twenty-six percent of respondents in the category 18-24 years of age worried about becoming both a victim of personal injury and property theft or damage compared to 40 percent in the 55-64 age group and 43 percent in the 65 and over age group. Sixty-two percent of 18-24 year olds reported that they do not worry about becoming a victim of crime.

Worry about becoming a victim of crime was broadly similar across social classes. Forty-nine percent of Irish respondents reported having no worries about victimisation compared to 54 percent of non-Irish respondents (see table 14).

Table 15 shows respondents' worry about victimisation by area groupings. Respondents from 'city' areas were more likely to worry about victimisation than those from 'rural' and 'other urban' areas. Forty-six percent of 'city' respondents expressed worry about becoming a victim of both personal injury and

property theft or damage compared with 32 percent and 31 percent of 'other urban' and 'rural' respondents respectively.

## 4.3 Perceived likelihood of victimisation by contact with An Garda Síochána

When perceptions of becoming a victim of crime are examined by contact with An Garda Síochána (table 16), it can be seen that 37 percent of respondents who had initiated contact with An Garda Síochána themselves worried about future victimisation of both personal injury and property theft or damage compared with 29 percent of those who had experienced Garda-initiated contact (contact initiated in the 12 months prior to the survey interview).

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

	Any self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Worry about personal injury	4%	8%	3%
Worry about property theft or damage	12%	8%	10%
Worry about both	37%	29%	38%
Do not worry	47%	55%	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	3%	4%	-	4%	3%	-	4%	4%	-	3%	3%	4%	-	3%	3%
Worry about property theft or damage	11%	10%	8%	10%	12%	10%	11%	13%	12%	11%	11%	9%	15%	11%	10%
Worry about both	34%	40%	26%	34%	36%	39%	40%	43%	37%	38%	35%	37%	38%	37%	34%
Do not worry	52%	46%	62%	53%	50%	49%	45%	41%	48%	48%	51%	50%	46%	49%	54%

**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	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%	6%	3%	3%	-	-
Worry about property theft or damage	8%	14%	10%	10%	9%	12%	12%	10%	10%	12%	13%	12%
Worry about both	47%	31%	35%	31%	46%	32%	31%	36%	40%	35%	33%	33%
Do not worry	41%	53%	50%	56%	42%	53%	54%	49%	47%	50%	52%	50%



## 4.4 Perceived likelihood of re-victimisation by victimisation

As one might expect, and indeed this was the case in the 2017 survey sweep, those respondents who had been victims of crime (50%) in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were more likely to worry about future victimisation of both personal injury and property theft or damage than non-victims of crime (36%). Equally, 25 percent of crime victims did not worry about future victimisation compared with 51 percent of non-crime victims (see table 17).

**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	10%	19%
Worry about both	36%	50%
Do not worry	51%	25%

## 4.5 Perceived likelihood of victimisation by fear of crime

As table 18 shows, 71 percent of respondents who had 'a lot of fear' about crime in general worried about the possibility of becoming the victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage, compared with 15 percent who had no fears of crime in general.

**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	-	8%	2%	-
Worry about property theft or damage	10%	19%	13%	2%
Worry about both	71%	53%	42%	15%
Do not worry	-	21%	44%	83%

## 4.6 Perceived likelihood of victimisation and perception of the national and local crime problem

In this section we examine how respondents' perceptions of the national and local crime problem influence their worry about becoming a victim of crime. As can be seen from table 19, of those respondents who viewed national crime as a 'very serious' problem, 39 percent worried about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage. This figure fell to 16 percent for those who considered national crime to not be a problem. Interestingly, of those respondents who considered national crime a 'very serious' problem, 42 percent did not worry about future victimisation at all.

When we examine views of the crime problem in respondents' local area and worry about victimisation we see that of those who considered the problem to be 'very serious', 49 percent worried about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage whereas 28 percent did not worry at all.

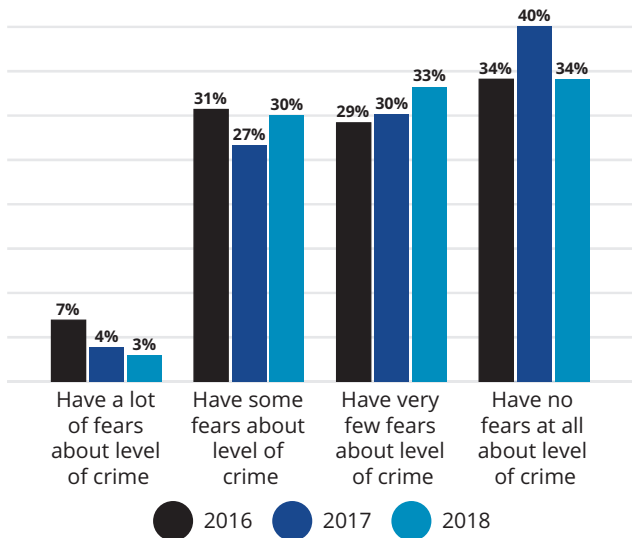
**Table 19: Perceived likelihood of victimisation by perceptions of national and local crime**

	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%	4%	-	-	-	5%	3%	3%
Worry about property theft or damage	16%	10%	7%	-	19%	12%	10%	10%
Worry about both	39%	40%	32%	16%	49%	54%	41%	21%
Do not worry	42%	46%	59%	78%	28%	30%	45%	67%

### 4.7 Fear about the level of crime in Ireland

Figure 8 examines fears among respondents about the level of crime in Ireland across the 2016, 2017 and 2018 survey sweeps. As can be seen, the proportion of respondents who 'have a lot of fears' about the level of crime in Ireland has decreased from 7 percent in 2016 to 3 percent in 2018. The proportion of respondents that have 'some fears' has risen from 27 percent in 2017 to 30 percent in 2018. There has been an increase in those respondents who have 'very few fears' from 29 percent in 2016, to 33 percent in 2018. The proportion of respondents who have no fears about crime in Ireland has decreased from 40 percent in 2017 to 34 percent in 2018. The changes highlighted above were all statistically significant.

**Figure 8: Fear about the levels of crime in Ireland 2016, 2017 and 2018**



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

Staying with fear of crime, we look at fears about the levels of crime by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings (see tables 20 and 21). During 2018, females (32%) were more likely to have 'some fears' about the level of crime than males (27%). Similarly, a greater proportion of males (37%) than females (31%) had no such fears.

In terms of age, as age increased respondents were more likely to have some fears about the level of crime and were less likely to have no fears about the level of crime in Ireland. Those respondents from social class F (37%) were more likely to have some fears about the level of crime than those from other social class groupings. The same group of respondents (25%) were less likely to have no fears about crime than those from other groupings (e.g. social class DE (37%) and C2 (36%)). Non-Irish respondents (43%) were more likely to report having no fear about the levels of crime than Irish respondents (33%).

A greater portion of respondents from Munster (35%) reported having some fears about the level of crime than those from other areas (Dublin – 29%; Leinster – 26% and Connaught and Ulster – 28%). Respondents from rural areas (35%) were more likely to report having very few fears about the levels of crime than those from city areas (31%). Distance from Garda station had no notable impact on fear of crime levels.

**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%	3%	4%	4%	4%	-	3%	3%	4%	-	4%	-
Have some fears about level of crime	27%	32%	20%	25%	30%	30%	33%	36%	29%	31%	28%	29%	37%	30%	24%
Have very few fears about level of crime	33%	33%	30%	33%	32%	35%	34%	34%	36%	36%	33%	30%	35%	34%	30%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	37%	31%	48%	38%	35%	32%	29%	25%	32%	31%	36%	37%	25%	33%	43%

**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	6%	3%	-	3%	5%	3%	3%	4%	5%	3%	-	-
Have some fears about level of crime	29%	26%	35%	28%	30%	28%	30%	33%	28%	29%	30%	36%
Have very few fears about level of crime	30%	35%	33%	37%	31%	34%	35%	33%	33%	33%	34%	34%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	35%	36%	31%	33%	34%	35%	33%	31%	35%	36%	34%	27%

### 4.9 Fear of crime by contact with An Garda Síochána

Table 22 examines respondents' fears of crime in relation to any contact they may have had with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months prior to the survey interview (self-initiated contact, Garda-initiated or no contact at all). Respondents who had some contact with the Gardaí reported slightly higher levels of fear of crime than those who had no contact. As can be seen, 37 percent of respondents who had Garda-initiated contact reported having some fears about the level of crime. This figure dropped to 28 percent for respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months.

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

	Self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	5%	-	3%
Have some fears about level of crime	33%	37%	28%
Have very few fears about level of crime	33%	33%	34%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	30%	28%	35%

### 4.10 Fear of crime and experience of victimisation

When fears about level of crime are examined by victimisation, it can be seen that crime victims (victims in the preceding 12 months) are more likely to have a lot of fears about the level of crime than non-crime victims (12% vs. 3%). Similarly, non-crime victims were more likely to have no fears about the level of crime than crime victims (35% vs. 16%). See table 23.

**Table 23: Fear of crime by victimisation**

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Have a lot of fears about level of crime	3%	12%
Have some fears about level of crime	29%	44%
Have very few fears about level of crime	34%	27%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	35%	16%

**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	7%	3%	-	-	14%	8%	3%	-
Have some fears about level of crime	37%	31%	22%	-	32%	36%	33%	21%
Have very few fears about level of crime	27%	33%	42%	21%	29%	26%	37%	31%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	30%	33%	35%	69%	25%	31%	27%	47%

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

In previous sections we saw that respondents who viewed national and local crime as a problem were more likely to worry about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage. Equally, those whose levels of fear of crime were higher were more likely to consider national and local crime as a problem.

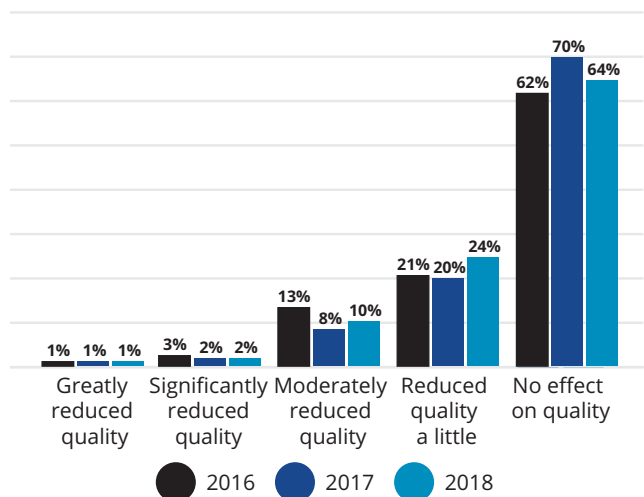
As can be seen from table 24, 37 percent of respondents who considered national crime as a ‘very serious’ problem had some fears about the level of crime. This figure fell to 22 percent for those who thought it ‘something of a problem’. Those who considered crime levels as ‘something of a problem’ were more likely to have few fears about the level of crime than those who considered it a ‘very serious problem’ (42% vs. 27%).

Regarding perceptions of local crime, table 24 shows that those respondents who consider it ‘not a problem’ were more likely to have no fears at all about the level of crime compared with those who view it as ‘a very serious problem’ (47% vs. 25%).

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

As can be seen from previous survey sweeps (2016 onwards), fear of crime does not have a notable impact on quality of life. As figure 9 shows, the proportion of respondents who reported that it greatly impacts on quality of life has remained at 1 percent in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 survey sweeps. Those respondents who reported that it has reduced the quality of life a little has increased from 20 percent in 2017 to 24 percent in 2018 and for those who consider that it moderately reduced quality of life, this figure has increased from 8 percent in 2017 to 10 percent in 2018. Furthermore, those respondents who consider that it has no effect on quality of life has decreased from 70 percent in 2017 to 64 percent in 2018. These changes were statistically significant.

**Figure 9: Impact of fear of crime on 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	-	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	-
Significantly reduced quality	2%	2%	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	2%	2%	2%	-	2%	-
Moderately reduced quality	10%	10%	6%	8%	9%	9%	11%	14%	9%	10%	9%	10%	9%	10%	10%
Reduced quality a little	23%	25%	15%	24%	21%	25%	26%	30%	23%	24%	25%	24%	25%	24%	22%
No effect on quality	65%	62%	76%	66%	67%	63%	60%	53%	65%	63%	63%	63%	64%	63%	65%

**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	2%	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	4%	-	-	-	4%	-	-	-	2%	3%	-	-	-
Moderately reduced quality	15%	9%	7%	7%	14%	9%	6%	10%	9%	10%	8%	8%	-
Reduced quality a little	30%	16%	32%	14%	29%	21%	21%	22%	23%	25%	22%	27%	-
No effect on quality	49%	74%	60%	77%	52%	69%	72%	65%	64%	61%	69%	63%	-

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

As table 25 indicates, there were no notable differences between men and women in terms of the impact of fear of crime on quality of life - male respondents (65%) reported that it had no effect on quality as opposed to 62 percent for women. Broadly speaking, as the age of respondents increased, so too did the impact of fear of crime on quality of life. There were no notable differences across social classes or nationality.

When area groupings are considered (table 26) it can be seen that fear about the levels of crime impacted quality of life mostly for respondents in Dublin (51%) and Munster (39%). ‘City’ respondents considered it to have reduced quality more than ‘other urban’ and ‘rural’ areas. Distance from Garda station had no notable impact on the effects of fear of crime on respondents’ quality of life.

### 4.14 Impact on quality of life by contact with An Garda Síochána

Table 27 shows to what extent respondents’ quality of life is affected by fear of crime levels against whether they had self-initiated, Garda-initiated or no contact with the Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview. Those who had self-initiated contact (38%) reported slightly more impact on quality of life than those who had Garda-initiated contact or no contact (34% respectively).

**Table 27: Impact on quality of life by contact with An Garda Síochána**

	Any self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No Contact
Greatly reduced quality	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	4%	-	1%
Moderately reduced quality	12%	6%	9%
Reduced quality a little	22%	28%	24%
No effect on quality	61%	62%	65%

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

Victims of crime reported greater levels of impact on their quality of life by fear of crime than non-crime victims (47% vs. 36%).

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

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Greatly reduced quality	1%	-
Significantly reduced quality	2%	-
Moderately reduced quality	9%	23%
Reduced quality a little	24%	24%
No effect on quality	65%	41%

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

As table 29 illustrates, those respondents who had a lot of fears about crime reported the greatest impact on their quality of life (86% reported some negative impact).

**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	18%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-
Significantly reduced quality	18%	4%	-	-	-	-	4%	-
Moderately reduced quality	33%	19%	8%	-	16%	19%	16%	2%
Reduced quality a little	17%	36%	30%	8%	37%	25%	42%	10%
No effect on quality	16%	40%	61%	91%	36%	53%	36%	88%

**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	2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Significantly reduced quality	3%	2%	-	-	-	4%	2%	-
Moderately reduced quality	13%	8%	9%	-	24%	18%	9%	4%
Reduced quality a little	23%	25%	25%	-	26%	28%	29%	14%
No effect on quality	59%	64%	64%	82%	34%	47%	60%	81%

In terms of worry about victimisation and impact on quality of life, those respondents (64%) who worried about both personal injury and property theft or damage reported it reduced their quality of life to some extent.

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

Perceptions about the local and national crime problem were examined in relation to whether respondents' fear of crime levels had impacted on their quality of life. In terms of national crime, 59 percent of respondents who viewed it as a 'serious problem' reported no effect on quality of life from fear of crime compared with 82 percent who stated it was not a problem.

Those respondents who viewed the local crime situation as 'not a problem' reported significantly lower level of impact on quality of life (18%) than those respondents who viewed local crime as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem (50% respectively) (see table 30).



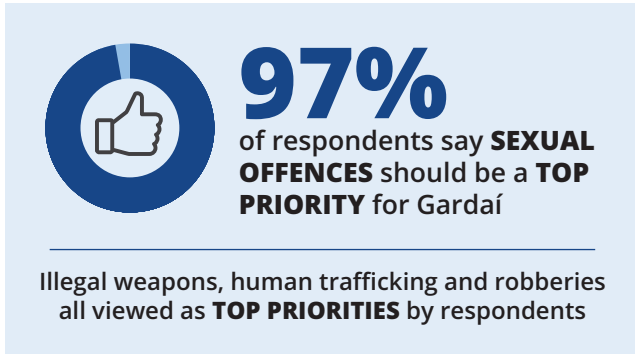
## 4.18 Summary

- › In 2018, 37 percent of respondents worried about being the victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage – down from 40 percent in 2017.
- › A greater proportion of respondents from ‘city’ areas worried about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage than respondents from ‘other urban’ and ‘rural’ areas. Rural respondents (54%) worried less about victimisation compared to city respondents (42%).
- › Respondents who considered national and local crime a problem were more likely to worry about victimisation. As perceptions of the crime problem increased so did worry about victimisation, fear about the levels of crime and reported impact of this fear on quality of life.
- › During 2018, levels of fear of crime increased slightly from 2017 (31% to 33%). Impact on quality of life because of fear about the levels of crime has increased also.
- › As age of respondents increased, so did fear about the levels of crime and the impact of this on quality of life.
- › Munster and Dublin had the highest proportion of respondents who reported ‘a lot’ or ‘some’ fears about the level of crime. Respondents from Dublin reported that their fear of crime had the greatest impact on their quality of life.
- › Fear about the levels of crime was higher among victims of crime than non-victims. Similarly victims of crime reported the greatest impact on their quality of life because of these fears than non-crime victims.

Later in the report we examine how fear and worry about crime are affected by levels of satisfaction with the Garda service provided to local communities as well as trust in, and perceptions of, the Garda organisation.

# Chapter 5

## Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána



Questions relating to respondents' views on what should be An Garda Síochána's policing priorities were asked once each quarter (in January, April, July and October). The sample size for this section is 2000 respondents.

### 5.1 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána

Respondents were asked what they felt were the crimes on which Gardaí should focus. As can be seen from table 31, 'sexual offences' was the crime type respondents felt should receive the highest priority (chosen by 97% of respondents), followed by 'illegal weapons', 'human trafficking' and 'robberies' (92% each) and 'assaults' (90%). Public order offences, criminal damage and traffic offences featured highly in the medium and low priorities (burglaries and fraud offences were also included in the top low priorities).

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

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Sexual offences	97%	2%	1%
Illegal weapons	92%	7%	1%
Human trafficking	92%	6%	2%
Robberies	92%	7%	1%
Assaults	90%	9%	1%
Drugs offences	85%	12%	4%
Burglaries	78%	20%	2%
Fraud	77%	21%	3%
Traffic offences	72%	25%	4%
Criminal damage	71%	25%	3%
Public order offences	46%	40%	15%

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

In order to assess any differences across socio-economic groupings and areas, ranks were assigned to priorities. 'One' was assigned to the highest percentage priority and 'eleven' to the lowest. Those with equal weighting were given the same rank score. A breakdown of the results can be seen in tables 32 and 33. As table 32 illustrates, irrespective of gender, age, social class or nationality, respondents ranked sexual offences as the top priority for An Garda Síochána. The vast majority of respondents, across all demographics, highlighted illegal weapons, human trafficking and robbery as their next priorities.

**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	3	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	3	3	2	3	2
Assaults	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	2	4	2	4	3	2	2	4
Robberies	2	2	4	2	2	3	3	3	5	3	2	2	2	3	3
Illegal weapons	5	2	4	5	5	5	3	4	2	5	5	5	5	5	5
Drugs offences	6	6	6	6	6	6	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Fraud	8	7	7	7	7	7	10	7	7	7	7	9	7	7	7
Burglaries	7	8	8	8	8	8	7	9	8	7	8	7	8	9	8
Traffic offences	9	8	9	10	9	10	9	8	9	9	9	10	9	10	10
Criminal damage	9	10	10	9	9	9	8	10	10	10	10	7	10	7	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	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Human trafficking	5	2	3	3	4	2	2	2	5	4	4	1
Assaults	3	4	5	3	3	4	4	4	2	2	2	3
Robberies	4	3	3	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	3	3
Drugs offences	2	5	1	5	2	5	5	5	2	5	4	5
Illegal weapons	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5
Fraud	6	7	9	8	7	7	8	7	7	7	8	8
Burglaries	8	8	8	6	9	7	7	8	8	8	7	7
Traffic offences	8	9	7	10	8	9	10	9	9	10	9	10
Criminal damage	10	10	9	8	9	10	9	10	9	9	9	9
Public order offences	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11

Similarly, sexual offences were ranked by the majority as a top priority, regardless of area groupings. Respondents in Dublin and ‘city’ areas ranked assaults as their second priority and human trafficking as their third. Robberies were ranked second in Connaught and Ulster, ‘other urban’ and rural areas.

### 5.3 Does becoming a victim of crime impact on policing priorities?

Again, sexual offences were identified by both victims of crime and non-crime victims as the top priority for Gardaí (see table 34). Human trafficking was identified as the second priority for both crime and non-crime victims (non-crime victims also identified illegal weapons and robberies here). The least prioritised by both groups were public order, traffic offences and criminal damage.

**Table 34: Priorities for An Garda Síochána by victimisation grouping**

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

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

Table 35 shows the ranked priorities for respondents by whether they had self-initiated, Garda-initiated or no contact with An Garda Síochána during the 12 months preceding the survey interview. Again, sexual offences received the highest priority regardless of contact type. ‘Illegal weapons’ ranked highly for those respondents who had self- or Garda- initiated contact and human trafficking for those who had self-initiated or no contact. Robberies were listed as second priority for those who had no contact with Gardaí. .

**Table 35: Policing priorities by contact with An Garda Síochána**

	Self-initiated Contact	Garda-initiated Contact	No contact
Sexual offences	1	1	1
Illegal weapons	3	2	4
Human trafficking	2	5	3
Robberies	4	4	2
Assaults	5	3	5
Drugs offences	6	6	6
Burglaries	7	8	7
Fraud	8	7	7
Traffic offences	9	9	10
Criminal damage	10	10	9
Public order offences	11	11	11

## 5.5 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by fear of crime

The survey sought to examine how fear of crime among respondents impacts on their views about the crimes that should be prioritised by An Garda Síochána. Table 36 again shows the prioritisation of sexual offences. Perhaps not surprisingly, for those who have ‘a lot of fears’ about crime, robbery and assaults were viewed as very important. For those with ‘some’ fears illegal weapons and robberies were seen as priorities. Public order offences were the least prioritised regardless of respondents’ fear of crime.

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

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

## 5.6 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána by perceptions of crime

Tables 37 and 38 examine how respondents’ views about the national and local crime problem impact on the crimes they feel should be prioritised by An Garda Síochána. Sexual offences, again, were prioritised the most, regardless of perceptions of the national and local crime problem. Illegal weapons too were ranked as a top priority for those who consider national and local crime to be a ‘very serious’ problem. Robberies were considered a priority for those who view national crime as a problem, as was human trafficking for those with views of a significant local crime problem.

**Table 37: Policing priorities by perceptions of national crime**

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

**Table 38: Policing priorities by perceptions of local crime**

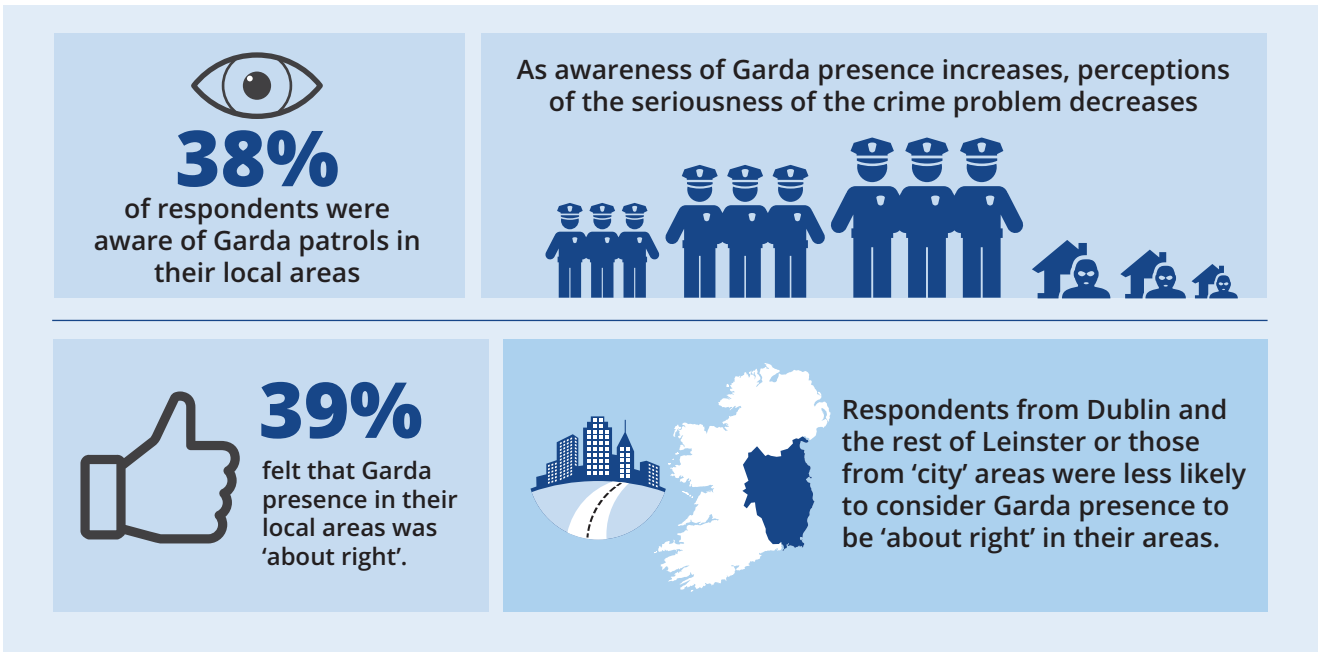
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Some-thing of a problem	Not a problem
Sexual offences	1	2	1	1
Human trafficking	5	1	2	3
Assaults	3	3	3	2
Robberies	2	5	4	4
Illegal weapons	4	6	5	5
Drugs offences	7	4	5	6
Fraud	8	7	7	7
Burglaries	6	7	8	8
Traffic offences	9	9	8	9
Criminal damage	9	10	10	10
Public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

## 5.7 Summary

- Sexual offences were identified overwhelmingly by respondents as the crime type which should be prioritised by An Garda Síochána. This was consistent across socio-demographic and area groupings as well as when examined in relation to victimisation, fear of crime, perceptions of crime and contact with An Garda Síochána.
- Illegal weapons, human trafficking and robbery were given a high priority also by respondents.
- In Connaught and Ulster, robberies were given higher priority than illegal weapons and human trafficking.
- Public order, criminal damage and traffic offences received the lowest priority in general across the board.
- Those respondents with a lot of fears about crime prioritised assaults and robberies in addition to sexual offences.
- Illegal weapons were important for those who viewed national and local crime as a ‘very serious’ problem.

# Chapter 6

## Garda Visibility and Perception of Garda Presence



During 2018, 38 percent of survey respondents reported being aware of Garda patrols in their local areas. Thirty-nine percent felt that Garda presence in their local areas was 'about right'.

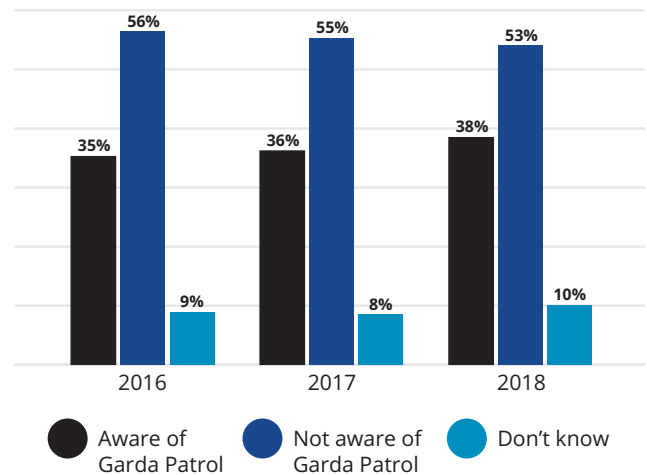
### 6.1 Awareness of Garda patrols

As can be seen from figure 10, the proportion of respondents who reported being unaware of Garda patrols has decreased each year since 2016 (56%, 55% and 53% respectively for the last three years). The change from 55 percent in 2017 to 53 percent in 2018 is statistically significant. Awareness of Garda patrols has increased from 36 percent in 2017, to 38 percent in 2018. Of the 38 percent of survey respondents who were aware of Garda patrols, the majority at 98 percent reported this as Gardaí patrolling in cars (in line with 2017 results) (see table 39).

**Table 39: Garda patrolling practices**

Aware of Garda patrols		38%
On foot	12%	
By bicycle	7%	
By car	98%	
Not aware of Garda patrols		53%
Don't know		10%

**Figure 10: Awareness of Garda patrol during 2016, 2017 and 2018**



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

There was no notable difference between men (43%) and women (41%) in terms of awareness of Garda patrols in their local areas. Eighteen to 34-year-olds reported more awareness than older age groups about Garda patrols in their local areas. Awareness was similar across social groups and Irish/non-Irish nationals (see table 40).

As can be seen from table 41, respondents in Munster reported the highest level of awareness of Garda patrols in their local areas at 51 percent. Dublin and the rest of Leinster were the lowest at 35 and 36 percent respectively. ‘City’ respondents (40%) had the lowest level of recall about local Garda patrols compared with ‘other urban’ and rural (43% each). Generally, and as would be expected, as distance from a Garda station increased, awareness of Garda patrols decreased (these last two points are in line with 2017 survey results).

### 6.3 Awareness of Garda patrols and perceptions of crime

When awareness of Garda patrols in local areas is examined against perceptions of national and local crime (see table 42), it can be seen that as respondents’ views of the national crime problem being serious decrease, awareness of Garda patrols increases. Fifty-four percent of those who thought national crime was ‘not a problem’ reported being aware of Garda patrols compared with 36 percent of respondents who viewed national crime as a ‘serious’ problem. While this association was similar for local crime, the differences were not as pronounced.

### 6.4 Awareness of Garda patrols and fear of crime

As table 43 illustrates, there was very little difference across levels of fear of crime and awareness of Garda patrols in respondents’ local area.

**Table 43: Awareness of Garda patrols and fear of crime**

	A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears
Aware of Garda Patrols	43%	42%	43%	41%
Not Aware of Garda Patrols	57%	58%	57%	59%

**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	43%	41%	46%	45%	41%	41%	38%	41%	37%	40%	42%	45%	42%	41%	46%
Not aware of Garda patrol	57%	59%	54%	55%	59%	59%	62%	65%	63%	60%	58%	55%	58%	59%	54%

**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	35%	36%	51%	47%	40%	43%	43%	54%	45%	37%	36%	39%
Not aware of Garda patrol	65%	64%	50%	53%	60%	58%	57%	46%	56%	63%	64%	61%

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

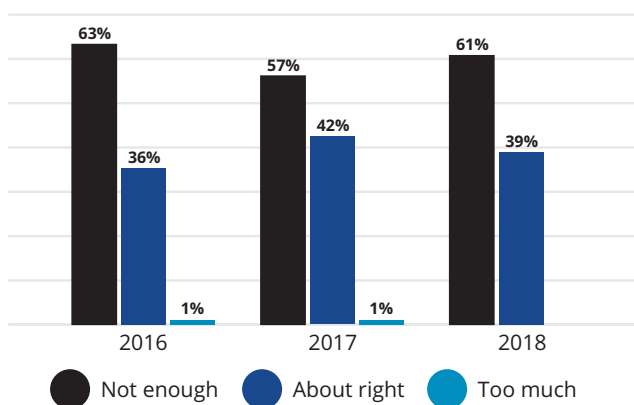
	National				Local			
	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
Aware of Garda patrol	36%	43%	45%	54%	37%	40%	41%	45%
Not Aware of Garda patrol	64%	57%	55%	46%	63%	61%	59%	55%



## 6.5 Perception of Garda presence in local areas

When asked whether they thought that Garda presence in their local area was enough, 61 percent of respondents felt that it was not enough. This is compared to 57 percent in 2017 (see figure 11). This change was statistically significant. During 2018, 39 percent of respondents reported that Garda presence in their local area was 'about right' compared to 42 percent in 2017 and 36 percent in 2016.

**Figure 11: Perceptions of Garda presence in local area 2016, 2017 and 2018**



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

The main reason given for reporting that Garda presence in local areas is 'not enough', was that the police are 'never or rarely seen' (59%), followed by the fact that Gardaí are 'only seen in cars' (37%) and there 'are not enough/need more/don't see police on 'foot' (36%) (see table 44).

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

Never or rarely see the police	59%
Only see police in cars	37%
Not enough or need more or don't see police on foot	36%
Used to be more police	25%
Only there when there's a crime or trouble	22%
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	21%
Slow to respond	17%
Garda station closed or only open part-time	14%
See crimes happening, but no police	11%
Police can't do anything when crimes happen	11%
Rely too much on cameras	8%
Other (Please specify)	1%

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

Fifty-two percent of respondents felt that Garda presence in their local area was 'about right' as there is 'not much crime or no problem with crime.' Forty-four percent reported that Gardaí are 'seen quite often' and 38 percent stated they 'see Gardaí in patrol cars' (see table 45). These reasons were very much in line with those provided by respondents in the 2016 and 2017 survey sweeps.

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

Not much crime or no problem with crime	52%
See them quite often	44%
See police patrolling in cars	38%
Police station nearby	26%
Not necessary to see them all the time	20%
Crime rates have reduced or area improving	11%
See police occasionally or don't see them much	10%
See police on foot	5%
Seeing too many is overwhelming	3%
Cameras everywhere	2%
Other	1%

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

As in 2017, a greater proportion of females (63%) felt that Garda presence in their local area was not enough, compared to males (58%). As age increased, so too did the proportion of respondents who felt that Garda presence was not enough. Differences across social class were not notable. However, in terms of nationality, Irish respondents (38%) were less likely to report that Garda presence in local areas was 'about right' compared to non-Irish nationals (49%) (see table 46).

Table 47 shows that there were stark differences across regions in terms of respondents' perception of Garda presence. Respondents' in Dublin (74%) and the rest of Leinster (61%) were much more likely to consider Garda presence as 'not enough' in their local areas compared to Munster (55%) and Connaught and Ulster (49%). Similarly, 'city' respondents (30%) were less likely to view Garda presence as 'about right' compared to 'other urban' and 'rural' areas (43% and 44% respectively). Distance from Garda station produced no notable differences.

**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	58%	63%	48%	54%	61%	64%	65%	67%	61%	61%	61%	61%	58%	62%	51%
About right	41%	37%	50%	45%	39%	35%	35%	33%	38%	39%	39%	38%	42%	38%	49%
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	74%	61%	55%	49%	69%	56%	55%	56%	61%	64%	57%	61%
About right	25%	39%	45%	50%	30%	43%	44%	43%	38%	36%	42%	39%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Those respondents (48%) who had Garda-initiated contact at some point in the preceding 12 months to the survey interview, were less likely to report that Garda presence was 'not enough' compared with those who had self-initiated contact (64%) or no contact (61%) (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	64%	48%	61%
About right	36%	50%	39%
Too much	-	-	-

## 6.10 Perceptions of Garda presence by experience of victimisation

As shown in table 49, a greater proportion of crime victims (72%) reported that Garda presence was 'not enough' in their

local areas compared to non-crime victims (60%). This is in line with 2017 results.

**Table 49: Perceptions of Garda presence by victimisation**

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Not enough	60%	72%
About right	40%	28%
Too much	-	-

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

When respondents' fear of crime and worry about victimisation were examined against perceptions of Garda presence (see table 50), it can be seen that those with higher levels of fear of crime considered Garda presence as 'not enough' in their local areas. Similarly, respondents with no worries about crime were less likely to consider Garda presence as not enough.

**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 or damage	Worry about both	Do not worry
About right	16%	28%	42%	48%	33%	27%	28%	50%
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	72%	60%	51%	36%	77%	74%	65%	45%
About right	28%	40%	48%	63%	22%	26%	35%	54%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

The opinion that Garda presence is ‘about right’ was more likely to be expressed by those who considered national and local crime to ‘not be a problem’. The more serious the view of the crime problem, both nationally and locally, the more likely respondents were to view Garda presence in local areas as ‘not enough’ (see table 51).

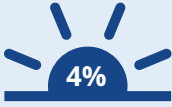
## 6.13 Summary

- › Thirty-eight percent of survey respondents reported being aware of Garda patrols in their local areas (an increase of 2 percentage points from 2017).
- › Thirty-nine percent of respondents reported that Garda presence was ‘about right’ in their local areas. Respondents from Munster and the rest of Leinster had less recall about Garda patrols in their local areas than those from Connaught and Ulster.
- › As age increased, so too did perceptions that Garda presence was not enough. Similarly, those respondents from Dublin and the rest of Leinster or those from ‘city’ areas were less likely to consider Garda presence to be ‘about right’ in their areas.
- › Victimization impacted negatively on perceptions of Garda presence (72% of crime victims versus 60% of non-crime victims reported it as ‘not enough’).
- › The greater the fear of crime, the less likely respondents were to be happy with the level of Garda presence in their local areas.
- › Perceived seriousness of the crime problem nationally and in local areas was associated with views that Garda presence was ‘not enough.’


# Chapter 7


## Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

**Satisfaction with Garda service has increased between 2017 and 2018 by 4%**




**Victimisation impacts negatively on satisfaction levels with Garda service.**



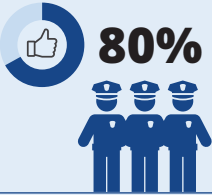


As perceptions of the seriousness of national and local crime increase, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service locally.




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**80%** of respondents were satisfied with the service provided to their local communities by An Garda Síochána



**Satisfaction levels have been increasing since quarter one of 2016, with quarters one, three and four of 2018 displaying the highest levels of satisfaction with Garda service locally.**



**Fear of crime and worry about victimisation were associated with lower satisfaction levels.**



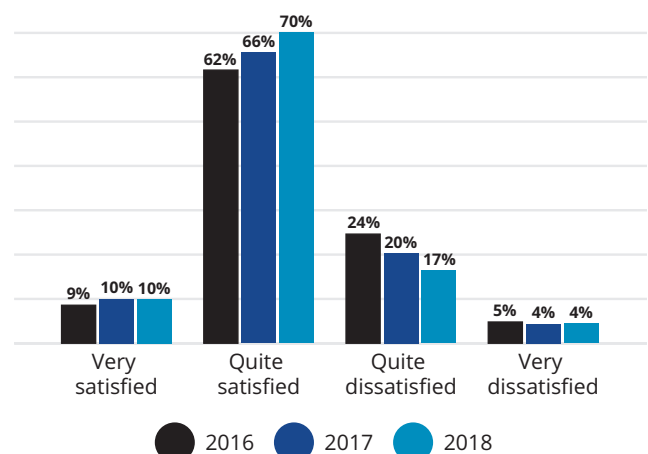
### 7.1 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána during 2018

The Public Attitudes Survey examines levels of satisfaction among respondents with the service Gardaí provide to their local communities. During 2018, 80 percent were satisfied with this service. Seventy percent of respondents reported that they were 'quite satisfied' with the level of service provided by Gardaí in their local communities, with 10 percent being 'very satisfied'. Seventeen percent expressed that they were 'quite dissatisfied' and 4 percent were 'very dissatisfied'.

### 7.2 Changes in level of satisfaction with An Garda Síochána between 2016, 2017 and 2018

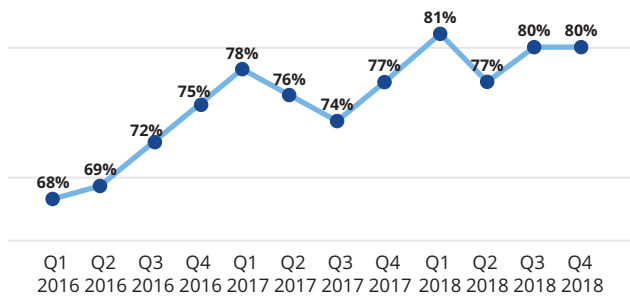
Satisfaction levels (both 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied') among respondents, with the service provided to their local communities by Gardaí, has increased year on year since 2016 (71%, 76% and 80% for each respective year) - a statistically significant development. Dissatisfaction levels have decreased accordingly (29% in 2016, 24% in 2017 and 21% during 2018) (see figure 12).

Figure 12: Changes in satisfaction with An Garda Síochána between 2016, 2017 and 2018



As figure 13 illustrates, quarters one, three and four of 2018 showed the highest levels of satisfaction with the Garda service provided to local communities, than any quarter in the previous two years (there was a decline in satisfaction in quarter 2 of 2018 – but still satisfaction levels remained higher than in most quarters of previous years). Generally, satisfaction levels have been increasing since quarter one of 2016.

**Figure 13: Changes in satisfaction with An Garda Síochána between Q1 2016 and Q4 2018**



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

During 2018, there was no notable association between gender and level of satisfaction in the service Gardaí provide to local communities. This is true for social class generally, although those from social class F expressed slightly higher levels of satisfaction. In terms of age, overall, younger respondents and those aged 65 years and older, expressed the greatest levels of satisfaction. Non-Irish nationals (14%) were more likely to be ‘very satisfied’ with Garda service compared to Irish nationals (9%) (See table 52).

### 7.4 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by area groupings

Respondents from Munster, Connaught and Ulster (82% respectively), expressed greater levels of satisfaction with Garda service provided to local communities than Dublin (77%) and the rest of Leinster (78%). A greater proportion of respondents in ‘city’ areas (23%) reported dissatisfaction with Garda service compared with ‘other urban’ (20%) and ‘rural’ areas (19%). Distance from Garda station had some impact on satisfaction levels with Garda service provided to local communities (see table 53). Generally, as distance from the station increased so too did dissatisfaction levels.

**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%	10%	9%	10%	9%	10%	10%	9%	10%	9%	9%	14%
Quite satisfied	71%	69%	71%	69%	69%	68%	69%	73%	70%	70%	68%	70%	76%	70%	71%
Quite dissatisfied	16%	18%	15%	17%	18%	18%	18%	16%	17%	17%	19%	16%	12%	17%	13%
Very dissatisfied	4%	4%	-	4%	3%	5%	4%	-	-	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	10%	9%	11%	9%	10%	11%	9%	15%	10%	8%	8%	10%
Quite satisfied	67%	69%	71%	73%	68%	70%	72%	68%	74%	67%	71%	62%
Quite dissatisfied	20%	18%	15%	15%	19%	16%	16%	13%	14%	21%	17%	24%
Very dissatisfied	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	-	3%	4%	4%	5%

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

As table 54 highlights, respondents who had Garda-initiated contact in the 12 months preceding the survey interview (14%) were more likely to be 'very satisfied' with Garda service provided to their local communities, than those who had self-initiated contact (10%) or no contact (9%). Overall, when 'very' and 'quite' satisfied are combined, respondents who had no contact with Gardaí expressed the most satisfaction with Garda service. Those who initiated contact with Gardaí themselves were more likely to be dissatisfied with Garda service provided to local communities than the other categories.

**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	10%	14%	9%
Quite satisfied	63%	65%	74%
Quite dissatisfied	21%	16%	15%
Very dissatisfied	5%	5%	3%

## 7.6 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána and experience of victimisation

The survey examined how victimisation impacts on satisfaction levels with Garda service provided to local communities. Victims of crime who were 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with Garda service provided to local communities stood at 63 percent. This figure was 81 percent for non-victims (see table 55). Victims of crime were more likely to report being dissatisfied with Garda service than non-victims.

**Table 55: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by crime victimisation**

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Very satisfied	10%	11%
Quite satisfied	71%	52%
Quite dissatisfied	16%	26%
Very dissatisfied	3%	12%

## 7.7 Do perceptions of crime impact on satisfaction levels?

When satisfaction levels with Garda service provided to local communities is examined against perceptions of national and local crime, it is clear that there is a correlation, although this is more evident at a local level. As perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem increase, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service.

For example, 26 percent of respondents who viewed national crime as a 'very serious problem' were dissatisfied with Garda service provided to local communities compared to 11 percent who considered crime 'not a problem'. In terms of local crime, 56 percent of respondents who considered crime to be a 'very serious problem' were satisfied with Garda service compared to 90 percent who viewed local crime as 'not a problem'.

## 7.8 Satisfaction and fear of crime and worry about victimisation

Again, a correlation can be seen between satisfaction with Garda service provided to local communities when examined against fear of crime and worry about victimisation. As table 57 shows, as fear of crime increases, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service (13% of respondents who

**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	74%	81%	82%	89%	56%	71%	78%	90%
Dissatisfied	26%	19%	18%	11%	44%	29%	22%	10%

**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	60%	73%	80%	87%	73%	76%	74%	85%
Dissatisfied	40%	28%	20%	13%	27%	24%	26%	15%



had no fears about crime expressed dissatisfaction with Garda service compared to 40% who had 'a lot of fears').

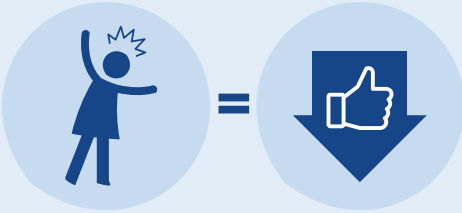
A similar correlation can be seen with worry about victimisation. Seventy-four percent of respondents who worried about both personal injury and property theft or damage expressed satisfaction with Garda service, compared to 85 percent who had no worries about victimisation at all.

## 7.9 Summary

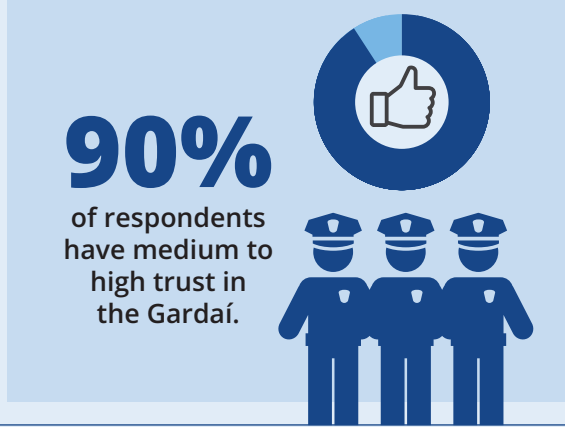
- › During 2018, 80 percent of respondents reported being satisfied with the service provided to their local communities by An Garda Síochána.
- › Satisfaction levels have been increasing since quarter one of 2016, with quarters one, three and four of 2018 displaying the highest levels of satisfaction with Garda service locally.
  - › Non-Irish nationals were more likely to be satisfied with Garda service locally, as were respondents from Munster, Connaught and Ulster.
  - › 'City' respondents expressed greater levels of dissatisfaction than respondents from 'other urban' or 'rural' areas.
  - › Dissatisfaction levels with Garda service provided to local communities was greater among crime victims than non-crime victims (38% vs. 19%).
- › As perceptions of the seriousness of national and local crime increased, so too did dissatisfaction with Garda service locally. There was also an association between satisfaction levels and fear of crime and worry about victimisation. Those who had greater levels of fear of crime and were more likely to worry about becoming a victim had greater levels of dissatisfaction with Garda service.

# Chapter 8

## Trust in An Garda Síochána



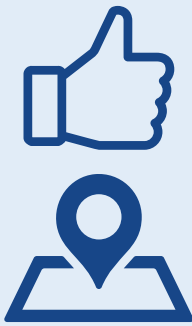
Victimisation was associated with lower levels of trust in the Gardaí




**90%** of respondents have medium to high trust in the Gardaí.

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Respondents who reported being 'very satisfied' with the service provided by Gardaí locally reported 'high trust' in the Garda organisation.



As perception of the seriousness of the crime problem increased, levels of 'high trust' decreased



One of the most important metrics examined in the Garda Public Attitudes Survey is levels of trust in An Garda Síochána. In order to quantify levels of trust in the Gardaí, respondents are asked to assign a rating of between 1 and 10 to their chosen level, the highest level of trust being ten and the lowest, one. Responses were then recoded to 'low trust' (ratings 1, 2, 3, and 4), 'mid trust' (ratings 5, 6 and 7) and 'high trust' (ratings 8, 9 and 10).

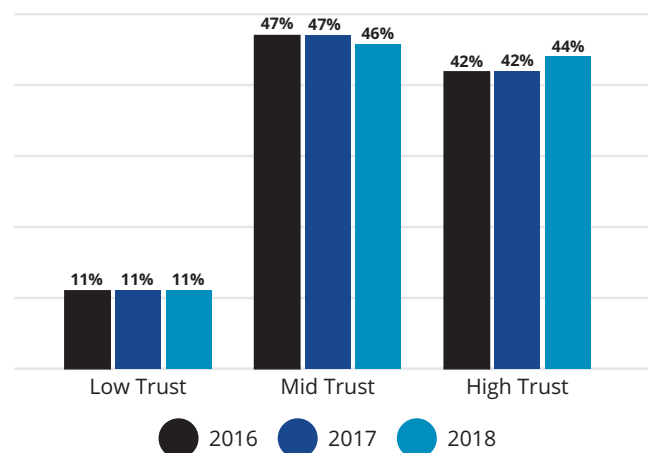
### 8.1 Trust in An Garda Síochána during 2018

During 2018, 44 percent of respondents reported levels of 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána, 46 percent reported 'mid trust' and 11 percent 'low trust'.

### 8.2 Changes in levels of trust between 2016, 2017 and 2018

As figure 14 illustrates, during 2018 trust in An Garda Síochána was at 90 percent ('mid trust' and 'high trust' combined). This is an increase of one percentage point from 2017, although not statistically significant. Levels of 'low trust' were at 11 percent – a consistent ranking over the last three survey sweeps.

Figure 14: Changes in levels of trust in An Garda Síochána between 2016, 2017 and 2018



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

As tables 58 and 59 illustrate, there were some variations in trust levels in An Garda Síochána across demographics and geography.

**Gender:** there was very little difference between men and women in terms of their trust in An Garda Síochána, with 50 percent of each reporting a 'mid' level. Females reported slightly greater levels of 'high trust' than males (45% versus 42%).

**Age:** As the age of respondents increased, so too did the level of trust, with those over the age of 65 expressing the highest level of trust (57%).

**Social Class:** Those in social class F were more likely to report high levels of trust in An Garda Síochána.

**Nationality:** Non-Irish nationals were more likely to express 'high trust' in the Garda organisation than Irish nationals (48% vs. 43%).

**Region:** Respondents from Dublin and Munster reported the lowest levels of 'low trust' in the Garda organisation. However, those from Dublin were less likely to have 'high trust' than respondents from other regions.

**Urban/Rural:** 'City' respondents were less likely to have 'high trust' in the Garda organisation than those from 'other urban' and rural areas.

**Distance from local Garda station:** Distance from local Garda station had no notable impact on levels of trust.

**Table 58: Trust in An Garda Síochána during 2018 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	11%	10%	15%	13%	10%	12%	10%	6%	10%	10%	12%	12%	6%	11%	9%
Mid Trust	50%	50%	50%	51%	48%	47%	43%	38%	49%	48%	46%	44%	36%	46%	43%
High Trust	42%	45%	36%	37%	42%	42%	47%	57%	41%	42%	42%	45%	57%	43%	48%

**Table 59: Trust in An Garda Síochána during 2018 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	14%	26%	10%	22%	13%	10%	9%	9%	11%	11%	9%	11%
Mid Trust	55%	43%	42%	41%	51%	45%	41%	42%	45%	48%	45%	39%
High Trust	31%	46%	50%	51%	36%	46%	50%	49%	44%	41%	46%	50%

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

As table 60 shows, contact (or no contact) with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey interview had little impact on levels of trust in the Garda organisation. Respondents (45%) who had no contact with An Garda Síochána reported slightly higher levels of 'high trust' than those who had self-initiated (41%) or Garda-initiated contact (42%).

**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%	14%	10%
Mid Trust	48%	44%	45%
High Trust	41%	42%	45%

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

Victimisation in the preceding 12 months to the survey interview, was associated with lower levels of 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána (33% for crime victims versus 44% for non-crime victims). Levels of 'mid trust' were the same at 46 percent for both crime victims and non-crime victims. Crime victims (21%) reported greater levels of 'low trust' than non-crime victims (10%). See table 61.

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

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Low Trust	10%	21%
Mid Trust	46%	46%
High Trust	44%	33%

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

As table 62 indicates, as levels of fear of crime increase, so too does the proportion of respondents with 'low trust' in An Garda Síochána. Equally, those with 'a lot of fears' about crime (37%) were less likely to have 'high trust' compared with the other fear of crime categories (44% respectively). Associations between worry about victimisation and trust in An Garda Síochána were not as pronounced. Those who do not worry about crime had the highest level of 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána.

**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	23%	12%	8%	10%	-	10%	12%	10%
Mid Trust	40%	44%	48%	46%	46%	46%	47%	45%
High Trust	37%	44%	44%	44%	40%	44%	41%	46%

**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	14%	10%	8%	9%	26%	16%	10%	7%
Mid Trust	41%	45%	54%	38%	43%	51%	49%	40%
High Trust	45%	45%	38%	53%	31%	33%	42%	54%

## 8.7 Trust in An Garda Síochána and Garda visibility

Respondents with greater awareness of Garda patrols (55%) were more likely to have 'high trust' in the Garda organisation, than those who reported that they were not aware of Garda patrols (36%). Respondents who were not aware of Garda patrols were more likely to report 'low' and 'mid' levels of trust in the Garda organisation (see table 63).

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

	Aware of Garda patrol	Not Aware of Garda patrol
Low Trust	7%	14%
Mid Trust	37%	51%
High Trust	55%	36%

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

As table 64 illustrates, there is a relationship between trust in An Garda Síochána and perceptions of national and local crime. As perceptions of the seriousness of national and local crime increases, the proportion of respondents with 'low trust' in the Garda organisation also increases (this correlation is more pronounced when perceptions of local crime are considered – 7% for those who consider it 'not a problem' compared to 26% who view local crime as a 'very serious problem'). A greater proportion of respondents who considered national and local crime to 'not be a problem' reported 'high' levels of trust in the Garda organisation. Again, this was more evident at a local level.

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

As might be expected, respondents who reported that they were 'very dissatisfied' with the service provided by Gardaí locally were more likely to have 'low' levels of trust in the Garda organisation (64%). This is true also for those who reported being 'very satisfied' – these respondents were more likely to have 'high' trust in An Garda Síochána (76%) (See table 65).


**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%	64%
Mid Trust	22%	46%	57%	25%
High Trust	76%	49%	19%	-

## 8.10 Summary


- › Levels of 'mid' to 'high' trust in An Garda Síochána during 2018 were at 90 percent. Levels of trust have remained relatively stable over recent survey sweeps.
- › Older respondents were more likely to have 'high trust' in the Garda organisation than younger age groups, as were non-Irish nationals.
- › Respondents in Munster, Connaught and Ulster had greater levels of 'high trust' than those in Dublin and the rest of Leinster. Respondents in 'city' areas reported higher levels of 'low trust' than 'other urban' or 'rural' respondents.
- › Respondents who had been victims of crime in the preceding 12 months to the survey interview had lower levels of 'high trust' than non-victims.
- › As fear about crime increased, so too did the levels of 'low trust' in the Garda organisation.
- › Those who reported awareness of Garda patrols were more likely to report 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána.
- › There was an association between perceptions of national and local crime and levels of trust. As perception of the seriousness of the crime problem increased, levels of 'high trust' decreased.
- › Respondents who reported being 'very satisfied' with the service provided by Gardaí locally reported 'high trust' in the Garda organisation.

# Chapter 9 Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána




**90%**

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




**80%**

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

**75%**  agreed that Gardaí in their area can be relied on to be there when they are needed

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**37%**  agreed that community relations are poor (31% when don't know responses are included)

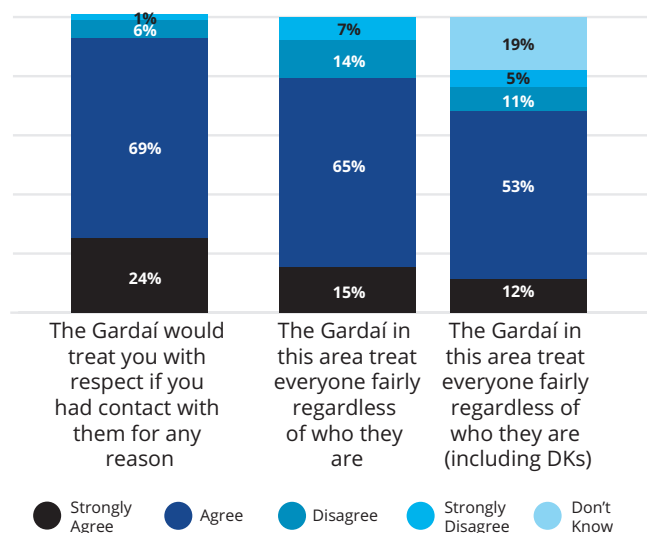
Two new questions were introduced in the 2017 Public Attitudes Survey, and were continued through 2018. These examine respondents' views on the respect displayed by Gardaí towards individuals and whether they treat everyone fairly regardless of whom they are. A further four questions were added in 2018. These relate to the reliability of the Gardaí in local areas and police-community relations.

During 2018, 93 percent of respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. Similarly, 80 percent agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (this figure was 65% when 'don't know' responses were included).

## 9.1 Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána

Ninety-three percent of respondents either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that members of An Garda Síochána would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. When don't know responses are included the level of agreement is reduced to 88 percent. Furthermore, the majority of survey respondents agreed that Gardaí in their area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are; 15 percent strongly agreed, 65 percent agreed, 14 percent disagreed and 7 percent strongly disagreed. See figure 15 for analysis including 'don't know' responses.

**Figure 15: Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána during 2018**



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

### Gardaí treat people with respect

Men and women had similar views on whether Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason, with the majority agreeing that they would (92% for males vs. 93% for females). Those in older age groups agreed slightly more with this statement than younger cohorts. Respondents in social class F agreed slightly less than other social class groupings. There were no notable differences across Irish and non-Irish nationals. See table 66.



As table 67 illustrates, respondents in Dublin were more likely to disagree that Gardaí would treat them with respect than respondents in other areas (11% in Dublin; 5% in the rest of Leinster, Connaught and Ulster and 3% in Munster). This was true for 'city' areas also. Distance from Garda station had no notable impact on agreement with this statement.

**Gardaí treat people fairly no matter who they are**

Respondents were asked their agreement levels with the

statement that Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are. Again, gender had no notable impact on agreement levels, with the majority of men and women agreeing with the statement. Similar to the statement about whether Gardaí would treat people with respect, older age groups were slightly more likely to agree that Gardaí would treat people fairly regardless of who they are. There was no difference between Irish and non-Irish nationals in terms of agreement with this statement (see table 68).

**Table 66: Respectful treatment by 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
Strongly Agree	24%	24%	20%	19%	24%	26%	25%	29%	29%	27%	22%	22%	22%	25%	22%
Agree	68%	69%	70%	71%	69%	67%	69%	67%	67%	71%	69%	76%	62%	69%	71%
Disagree	6%	6%	7%	8%	5%	6%	6%	4%	6%	6%	6%	7%	-	6%	6%
Strongly Disagree	1%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	1%	-

**Table 67: 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	16%	36%	21%	13%	19%	32%	23%	24%	22%	28%	30%	18%	
Agree	72%	58%	76%	69%	70%	63%	72%	71%	69%	65%	66%	79%	
Disagree	11%	5%	3%	5%	9%	4%	4%	11%	15%	14%	10%	-	
Strongly Disagree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

**Table 68: 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	15%	14%	13%	13%	15%	16%	15%	16%	16%	17%	13%	14%	11%	15%	15%
Agree	66%	64%	57%	66%	65%	63%	68%	69%	68%	64%	65%	64%	76%	65%	66%
Disagree	13%	15%	19%	15%	13%	15%	11%	10%	12%	13%	15%	15%	-	13%	16%
Strongly Disagree	6%	7%	11%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	-	6%	8%	8%	-	7%	-

**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	12%	15%	18%	13%	15%	15%	14%	16%	15%	14%	16%	14%	
Agree	65%	58%	69%	72%	65%	60%	69%	70%	66%	60%	64%	70%	
Disagree	21%	13%	8%	11%	17%	13%	10%	11%	15%	14%	10%	-	
Strongly Disagree	3%	15%	4%	4%	3%	12%	7%	-	4%	12%	11%	-	

As table 69 shows, respondents in Dublin and the rest of Leinster were more likely to disagree that Gardaí would treat people fairly regardless of who they are. Similarly, respondents in 'city' or 'other urban' areas were more likely to disagree, while distance from Garda station had no notable impact on agreement levels.

### 9.3 Equality of treatment by contact with An Garda Síochána

As table 70 indicates, regardless of contact type (self-initiated, Garda-initiated or no contact) that respondents had in the 12 months preceding the survey interview, there was very little difference with agreement levels that Gardaí would treat people with respect (92%, 92% and 93% respectively). Respondents who had no contact with Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview (84%) were more likely to agree that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, compared to those who had Garda-initiated contact (77%) or self-initiated contact (71%). 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	32%	22%	20%
Agree	60%	70%	73%
Disagree	6%	-	6%
Strongly Disagree	2%	-	-

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

	Any self-initiated contact	Any Garda initiated contact	No-Contact
Strongly Agree	15%	13%	14%
Agree	56%	64%	70%
Disagree	15%	15%	13%
Strongly Disagree	14%	-	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	91%	94%	94%	92%	84%	90%	93%	95%
Disagree	9%	6%	7%	8%	17%	10%	7%	5%

### 9.4 Equality of treatment and experience of victimisation

Eighty-six percent of respondents who had been victims of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview, agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect should they have contact with them for any reason. This figure was 93 percent for non-crime victims (see table 72).

Victimisation impacted on whether respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, with 66 percent of crime victims agreeing. In contrast, 81 percent of non-crime victims agreed with this statement (see table 73).

**Table 72: Respectful treatment by An Garda Síochána by victimisation**

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Strongly Agree	24%	23%
Agree	69%	63%
Disagree	6%	11%
Strongly Disagree	1%	-

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

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Strongly Agree	15%	12%
Agree	66%	54%
Disagree	13%	21%
Strongly Disagree	6%	14%

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

As table 74 indicates, perceptions of national crime had no notable impact on agreement levels among respondents that Gardaí would treat them with respect. However, those who viewed local crime as 'a very serious problem' were more likely to disagree with this statement (17%) than those who thought

**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	73%	83%	82%	85%	48%	70%	81%	88%
Disagree	27%	17%	18%	15%	52%	30%	19%	12%

**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	98%	96%	85%	62%
Disagree that AGS treats everyone respectfully	3%	4%	15%	38%
Agree that AGS treats everyone equally regardless of who they are	95%	85%	57%	39%
Disagree that AGS treats everyone equally regardless of who they are	5%	15%	43%	61%

local crime was a ‘serious problem’ (10%), ‘something of a problem’ (7%) or ‘not a problem’ (5%).

When agreement levels were examined with the statement that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (table 75) by perceptions of national crime, the differences were more pronounced. Those who viewed national crime as ‘a very serious problem’ were more likely to disagree with this statement (27%) compared to those who viewed it as a ‘serious problem’ (17%), ‘something of a problem’ (18%) or ‘not a problem’ (15%). When local crime was considered, the differences were even more pronounced (52% for those who viewed local crime as ‘a very serious problem’ versus 12% for those who saw it as ‘not a problem’).

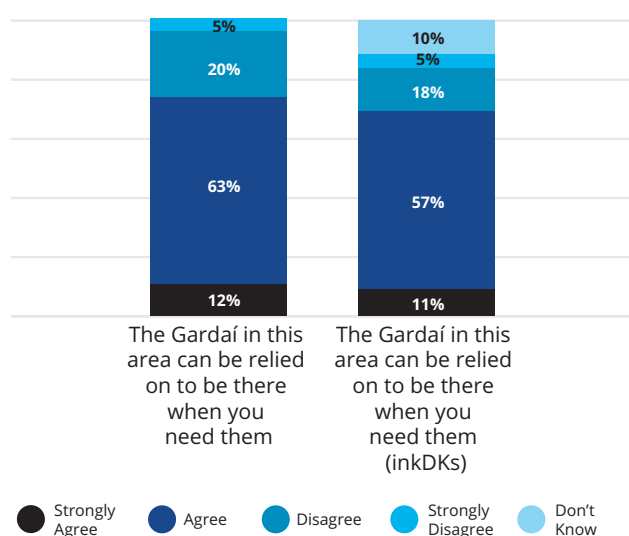
### 9.6 Does satisfaction with the service provided to local communities impact on perceptions of equality of treatment?

Respondents who expressed dissatisfaction with Garda service provided locally were more likely to disagree that Gardaí would treat them with respect or would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, than those who expressed satisfaction. See table 76.

### 9.7 Reliability of An Garda Síochána

The majority of respondents (75%) either ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ that the Gardaí in their area can be relied on to be there when they are needed. Twenty percent of respondents ‘disagreed’ and 5 percent ‘strongly disagreed’. When ‘don’t know’ responses were included these figures become 68 percent, 18 percent and those that ‘strongly disagree’ remained unchanged at 5 percent. See figure 16.

**Figure 16: The Gardaí can be relied on to be there when you need them**

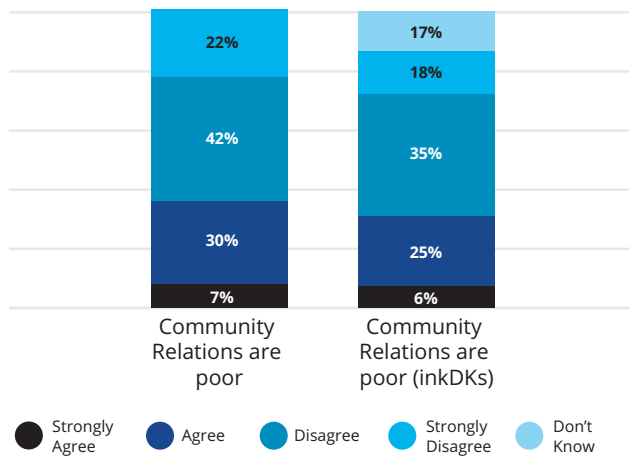


### 9.8 An Garda Síochána and their relationship with the local community

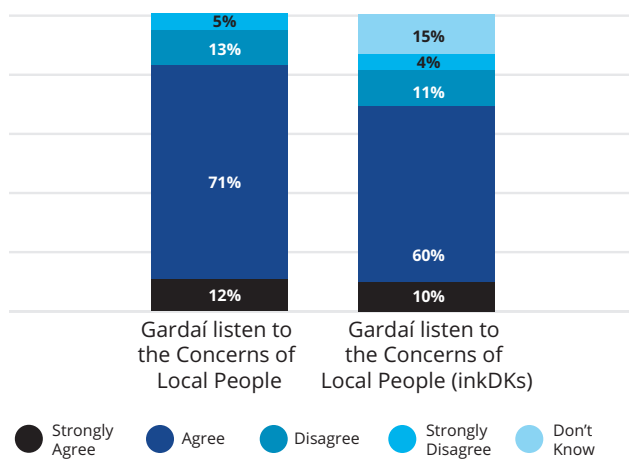
Respondents were asked about their level of agreement with the statement that community relations with the Gardaí are poor. The majority disagreed with this statement (64%). When 'don't know' responses were included this became 53 percent. Thirty-seven percent agreed that community relations are poor (see figure 17).

As figure 18 indicates, when asked whether Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people, 83 percent of respondents agreed (70% when 'don't know' responses were included). Eighteen percent disagreed with this statement. Finally, 58 percent disagreed that Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the community (48% when 'don't know' responses are included). Forty-two percent agreed with this (see figure 19).

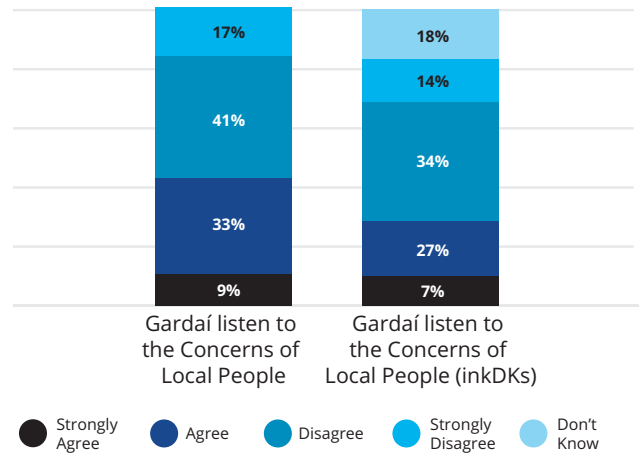
**Figure 17: Community relations with the local community**



**Figure 18: Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people**



**Figure 19: Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the local community**



## 9.9 Summary

- › The majority of survey respondents (90%) agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. Similarly, the majority agreed (80%) that Gardaí treat people fairly regardless of who they are.
- › There was little difference across gender in terms of agreement among respondents that Gardaí would treat them with respect, or that they would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are.
- › As age increased, agreement with the above two statements was slightly stronger.
- › Respondents in Dublin were more likely to disagree that Gardaí would treat them with respect, as were 'city' respondents.
- › Similarly, Dublin and the rest of Leinster had slightly lower levels of agreement that Gardaí would treat people fairly no matter who they are.
- › Victims of crime were less likely to agree that Gardaí would treat them with respect or treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, than non-crime victims.
- › Respondents who viewed national and local crime as 'very serious' were more likely to disagree that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are. These differences were starker when local crime was considered.
- › The majority of respondents (75%) agreed that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when they are needed and that they listen to the concerns of local people (83% or 70% when 'don't know' responses are included).
- › Fifty-eight percent (48% when 'don't now responses are included) disagreed that the Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the community.
- › Sixty-four percent of respondents disagreed that Garda-community relations are poor (53% including 'don't know' responses).

# Chapter 10

## Perceptions of An Garda Síochána



During 2018 the majority of participants agreed that An Garda Síochána was community-focused, friendly or helpful, effective in tackling crime and modern and progressive.



There was a strong association between levels of trust and views of the organisation.



**48%**

Less than half of respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána was well-managed (48%) or a world-class service (44%).



Respondents views of An Garda Síochána in 2018 were more positive than in 2017

The Public Attitudes Survey explores respondents' views of An Garda Síochána by examining agreement levels with six key statements. Three of these statements relate to whether Gardaí are friendly and helpful, community-focused and effective in tackling crime. The remaining three are concerned with whether An Garda Síochána is modern and progressive, provides a world-class service and whether it is well-managed.

Note: As in the 2017 annual report 'don't know' responses have been removed from the majority of the analyses.

For example, the proportion of respondents who agree that the organisation is community-focused has significantly increased from 66 percent in 2016 to 72 percent in 2018. Similarly, there has been an increase in those who agree that the organisation is effective in tackling crime from 55 percent in 2016, to 62 percent in 2017 to 64 percent in 2018. After a decline in agreement in 2017 that the organisation is well-managed, this showed an increase of 2 percentage points in 2018, although this was not statistically significant.

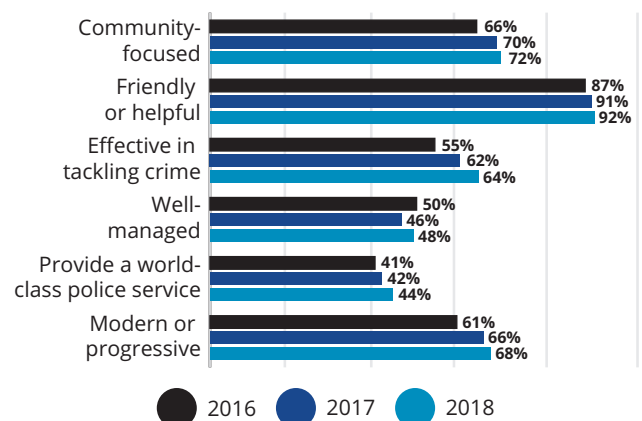
### 10.1 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána during 2018

During 2018, the majority of respondents held the view that the Gardaí are community-focused (72%), friendly and helpful (92%), effective in tackling crime (64%) and modern or progressive (68%). Forty-eight percent agreed the organisation is well-managed, while 44 percent agreed that it provides a world-class service.

### 10.2 Changes in perceptions of An Garda Síochána between 2016, 2017 and 2018

In general, respondents' views of An Garda Síochána have been more positive over each of the last three survey sweeps. As figure 20 shows, the six key areas have seen an improvement in percentage points since 2017. This figure illustrates the 'strongly agree' and 'agree' responses of respondents combined.

Figure 20: Levels of agreement between 2016, 2017 and 2018



When 'don't know' responses are included, this reduced the agreement percentage by the following: community-focused (66%), friendly or helpful (88%), effective in tackling crime (57%), well-managed (39%), world-class organisation (35%), and modern or progressive (60%).

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

As table 77 illustrates, there was no significant difference in agreement levels across gender with the six statements. Respondents aged 65 years and older were more likely to be positive about the organisation's effectiveness and capability. Respondents from social class F were more likely to agree with most of the six statements (thus had a more positive view of the organisation) than those from other class groupings. Non-Irish nationals too tended to have more positive views of the organisation, illustrated by their tendency to agree more readily with the six statements.

### 10.4 Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by area groupings

Respondents from Dublin were more likely to disagree with the six statements (except that Gardaí provide a world-class police service, where the rest of Leinster had lower agreement levels than Dublin). Respondents in Munster, Connaught and Ulster were more likely to agree that the Gardaí are friendly or helpful and community-focused. Generally those in 'city' areas were more likely to disagree with the statements than those in 'other urban' and rural areas. There were no pronounced trends in terms of agreement with the statements and distance from Garda stations.

**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	72%	73%	71%	71%	73%	72%	72%	76%	76%	72%	72%	72%	78%	72%	75%
Modern or progressive	68%	69%	70%	66%	66%	64%	69%	75%	67%	66%	68%	69%	77%	68%	72%
Friendly or helpful	91%	93%	89%	90%	94%	92%	91%	96%	94%	94%	91%	91%	94%	92%	93%
Provide a world-class police service	43%	45%	40%	46%	42%	40%	45%	49%	42%	42%	41%	46%	55%	42%	55%
Well-managed	47%	49%	52%	48%	46%	46%	46%	53%	47%	47%	47%	50%	53%	47%	61%
Effective in tackling crime	64%	65%	61%	62%	62%	63%	67%	71%	64%	61%	64%	66%	74%	64%	69%

**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	62%	74%	80%	75%	65%	75%	78%	79%	71%	73%	75%	72%
Modern or progressive	60%	70%	71%	75%	64%	69%	72%	67%	65%	70%	75%	63%
Friendly or helpful	89%	92%	95%	94%	90%	93%	94%	95%	92%	92%	93%	96%
Provide a world-class police service	40%	37%	47%	57%	43%	41%	47%	47%	43%	42%	41%	46%
Well-managed	42%	49%	53%	51%	46%	48%	51%	51%	45%	49%	52%	41%
Effective in tackling crime	52%	62%	75%	71%	58%	66%	70%	72%	63%	63%	67%	65%



### 10.5 Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by contact with An Garda Síochána

As table 79 illustrates, a greater portion of respondents who had ‘no contact’ with the Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview (71%) held the view that the Garda organisation is modern and progressive, than those who experienced self-initiated contact (64%) or Garda-initiated contact (62%). Similarly, a greater portion of those who had ‘no contact’ agreed that the organisation provides a world-class police service and is well-managed.

**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	72%	75%	73%
Modern or progressive	64%	62%	71%
Friendly or helpful	92%	92%	93%
Provide a world-class police service	35%	38%	48%
Well-managed	44%	34%	51%
Effective in tackling crime	60%	68%	66%

### 10.6 Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by victimisation

Those respondents who had been a victim of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were less likely to agree with the six statements about the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána, than those who had not experienced victimisation (see table 80).

**Table 80: Agreement levels by experience of victimisation**

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Community-focused	73%	59%
Modern or progressive	69%	49%
Friendly or helpful	93%	87%
Provide a world-class police service	45%	30%
Well-managed	49%	35%
Effective in tackling crime	66%	46%

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

As can be seen from table 81, those respondents who held the view that national crime was more serious were less likely to agree with all six statements about the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána. This was particularly evident in the statements about it providing a world-class police service, being well-managed and effective in tackling crime. For example, 69 percent of respondents who felt national crime was ‘not a problem’ agreed that the Garda organisation provides a world-class police service, compared to 36 percent of those who felt national crime to be a ‘very serious problem’.

This correlation was evident also when local crime was considered. An example here would be that 96 percent of respondents who considered local crime to ‘not be a problem’ agreed that Gardaí are friendly and helpful compared to 79 percent of those who considered it a ‘very serious problem’.

**Table 81: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability 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
Community-focused	70%	72%	76%	83%	61%	64%	71%	80%
Modern or progressive	66%	67%	73%	76%	63%	64%	68%	72%
Friendly or helpful	91%	93%	93%	95%	79%	87%	93%	96%
Provide a world-class police service	36%	42%	55%	69%	23%	34%	45%	51%
Well-managed	45%	45%	56%	71%	44%	41%	47%	55%
Effective in tackling crime	58%	65%	71%	81%	44%	51%	64%	75%

**Table 82: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability 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
Community-focused	57%	67%	76%	75%	72%	68%	68%	77%
Modern or progressive	53%	63%	72%	70%	61%	62%	66%	72%
Friendly or helpful	86%	93%	93%	92%	91%	92%	91%	93%
Provide a world-class police service	30%	37%	46%	48%	42%	33%	42%	48%
Well-managed	38%	39%	50%	54%	39%	40%	45%	53%
Effective in tackling crime	51%	60%	68%	65%	61%	56%	60%	70%

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

A concept explored in the Public Attitudes Survey was whether having a fear of crime or worrying about becoming a victim of crime impacted on views about the effectiveness and capability of the Garda organisation. Table 82 shows that those who had ‘a lot of fears’ or ‘some fears’ about crime were less likely to agree with all six statements than those who held no fears. For example, those who agreed with the statement that Gardaí are effective in tackling crime decreased from 65 percent of respondents with ‘no fears’ about crime to 51 percent for those with ‘a lot of fears’.

Similarly, respondents who worried about victimisation were generally less likely to agree that the Garda organisation is effective and capable.

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

There was a very clear correlation between respondents’ levels of trust in An Garda Síochána and their views about its effectiveness and capability (see table 83). Those who had ‘high trust’ in the organisation were much more likely to agree with all six statements about its effectiveness and capability. Conversely, those with ‘low trust’ held more negative views across all six areas.

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

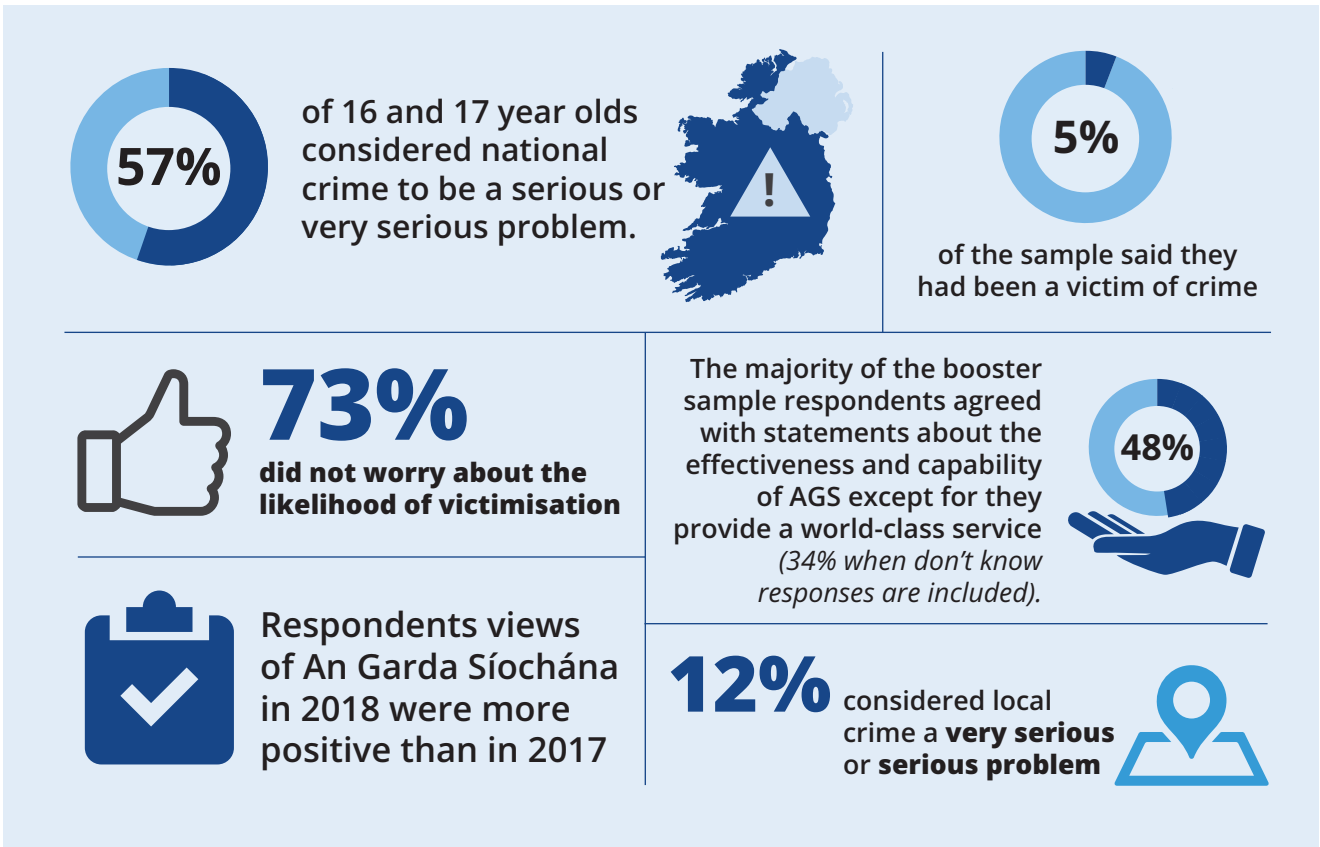
	Low Trust	Medium Trust	High Trust
Community-focused	26%	68%	88%
Modern or progressive	28%	62%	84%
Friendly or helpful	58%	93%	99%
Provide a world-class police service	10%	30%	67%
Well-managed	12%	38%	68%
Effective in tackling crime	18%	54%	86%

### 10.10 Summary

- During 2018, the majority of respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána was community-focussed, friendly and helpful, effective in tackling crime and modern and progressive.
- Views of the organisation’s effectiveness and capability were more positive in 2018 than in 2017.
- Respondents from social class F and non-Irish nationals tended to have more positive views of the organisation.
- Generally, respondents in Dublin and ‘city’ areas were less likely to agree with the six statements about the effectiveness and capability of the Garda organisation.
- Victimisation impacted negatively on views of the Garda organisation.
- As perceptions of the crime problem nationally and locally being serious increased, so too did disagreement with the six statements about the Garda organisation.
- There was an association between fear of crime and worry about victimisation, and perceptions of An Garda Síochána. Those with ‘a lot of fears’ and who worried about becoming a victim held more negative views of the organisation.
- There was a strong association between levels of trust and views of the organisation. Those with ‘high trust’ were much more likely to agree with all six statements about its effectiveness and capability.

# Chapter 11

## 16 and 17-Year-Old Booster Sample



In December 2016, the remit of the Garda Public Attitudes Survey was extended to include 16 and 17-year-olds (prior to this its scope was limited to a nationally representative sample of adults aged 18 years and older). Inclusion of 16 and 17-year-olds in the survey is crucial to understanding the views of this cohort on An Garda Síochána, their experiences with the Garda organisation and their experience of crime and victimisation.

### 11.1 Methodology

As 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 were then asked to read and sign a participant consent form in which assurances were provided that their child's identity, and any information provided, would only be used for the Public Attitudes Survey and would be held anonymously and confidentially at all times.

The booster sample consisted of 593 young people aged 16 or 17 years. While the booster sample is presented in isolation in this chapter, broad comparisons are made at times to the main 2018 sample. While the sample of adults in the main survey is designed to be nationally representative, 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 strategy for sampling 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 percent 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 percent 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 and categories of victims of crime. This limited the amount of analysis that could be carried out.

## 11.2 Demographics

As in 2017, 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 but like in 2017, the main survey contained more non-Irish nationals. See table 84 for a breakdown of demographic and area information.

**Table 84: Booster sample profile**

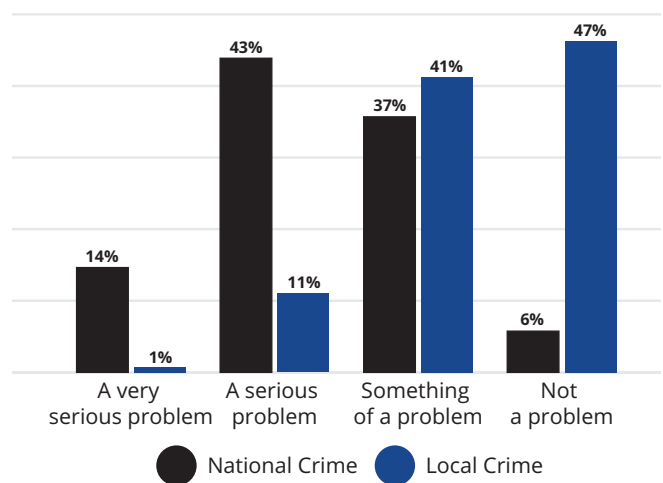
Gender	Social Class	Region
Male	52%	AB 12% Dublin 29%
Female	48%	C1 31% Leinster (excluding Dublin) 26%
		C2 30% Munster 27%
		DE 26% Connaught or Ulster 18%
		F 2%

Area	Nationality	Ethnicity	Religion
City	38%	Irish 91% White Irish 89%	Roman Catholic 73%
Other Urban	25%	Polish 2% Other white 6%	Church of Ireland 3%
Rural	36%	UK 1% Other Asian 2%	Other Christian 3%
		Lithuanian 1% Other Black 2%	Islam 1%
	Indian 1% Other 1%	No religion 19%	
	Other 4%	Refused 1%	

## 11.3 Perceptions of crime in Ireland: 16 and 17-year-olds

As figure 21 indicates, among the 16 and 17-year-old booster sample, 57 percent considered national crime to be either a 'very serious problem' or a 'serious problem' (lower than the main sample). Thirty-seven percent considered it 'something of a problem' while 6 percent viewed it as 'not a problem'. As with the adult sample, local crime was considered far less of a problem than national crime. Twelve percent viewed local crime as 'very serious' or 'serious' while 41 percent saw it as 'something of a problem'. Forty-seven percent considered it 'not a problem'.

**Figure 21: Perceptions of national and local crime: unweighted booster sample**



### 11.3.1 Perceptions of national and local crime by demographic and area groupings

As mentioned previously, the smaller size of the booster sample limited the amount of analysis that could be conducted by demographic, socio-economic and area groupings. As table 85 indicates, in terms of perceptions of national crime, there was no notable difference across gender (females indicated slightly more concern). Those in Munster viewed national crime as more serious (51%), than Dublin (34%), rest of Leinster (46%) and Connaught or Ulster (37%). This was true for those respondents in rural areas also. Local crime was considered more of a problem by those in Dublin and ‘city’ areas – a similar finding to the main sample.

When perceptions of local and national crime are considered against whether this sample had any contact with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey interview, it can be seen that there are no notable variations across the groups.

### 11.4 Victims of crime: 16 and 17-year-old sample

As in last year’s survey, the majority of 16 and 17-year-olds had not been a victim of crime in the preceding 12 month period. Five percent of respondents had been a victim of crime. This accounts for 29 respondents, of which 68 percent reported their most recent incident to An Garda Síochána. Due to the low victim sample, additional analysis is not possible.

### 11.5 Fear and worry about crime: 16 and 17-year-old booster sample

#### 11.5.1 Perceived likelihood of victimisation

During 2018, 16 percent of 16 and 17-year-olds worried about becoming a victim of both personal injury, and property theft or damage (down 7 percentage points from 2017). In the main sample in 2018, this figure was 37 percent. Seventy-three percent of respondents did not worry about victimisation (compared to 66 percent in 2017). This figure is significantly more than in the main sample in which 49 percent of the adult sample expressed no worries about victimisation.

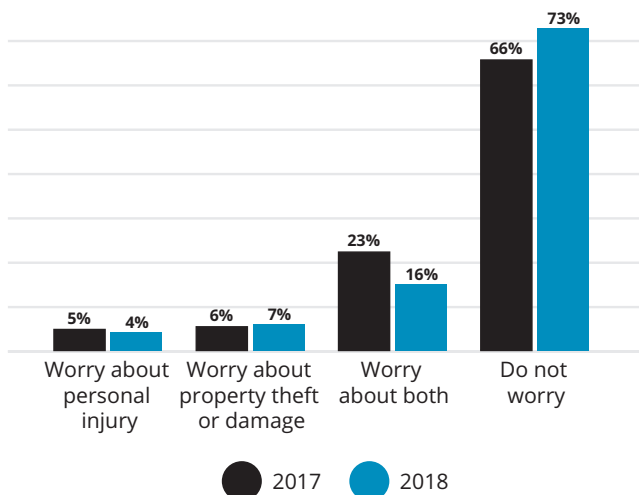
**Table 85: Perceptions of national crime in Ireland during 2018 by demographic and area groupings – unweighted booster sample**

	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	15%	14%	-	20%	-	-	16%	-	-	-	13%
A serious problem	41%	45%	34%	46%	51%	37%	37%	44%	46%	44%	42%
Something of a problem	39%	36%	39%	32%	38%	43%	37%	32%	42%	34%	39%
Not a problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 86: Perceptions of local crime in Ireland during 2018 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A serious problem	-	12%	-	-	-	-	16%	-	-	-	10%
Something of a problem	41%	41%	46%	38%	37%	44%	46%	45%	34%	44%	40%
Not a problem	48%	46%	36%	48%	54%	49%	37%	42%	60%	42%	49%

**Figure 22: Perceived likelihood of victimisation 2017 and 2018: unweighted booster sample**



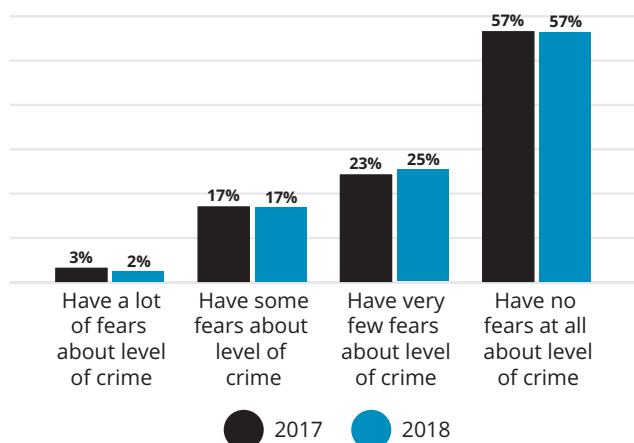
**11.5.2 Perceptions of likelihood of victimisation by demographic and areas groupings**

As table 87 indicates, females (18%) were slightly more likely to worry about becoming a victim of both personal injury and property theft or damage, than males (14%). As with the main adult sample, those 16 and 17-year-olds in Dublin were less likely to have no worries about victimisation than those from other regions. This was true for ‘city’ respondents also. There was no major difference when contact with An Garda Síochána in the previous year was examined. Rather both cohorts of non-contact (75%) and contact (70%) with An Garda Síochána expressed high levels of not worrying about becoming a victim of crime.

**11.5.3 Fear about the level of crime in Ireland**

Levels of fear of crime have remained relatively stable among 16 and 17-year-olds across the 2017 and 2018 survey sweeps (see figure 23). This younger cohort had less fear of crime than the adult sample. Fifty-seven percent had no fear of crime at all, compared to 34 percent of those aged 18 years and older. Seventeen percent had ‘some fears’ compared to 30 percent of the adult sample.

**Figure 23: Levels of fear of crime 2017 and 2018 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	14%	18%	25%	-	-	-	25%	-	-	-	16%
Do not worry	76%	70%	60%	83%	79%	72%	62%	85%	77%	70%	75%

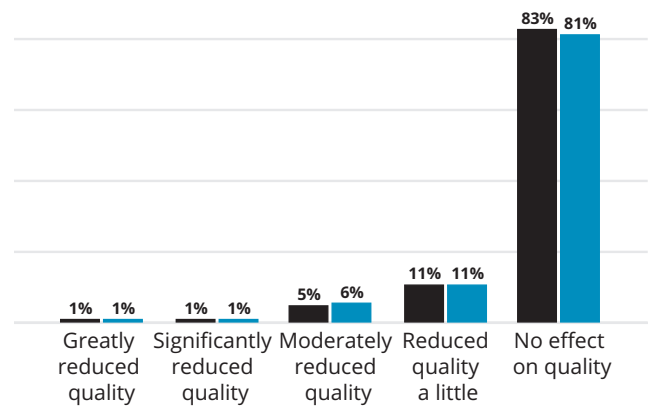
**11.5.4 Fear about the level of crime in Ireland by demographic and area groupings**

Females (22%) expressed higher levels of fear of crime than males (12%). Respondents in Connaught, Ulster and ‘city’ areas, were less likely to have no fear of crime than in the other regions/areas. Furthermore, respondents (60%) who had no contact with the Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were more likely to have no fear of crime (see table 88) whereas, 35 percent of the main survey who had no contact expressed the same sentiment.

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

As figure 24 shows, there were no significant changes between 2017 and 2018 in terms of the impact of fear of crime on quality of life among 16 and 17-year-olds, with the majority at 81 percent (2018) reporting ‘no effect’ on quality of life. Respondents aged 18 years and older were less likely to report ‘no effect’ on their quality of life at 64 percent.

**Figure 24: Impact of fear of crime on quality of life 2017 and 2018: unweighted booster sample**



**11.5.6 Impact of fear of crime on quality of life by demographic and area groupings**

Females (13%) reported that fear of crime impacted quality of life ‘a little’, slightly more than males (9%). Those in the ‘rest of Leinster’ and Munster were more likely to report that fear of crime had no effect on quality of life, while those in ‘city’ areas were less likely to report this (see table 89). With regard to quality of life and contact with An Garda Síochána, the majority of young people who had contact (72%) and who did not have contact (86%) said it had no effect.

**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	12%	22%	25%	-	-	-	22%	-	-	17%	17%
Have very few fears about level of crime	25%	24%	24%	22%	24%	32%	28%	21%	24%	29%	21%
Have no fears at all about level of crime	63%	50%	50%	63%	65%	45%	48%	66%	59%	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	9%	13%	-	-	-	-	16%	-	-	-	10%
No effect on quality	84%	78%	72%	86%	87%	81%	71%	87%	87%	80%	84%



## 11.6 Policing priorities for An Garda Síochána

Sixteen and 17-year-olds held similar views to the main adult sample as to those areas on which An Garda Síochána should focus, with sexual offences (97%), illegal weapons (91%) and human trafficking (87%) being the top priorities (see table 90). As with respondents aged 18 years and older, assaults, robberies and drug offences were the top priorities after those mentioned above.

**Table 90: Policing priorities identified by respondents for An Garda Síochána: unweighted booster sample**

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Sexual offences	97%	2%	2%
Illegal weapons	91%	9%	1%
Human trafficking	87%	12%	1%
Assaults	85%	14%	1%
Robberies	85%	14%	1%
Drugs offences	75%	18%	7%
Burglaries	73%	22%	5%
Fraud	68%	26%	6%
Traffic offences	67%	27%	6%
Criminal damage	61%	34%	5%
Public order offences	34%	38%	28%

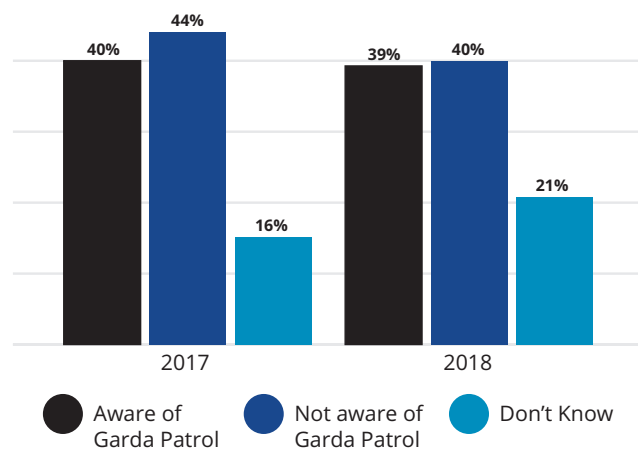
## 11.7 Garda visibility and perception of Garda presence

There were no notable differences in 2018 with levels of awareness of Garda patrols when compared to 2017. Thirty-nine percent of 16 and 17-year-olds reported being aware of them, with 40 percent reporting no awareness (see figure 25). These findings were similar to the main sample. The proportion of respondents who reported 'don't know' was high at 21 percent. As table 91 illustrates, the majority of those respondents who reported being aware of Garda patrols were aware of Gardaí patrolling in cars (96%).

**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	41%	37%	32%	34%	43%	53%	37%	41%	40%	43%	39%
Not aware of Garda Patrol	40%	40%	37%	54%	35%	32%	35%	45%	42%	44%	44%
Don't know	19%	23%	31%	-	22%	-	28%	-	18%	-	17%

**Figure 25: Awareness of Garda patrols: unweighted booster sample**



**Table 91: Garda patrolling practices: unweighted booster sample**

<b>Aware of Garda patrols</b>	<b>39%</b>
By car	96%
On foot	16%
By bicycle	9%
<b>Not aware of Garda patrols</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>21%</b>

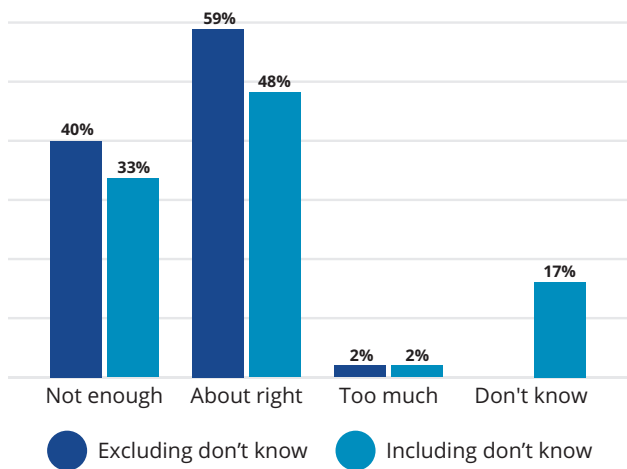
### 11.7.1 Garda visibility by demographic and area groupings

There was no notable difference across gender in awareness of Garda patrols. Respondents in Connaught and Ulster (53%) reported more awareness than Dublin (32%), the rest of Leinster (34%) and Munster (43%). 'City' respondents were less likely to be aware of Garda patrols than those in other areas (see table 92). There was no variation across respondents who had no contact or contact with An Garda Síochána regarding being aware of Garda patrols.

### 11.7.2 Perception of Garda presence

When asked whether Garda presence in their local areas was ‘about right’, the majority (59%) of the booster sample, when ‘don’t know’ responses were excluded, agreed. This figure fell to 48 percent when these responses were included (see figure 26). Respondents in the adult sample were less likely to agree with this statement – 39 percent felt Garda presence was ‘about right’. Respondents (60%) who had no contact with An Garda Síochána stated Garda presence was ‘about right’ compared to 55 percent of respondents who had contact.

**Figure 26: Perceptions of Garda presence: unweighted booster sample (including and excluding ‘don’t knows’)**



### 11.7.3 Perception of Garda presence by demographic and area groupings

As table 93 shows, females (45%) were more likely to consider Garda presence as ‘not enough’ in their local areas, than males (35%). Dublin respondents were less likely to agree that Garda presence was ‘about right’ compared to those in other regions. Similarly, those respondents in ‘city’ areas considered Garda presence as ‘not enough’, to a greater extent than those in ‘other urban’ and rural areas. These findings mirrored those in the main survey.

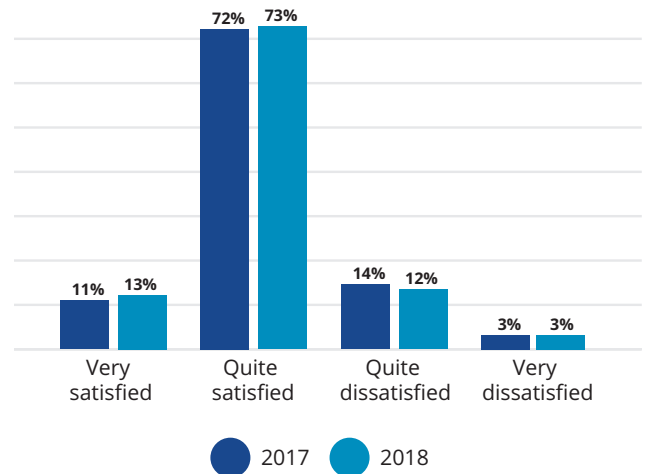
**Table 93: Perceptions of Garda presence by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample**

	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	35%	45%	59%	33%	34%	32%	52%	34%	32%	39%	40%
About right	62%	54%	38%	65%	63%	68%	45%	63%	67%	56%	59%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### 11.8 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

Figure 27 illustrates satisfaction levels with An Garda Síochána’s service to their local areas among 16 and 17-year-olds (these remained relatively stable over the last two survey sweeps). Eighty-six percent were either ‘satisfied’ or ‘quite satisfied’ with 13 percent ‘quite dissatisfied’ and 3 percent ‘very dissatisfied’.

**Figure 27: Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána unweighted booster sample:**



#### 11.8.1 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by demographic and area groupings

Females (68%) were less likely to be ‘quite satisfied’ with Garda service than males (77%). As table 94 indicates, respondents in Dublin were also less likely to be ‘quite satisfied’ compared to other regions. The same is true for those 16 and 17-year-olds in ‘city’ areas. Eighty-eight per cent of respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána reported being satisfied with the service provided by them.

**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	-	16%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11%
Quite satisfied	77%	68%	69%	76%	73%	74%	69%	75%	75%	64%	75%
Quite dissatisfied	-	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23%	11%
Very dissatisfied	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### 11.9 Trust in An Garda Síochána

As with the main sample, booster respondents were asked to assign a rating of between 1 and 10, in order to quantify their level of trust in An Garda Síochána. The highest trust level was assigned the number 10, and the lowest, one. These were then recoded as in the main sample - 'low trust' (ratings 1, 2, 3 and 4), 'mid trust' (ratings 5, 6 and 7) and 'high trust' (ratings 8, 9 and 10). Figure 28 shows that among the booster sample, 40 percent had 'high trust' in the Gardaí, 48 percent had 'mid trust', while 11 percent expressed 'low trust'. There was a slight decrease in 'mid' and 'high' trust figures between 2017 and 2018 (1 and 2 percentage points respectively). In the main sample, 'mid trust' was slightly less at 46 percent, and 'high trust' greater, at 44 percent.

**Figure 28: Changes in levels of trust in An Garda Síochána between 2017 and 2018: unweighted booster sample**

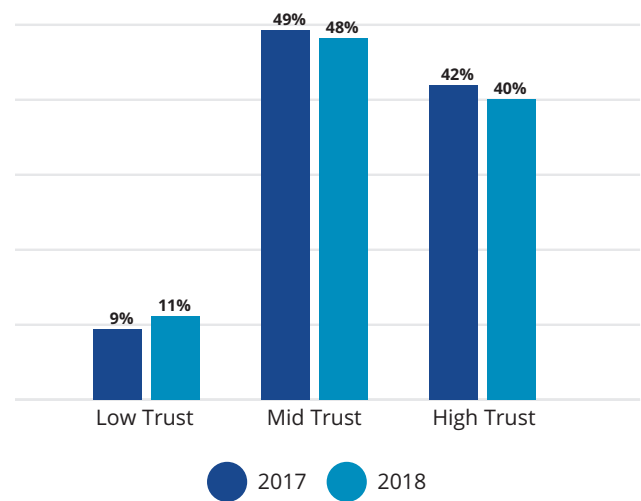


Table 95 shows that females (44%) had greater 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána, than males (37%). Sixteen and 17-year-olds in Connaught and Ulster were more likely to express 'high trust' in the Gardaí, compared to those in other regions, as were respondents in rural areas.

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

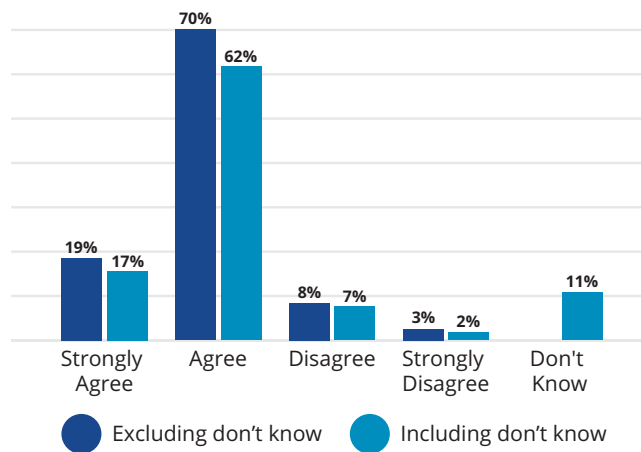
	Gender		Region				Urban/Rural			Contact	
	Male	Female	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught or Ulster	City	Other urban	Rural	Any contact	No-Contact
Low Trust	14%	-	-	-	-	-	18%	-	-	-	8%
Mid Trust	49%	48%	47%	49%	54%	41%	46%	52%	47%	50%	48%
High Trust	37%	44%	36%	44%	33%	52%	36%	40%	45%	38%	43%

### 11.10 Equality of treatment by An Garda Síochána

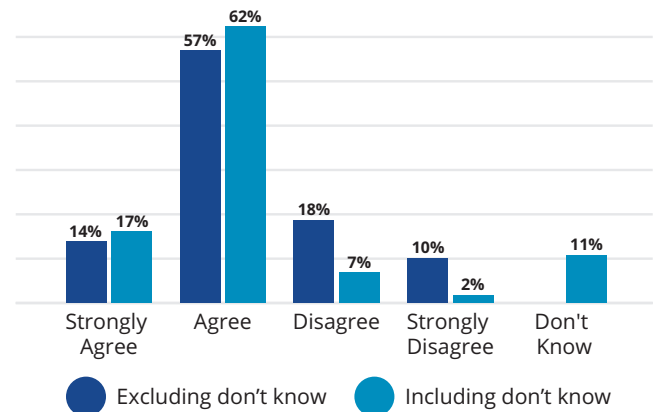
Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that Gardaí would treat them with respect should they have contact with them for any reason. Figure 29 shows responses including and excluding 'don't knows'. Seventy-nine percent either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that Gardaí would treat them with respect. When 'don't know' responses are excluded, this becomes 89 percent.

Similarly, and as figure 30 illustrates, when 'don't know' responses are included, respondents who 'agree' or 'strongly agree' that Gardaí would treat them fairly stands at 79 percent. When 'don't know' responses are excluded this becomes 71 percent (80% in the main sample).

**Figure 29: Gardaí would treat you with respect: unweighted booster sample**



**Figure 30: Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are: unweighted booster sample**



#### 11.10.1 Equality of treatment by area groupings

When variations across demographics and area groupings are examined in terms of agreement levels about respectful and fair treatment by An Garda Síochána, it can be seen from table 96 and 97, that differences across gender were not pronounced. Those in Dublin were less likely to agree that Gardaí would treat you with respect compared to respondents in other regions. Sixteen and 17-year-olds in Connaught and Ulster had more favourable views of the Gardaí in terms of being treated fairly, than those in other regions. There was no difference regarding whether respondents said they had contact or no contact with An Garda Síochána in relation to respectful treatment, although there was more variance among respondents in terms of treatment of everyone fairly and interaction with Gardaí. (See Table 97).

**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	87%	92%	79%	90%	94%	95%	81%	94%	94%	86%	92%
Disagree	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	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	71%	74%	70%	65%	73%	83%	70%	70%	76%	72%	84%
Disagree	29%	26%	30%	35%	27%	17%	30%	30%	25%	28%	16%

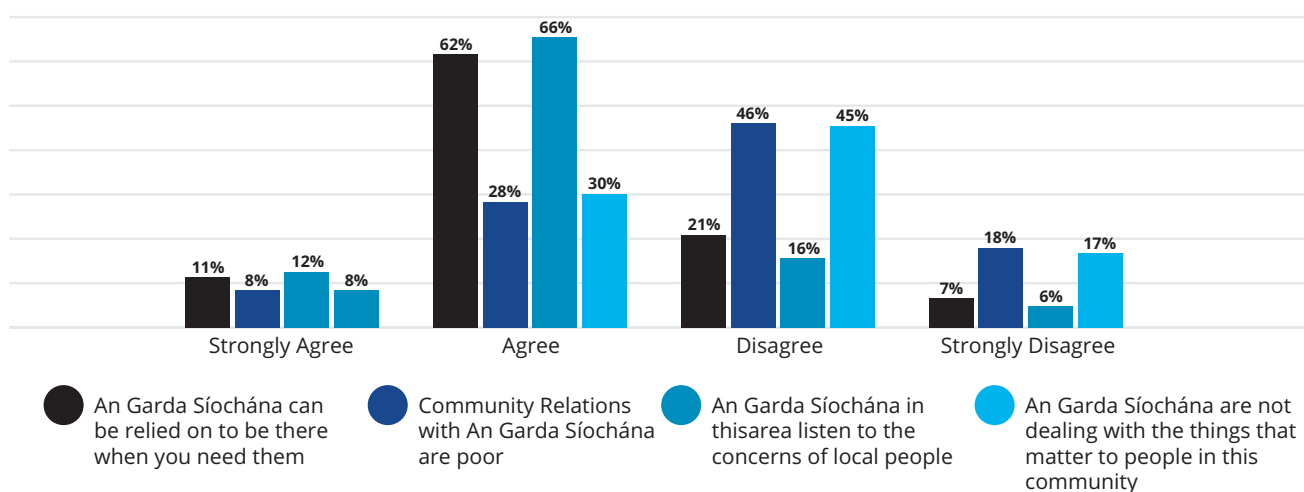
## 11.11 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

Four new questions were asked which sought viewpoints on four statements: whether An Garda Síochána can be relied on, whether community relations are poor, does An Garda Síochána listen to the public and do they deal with the matters that concern the community.

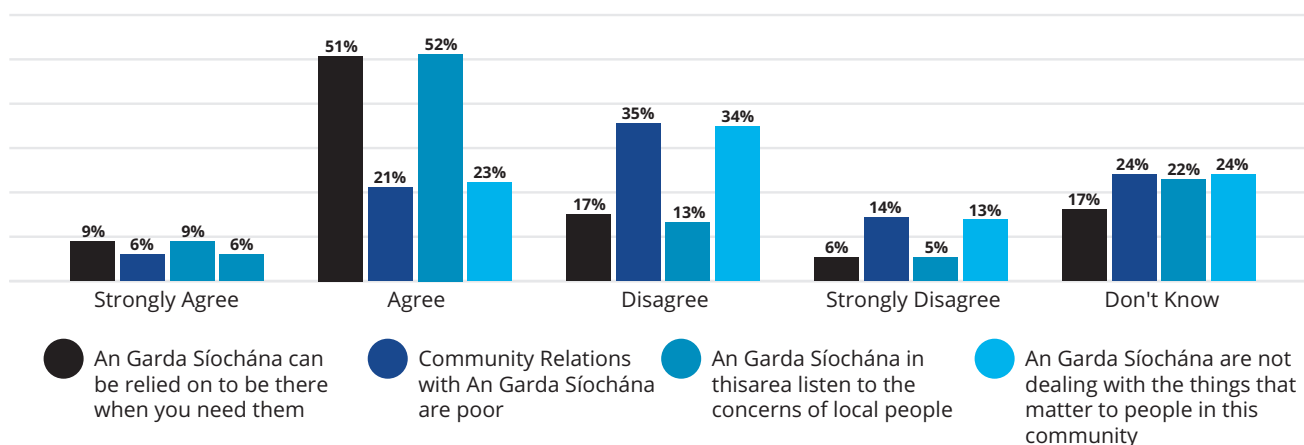
Figure 31 presents these viewpoints in a bar chart (excluding 'don't knows') and figure 32 presents the viewpoints including 'don't knows'. As can be observed from figure 32, high levels of 'don't know' responses were given. Across the four

statements, the highest level of agreement was noted for 'An Garda Síochána in this area listen to the concerns of local people' at 78 percent (excluding 'don't knows') and 61 percent (including 'don't know' responses). Seventy-three percent of respondents agreed that An Garda Síochána can be relied on to be there when you need them (60% if 'don't knows' are included). Sixty-four percent of respondents disagreed that community relations with An Garda Síochána are poor. Sixty-two percent of respondents disagreed that An Garda Síochána are not dealing with the things that matter to people in their community.

**Figure 31: Views on Garda behaviour (excluding don't knows): unweighted booster sample**



**Figure 32: Views on Garda behaviour (including don't knows): unweighted booster sample**

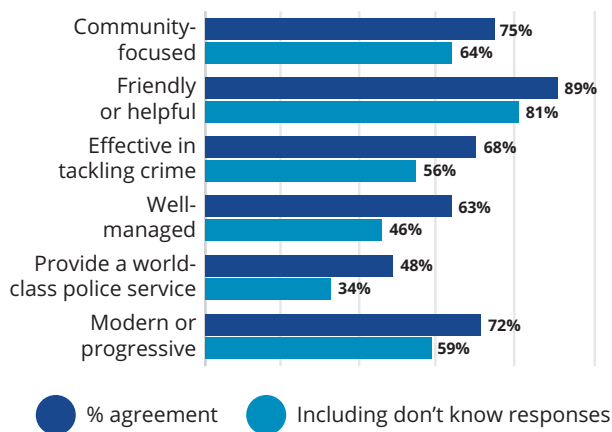


**Table 98: Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by demographic and area groupings: unweighted booster sample**

	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	72%	79%	62%	73%	82%	87%	66%	77%	83%	73%	77%
Modern or progressive	69%	76%	65%	71%	73%	85%	68%	70%	77%	69%	70%
Friendly or helpful	86%	92%	85%	91%	91%	90%	84%	93%	91%	87%	90%
Provide a world-class police service	40%	56%	46%	43%	43%	65%	49%	41%	52%	42%	53%
Well-managed	61%	67%	57%	61%	67%	72%	61%	62%	67%	57%	65%
Effective in tackling crime	65%	72%	61%	65%	75%	75%	66%	65%	73%	61%	66%

As figure 33 shows, overall the views of the booster sample about An Garda Síochána were positive. However, as in 2017, a large number of 16 and 17-year-olds responded ‘don’t know’ when asked for agreement levels with the six key statements. Generally, when demographics and area groupings are examined, females had more positive views about the Garda organisation, than males. This is true also for respondents in Connaught and Ulster and ‘city’ areas. Very little difference was observed between respondents who had contact or no contact with An Garda Síochána for these statements. ‘Effective in tackling crime’ showed the most variance. (See table 98).

**Figure 33: Level of agreement: unweighted booster sample**



### 11.13 Summary

- ▶ The relationship between young people and An Garda Síochána is important and one we strive to understand more fully. Early interactions and perceptions are relevant as they inform lasting attitudes and behaviours.
- ▶ Over half (57%) of 16 and 17-year-olds considered national crime to be a ‘very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem, which is much lower than the main survey (73%). Twelve percent considered local crime a ‘very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem. This is in line with last year’s survey of 16 and 17-year-olds and more similar to the main survey (at 19%).
- ▶ Twenty-nine respondents aged 16 and 17-years-old (5%) had experienced victimisation in the previous 12 months. This is the same level as expressed by respondents in last year’s survey.
- ▶ Very low levels of fear of crime were expressed by 16 and 17-year-olds. Fifty-seven percent stated they had no fears at all about the level of crime. This is in line with last year’s 16 and 17-year-old’s survey and strikingly different to the main survey (34%). Females did express slightly higher levels of fear of crime than males.
- ▶ Respondents expressed very high levels of trust and satisfaction in An Garda Síochána. This was also the case in the 2017 survey of 16 and 17-year-olds.
- ▶ Treatment of individuals in a respectful and fair manner garnered high levels of agreement with three quarters of the sample in positive agreement with the statements.
- ▶ Perceptions of the effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána were also largely positive. The organisation being friendly or helpful gathered most positive reports, compared to the organisation being a world-class police service. This is in line with the main survey.

# Conclusion

Commissioned by An Garda Síochána, with fieldwork conducted by Amárach Research, this report reflects findings from the fourth Public Attitudes Survey since its re-launch in 2014. The survey examined respondents' perceptions of crime and their experience of victimisation. It further explored their views about An Garda Síochána including policing priorities, trust in and satisfaction with Garda service, and perceptions of the organisation in terms of its capability and effectiveness. Questions were also asked about whether respondents' feel Gardaí treat everybody fairly and with respect. Since December 2016, a booster sample of approximately 600 young people, aged 16 or 17 years of age, was included.

## 12.1 Public Perceptions of Crime in Ireland

Respondents' perceptions of the seriousness of national crime has decreased year on year since 2016. As with previous surveys, local crime is considered less of a problem than national crime, and this too has decreased over survey sweeps. When different groups are examined it can be seen that:

- ▶ Women were more likely to view crime nationally and at a local level as more serious than men.
- ▶ Older respondents considered national and local crime a more serious problem than those in younger age groups.
- ▶ Irish nationals viewed national and local crime as a more serious problem than non-Irish nationals.
- ▶ Respondents in Dublin viewed the national crime problem as less serious than those in other regions, but local crime as more of a problem.
- ▶ Respondents in city areas viewed national crime as less of a problem than in 'other urban' and rural areas. Conversely, rural respondents were less likely to view crime in their local areas as a serious problem than in city and 'other urban' areas.

## 12.2 Victims of Crime

Of the 6000 respondents in the 2018 survey, 348 had experienced victimisation in the 12 months preceding the survey interview – a victimisation rate of 6 percent (no change from the 2017 survey). The victimisation rate has declined steadily (except for a peak in quarter two of 2018) from quarter one of 2016 to quarter four of 2018. Of the 348 victims of crime within the 2018 survey, a significant majority

at 63 percent were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with how Gardaí handled their case. This has increased from 58 percent in 2017 and 57 percent in 2016.

There was an 84 percent reporting rate to Gardaí – no change from 2017. As in 2016 and 2017, the most common reason cited for not reporting a crime was respondents did not believe the Gardaí could do anything, followed by believing the incident was not serious enough to warrant its reporting.

Victims' experiences of reporting their crime were explored. Most of the markers for measuring this have shown some improvement from 2017 (except Garda response time).

- ▶ A significant majority at 60% agreed that the Gardaí responded quickly when they reported the incident.
- ▶ 77% were provided with the name of the investigating Garda.
- ▶ Contact details were provided to 77% of respondents.
- ▶ PULSE identification numbers were given to 44% of respondents.
- ▶ Finally, 51% of respondents reported being given a number of a victim helpline or service.

In terms of information received by respondents from Gardaí, 36 percent stated the information received was 'too little', with 48 percent stating it was 'about right'. Fifteen percent were given no update on the status of their investigation.

## 12.3 Fear and Worry about Crime

While the Public Attitudes Survey explores perceptions about the likelihood of victimisation and fear and worry about crime, it should be remembered that it is difficult to ascertain whether fear about crime and worry about victimisation impact perceptions about the crime level nationally and locally or whether the reverse is true – perceptions about crime impact fear and worry levels. Survey results show that there is a correlation between fear of crime and worry about victimisation and perceptions of the seriousness of national and local crime.

The majority of survey respondents reported having no fears about crime and the proportion that worry about becoming a victim has decreased slightly from 2017 (37% worried about becoming the victim of both property theft or damage and



personal injury). Forty-nine percent of respondents reported they did not worry about becoming a victim.

As in 2017, females were more likely to worry about victimisation than males. Younger respondents were less worried about becoming a victim of crime than older age groups. Respondents from 'city' areas were more likely to worry about victimisation than those from 'rural' and 'other urban' areas.

Those who had been victimised in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were more likely to worry about future victimisation of both personal injury and property theft or damage than non-victims of crime.

## 12.4 Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána

There have been no changes in respondents' views on the crimes on which An Garda Síochána should focus. Irrespective of gender, age, social class, nationality or experience of victimisation, respondents ranked sexual offences as the top priority for An Garda Síochána. The vast majority of respondents, across all demographics, highlighted illegal weapons, human trafficking and robbery as their next priorities.

## 12.5 Garda Visibility

Awareness of Garda patrols (mostly car patrols) in local areas has increased from 36 percent in 2017, to 38 percent in 2018. Thirty-nine percent felt that Garda presence in their local areas was 'about right'.

An association was identified between perceptions of national and local crime and awareness of Garda patrols. As perceptions of the seriousness of national crime decrease, awareness of Garda patrols increases. While this association was similar for local crime, the differences were not as pronounced.

## 12.6 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána

When levels of satisfaction among respondents with the service Gardaí provide to their local communities were explored, we see that 80 percent were satisfied with this service (either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied'). Satisfaction levels have increased year on year since 2016 (71%, 76% and 80% for each respective year) - a statistically significant development.

Overall, younger respondents and those aged 65 years and older, expressed the greatest levels of satisfaction.

Respondents from Munster, Connaught and Ulster (82% respectively), expressed greater levels of satisfaction with Garda service provided to local communities than Dublin (77%) and the rest of Leinster (78%). Victims of crime were more likely to report dissatisfaction with Garda service than non-victims.

There is a correlation between perceptions of national and local crime and satisfaction levels with Garda service - although this is more evident at a local level. As perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem increase, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service. An association can also be seen between satisfaction with Garda service provided to local communities and fear of crime and worry about victimisation. As fear of crime and worry about victimisation increases, so too does dissatisfaction with Garda service.

## 12.7 Trust in An Garda Síochána

In 2018, 90 percent of respondents reported a medium to high level of trust in An Garda Síochána. This has remained very stable in recent survey sweeps - an important measure due to the importance of trust in the Garda organisation for effective policing.

Females were more likely to have greater trust in the organisation than males, as were older respondents and non-Irish nationals. 'City' respondents were less likely to have 'high trust' in the organisation than those from 'other urban' and rural areas. Those respondents who had been victims of crime in the preceding 12 months to the survey interview, had lower levels of 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána.

## 12.8 Equality of Treatment

Perceptions about respect and fairness displayed by Gardaí towards individuals regardless of whom they are were examined. In 2018, 93 percent of respondents agreed that Gardaí would treat them with respect if they had contact with them for any reason. Similarly, 80 percent agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (this figure was 65% when 'don't know' responses were included).

Victims of crime had more negative views of the Gardaí in terms of equality of treatment. Sixty-six percent of crime victims agreed that Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are.

Four new questions were added to the survey in 2018. These relate to the reliability of the Gardaí in local areas and police-community relations.

- ▶ The majority of respondents (75%) either 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the Gardaí in their area can be relied on to be there when they are needed. When 'don't know' responses were included this figure becomes 68 percent.
- ▶ Respondents were asked about their level of agreement with the statement that community relations with the Gardaí are poor. The majority disagreed with this statement (64%). When 'don't know' responses were included, this became 53 percent.
- ▶ When asked whether Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people, 83 percent of respondents agreed (70% when 'don't know' responses were included).
- ▶ Finally, 58 percent disagreed that Gardaí are not dealing with things that matter to the community (48% when 'don't know' responses were included).

## 12.9 Perceptions of the Garda Organisation

In general, respondents' views of An Garda Síochána have been more positive over each of the last three survey sweeps. In 2018, the majority of respondents held the view that the Gardaí are community-focused (72%), friendly and helpful (92%), effective in tackling crime (64%) and modern or progressive (68%). Forty-eight percent agreed the organisation is well-managed, while 44 percent agreed that it provides a world-class service.

Respondents aged 65 years and older were more likely to be positive about the organisation's effectiveness and capability, as were those from social class F and non-Irish nationals. Respondents in Munster, Connaught and Ulster were more likely to agree that the Gardaí are friendly or helpful and community-focused. Generally those in 'city' areas were less likely to agree with the statements regarding the Gardaí's effectiveness and capability, as were those who had experienced victimisation in the preceding 12 months.

There was a correlation between perceptions of national and local crime and views on the organisation's effectiveness and capability, particularly evident in the statements about providing a world-class police service, being well-managed and effective in tackling crime. In addition, there was a strong association between levels of trust in An Garda Síochána and views about its effectiveness and capability – those with 'high trust' being much more likely to be positive about its effectiveness and capability.

## 12.10 Sixteen and 17-year-old Booster Sample

In December 2016, the remit of the Garda Public Attitudes Survey was extended to include 16 and 17-year-olds – an important development in understanding the views of young people about their experiences with the Garda organisation and of crime and victimisation.

Victimisation in the preceding 12 months among this cohort was low at 5 percent. Worry about becoming a victim and fear of crime was also lower than in the main adult sample (females held more fear of crime than males). Areas for prioritisation by An Garda Síochána were generally the same for the 16 and 17-year-old booster sample as for the main sample, with sexual crime being ranked the top priority.

The majority of the booster sample were satisfied with An Garda Síochána's service to their local communities and had medium to high trust in the organisation. Views of the booster sample about equality of treatment by the Gardaí, reliability and community relations were generally positive.









