



Cooperating at an International Level in Protecting Communities from Organised & Serious Crime



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The *World Drug Report 2021*, published by the United Nations office of drugs and crime revealed that drug use killed almost half a million people in 2019, while drug use disorders resulted in 18 million years of healthy life lost, mostly due to opioids. The report concludes that the Illicit drug trade also continues to hold back economic and social development, while disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable and marginalised.

The Executive Director of the UNs Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC), Ghada Waly, has stated: “Vulnerable and marginalised groups and the poor pay the price for the world drug problem.

In December 2020, the *EU Drug Strategy for 2021 to 2025* was approved by the European Council. When launching the strategy reference was made to the fact that the drug phenomenon affects communities in many different ways, from health, family and social relations, to violence and money laundering. In particular, it was acknowledged, drugs is a phenomenon that stretches across the globe, that no country can tackle alone.

The *EU Drugs Strategy* suggests, it is important to recognise the impact of drug related crime, in particular on communities and to counter the threats posed by these crimes, such a violence and intimidation, corruption and money laundering and their associated negative effect on the legal economy. The *Strategy* recommends that measures adopted to tackle the drugs phenomenon should continuously seek to address the root causes and main drivers of organised crime and enhance the resilience of local communities”

Focus, it is recommended, should be given to tracking, tracing, freezing and confiscating the huge criminal assets obtained from drug trafficking and related offences in order to remove organised crime groups capacity to engage in future crimes and to infiltrate the legal economy.

UNDOC believes, addressing organized crime requires a systemic and integrated approach focused on harmonization of laws and enforcement of regulatory frameworks, human rights protection, building of sustainable communities and raising social awareness. (UNDOC). While Interpol has stated, with revenues estimated in the billons, the criminal enterprises of OCGs closely resemble those of legitimate international businesses. Interpol describes the OCGs as having operating models, long-term strategies, hierarchies, and even strategic alliances, all serving the same purpose: to generate the most profits with the least amount of risk.

One year ago, on 12th April 2021, Europol published its *Serious and Organised Threat Assessment* (SOCTA) for the year 2021. According to the SOCTA 2021, serious and organised crime remains a key threat to the internal security of the EU, affecting and undermining all levels of society from the daily lives of EU citizens to the economy, state institutions, and the rule of law.

The SOCTA 2021 reveals that cooperation between criminals is fluid, systematic, and driven by a profit-oriented focus. Additionally, the use of violence is increasing in terms of frequency and severity. Corruption, it is assessed, is a feature of nearly all criminal activities in the EU, and money laundering is key to facilitating criminal profits. Furthermore, the SOCTA reveals, criminals control or infiltrate legal business structures in order to expedite their criminal activities.

The *EU Drugs Strategy* describes Drugs policy as being of a cross cutting nature and suggests, it is also a national and international issue that needs to be addressed in a global context, by a variety of stakeholders.

Across the globe there may be agreement among those tasked with tackling criminality engaged in by transnational organised crime groups about the need for cooperation at an international level, but there is less certainty about how that cooperation will, or can, be achieved.

The initiative that is being revealed under the banner of *Cooperating at an International Level in Protecting Communities from Organised and Serious Crime*, reflects the outcome of consideration, by particular stakeholders, from across the globe, of how best to tackle organised crime groups that have a global outreach and take advantage of borders.

The experience of communities across the globe who are impacted by the activities of organised crime groups who trade in drugs, is evident in Dublin, Ireland, where communities have experienced drug related health issues, deaths and violence, while those who trade in drugs benefit from the proceeds of their criminal activity.

One particular organised crime group that is considered responsible for peddling illicit drugs among the communities of Dublin and for associated deaths, violence and other harm, is known as the ‘Kinahan cartel’. The origins of this organised crime group can be traced to the south inner city of Dublin.

However, while the 'Kinahan cartel' may have emerged from within the inner city of Dublin, it is now considered to have developed into a transnational organised crime group, whose criminal activity impacts on communities not only in Ireland, but elsewhere in Europe and even further afield. The extent of wealth accumulated by the Kinahan organisation has been estimated to potentially exceed €1 billion.

The criminal courts in Dublin have accepted that the Kinahan organisation is involved in serious criminal offending, including the organisation of execution type murders. Evidence has been accepted by in the course of criminal trials, that reveals killings have been undertaken by the Kinahan crime group based a on a perceived requirement to protect the core activities of the organisation, comprised of organised drugs and firearm trafficking, on an international scale.

The Garda Síochána, primarily through the Garda Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau (GNDOCB), has, in recent years, considered the process of attempting to dismantle the Kinahan OCG as being a particularly important objective.

Considerable success has been achieved by the GNDOCB, while pursuing this objective. There have been numerous successful interventions in threat to life incidents, involving the seizure of firearms and the arresting, charging and subsequent conviction of those who were about to murder or inflict serious harm. Significant quantities of drugs have been seized, while large quantities of cash that is the proceeds of criminal activity associated with the Kinahan OCG, has also been located and seized. There have been numerous arrests associated with seizures of drugs, firearms, cash and other items that are the proceeds of crime.

The Garda Síochána has also brought investigations of murder associated with the Kinahan OCG, to a successful conclusion, through the conviction of those involved.

However, from the outset, in endeavouring to dismantle the Kinahan OCG, the Garda Síochána has acknowledged limitations to its capacity to tackle the transnational dimension to the OCG. For this reason, the GNDOCB reached out to the law enforcement community at an international level, to identify potential partners who would have a common interest in dismantling the Kinahan OCG and would be willing to participate in a joint venture designed to achieve that aim.

Involvement on the part of relevant US entities in the joint venture commenced in 2018, through contact with the United States Customs and Border Protection, but soon extended to include the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and later, but significantly, also, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of the Treasury. The United States Department of State has also committed to providing considerable support to the initiative.

Ireland operates a common travel area (CTA) with the UK. Consequently, law enforcement entities in both jurisdictions regularly adopt a joint approach to tackling criminality that seeks to exploit the CTA. Potential for the Kinahan OCG to exploit the CTA has been responded to comprehensively, and with great impact, through cooperation between the GNDOCB and the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA).

Europol, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, through its capacity to provide operational coordination, especially in large-scale operations involving several countries, has also made a significant contribution to ensuring the objectives of those engaged in this initiative, are achieved.

The actions undertaken by particular entities in furtherance of the initiative described as *Cooperating at an International Level in Protecting Communities from Organised and Serious Crime* and which are being revealed at this time, represent one phase, all be it a particularly significant phase, in the strategy agreed by the participants, designed achieve the dismantling of the Kinahan organised crime group and to deprive the OCG of the proceeds of criminal activity.

The participating entities represented here today are, the US Department of State, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of the Treasury, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Customs and Border Protection, the UK's National Crime Agency, Europol and the Garda Síochána, including its Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau.

However, law enforcement authorities in other jurisdictions, including, Northern Ireland, Spain, The Netherlands and Australia, have also engaged with the Garda Síochána, in the course of tackling criminality associated with the Kinahan OCG. In this regard, it is anticipated that later phases of this initiative may involve participation by entities representing additional jurisdictions.

The ultimate aim of this initiative, is to illustrate to communities across the globe, such as that in south inner city of Dublin, the extent of determination on the part of those tasked with tackling the consequences of serious and organised crime, to ensure organised crime groups responsible for causing significant harm within their communities, no matter how powerful they consider they have become, will be brought to justice and be deprived of their ill gotten wealth.

Minister, Ambassadors, Garda and international colleagues,
Members of the media

On behalf of An Garda Síochána, Ireland's national police and security service, I want to thank you for joining us here in Dublin today.

Today is a landmark day in the fight against organised crime and in particular the Kinahan organised crime gang.

What you will hear over the next 45 minutes is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication resulting in a series of significant enforcement measures that will deal a heavy blow to the Kinahan organised crime gang.

It is also a demonstration of the strength of resolve amongst all of us to put an end to a gang that has caused so much destruction and death here and abroad.

The Kinahan organised crime gang started life as south inner city Dublin drug dealers, but has grown over the decades to become a transnational crime cartel involved in a wide-range of criminality that it is estimated has generated over €1bn for them.

All of it leaving countless victims of violence and addiction across the world in their wake.

Since the events at the Regency Hotel in 2016, An Garda Síochána has made it a priority to systematically dismantle and degrade this gang.

We have arrested many of their key figures leading to their imprisonment.

But we have known for a long time that the Kinahan crime gang did not just operate in Ireland. That it had spread its criminality

across the world. We also knew that An Garda Síochána alone could not dismantle this group.

On becoming Garda Commissioner in 2018, one of the first briefings I received related to the Kinahan Crime Gang.

Assistant Commissioner O'Driscoll briefed me on a plan he was advancing with major law enforcement agencies in the US, UK and Europe to not only tackle this organised crime gang here in Ireland, but also in some of their key areas of operation internationally with a particular emphasis on cutting off their revenue streams.

The initiative being launched today reflects the outcome of much discussion and action by the stakeholders present on how best to tackle organised crime groups with a global reach.

And today we see this internationally co-ordinated plan come to fruition.

I want to thank all our partners here today for their commitment and dedication – they have shown huge determination in our joint fight against the Kinahan organised crime gang.

My sincere thanks to each of you and your teams for this incredibly important work.

It should be said that this is only the first phase of this initiative.

Other law enforcement agencies in Northern Ireland, Spain, the Netherlands and Australia, who have already greatly assisted us in tackling the Kinahan crime gang, and will undoubtedly participate in the next phases.

While most of the Kinahan leadership is now behind bars, it is true that some of the apex of the organisation is located in jurisdictions without extradition treaties such as the UAE.

They can run, but they can't hide from justice for ever, from today they will be running low on money and friends.

I am confident, particularly with the strength of purpose demonstrated by all the partners here today, that those senior members of the Kinahan gang will be brought to justice sooner rather than later.

That will be a good day for this country and many others.

Thank you.

CBP Deputy Commissioner joins law enforcement counterparts in Dublin to target global organized crime

Initiative results in OFAC designation against Kinahan Organized Crime Group in Ireland

DUBLIN – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Deputy Commissioner Troy Miller today joined law enforcement counterparts from the United States and the Republic of Ireland to launch a cooperative criminal justice initiative targeting global organized crime. Participants of this initiative, ***Cooperating at an International Level in Protecting Communities From Organized and Serious Crime***, include U.S. law enforcement such as CBP, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), as well as the U.S. State Department and global partners at Europol, the UK National Crime Agency, the Spanish National Police, and the An Garda Síochána (national police service of the Republic of Ireland).

Senior officials from participating agencies met in Dublin this week to discuss cooperative efforts and collaborated on a number of critical law enforcement issues. As part of this joint effort, these partners today announced OFAC sanctions against individuals and entities associated with the Kinahan Organized Crime Group (KOCG), a global illicit network involved in drug trafficking, money laundering, fraud, murder, extortion, and other organized crime activities.

Deputy Commissioner Miller was one of several law enforcement officials who spoke to participants today at City Hall in Dublin. The following are the prepared text of his remarks:

Thank you and good morning, everyone.

It is an honor to be here today to represent U.S. Customs and Border Protection at this important announcement and to stand beside our partners in our shared commitment to cooperation.

On behalf of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, I would like to thank the following:

- *Commissioner Harris and the An Garda Síochána;*
- *U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Cronin and our colleagues at the U.S. Department of State;*
- *Our partners at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration;*
- *The Office of Foreign Assets Control;*
- *EUROPOL;*
- *The UK National Crime Agency;*
- *The Spanish National Police; and*
- *The team of international investigators, analysts and other law enforcement personnel who facilitated the global success that is being presented today.*

Your partnership and commitment to working together is the reason we can make this designation today and announce the reward for justice.

*It is our job at CBP to **protect the American public and our allies from terrorists and criminal groups that seek to exploit trade and travel to do harm.***

If we have learned anything as an agency over the past 20 years, it is that we can only achieve success in this endeavor when we work together across the U.S. government and with our international allies to protect the public from illicit activity.

Long gone are the days where we only communicated internally, targeting one bad actor at a time. When we partner with other government agencies like the DEA, Treasury and State Departments, the U.S. government can enhance the knowledge of entire networks – how they operate, move throughout the world, pay for things and communicate with each other. We can then use this information to holistically target criminal networks and restrict their ability to commit crimes and harm the public.

*We have worked tirelessly at CBP to **build an infrastructure that prioritizes information sharing, cooperation, and leveraging joint operations across the U.S. government to target bad actors and criminal organizations.***

CBP is proud to be a world leader in using traveler and cargo data where our legal authorities allow to assist both domestic and international law enforcement.

Today's announcement is the result of three years of extensive interagency work.

***I am proud** to be here today to make clear to the world our shared goals and values – that drug trafficking, money laundering, fraud, murder and extortion have no place in our countries. We will use every authority at our disposal to curtail these threats and prevent harm.*

And we will continue to work with our Irish and UK colleagues to bring bad actors to justice and keep the global public safe from these criminals.

We should be proud of the work done to get to this point, while remaining steadfast and vigilant for the work still to come.

*Today's announcement is a shining example of our mutual commitment to collaboration and demonstrates that the **world becomes a safer place** when we work together.*

US Treasury OFAC's press release can be found at: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases>

Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs' (INL) press release at: <https://www.state.gov/releases-bureau-of-international-narcotics-and-law-enforcement-affairs/>



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Treasury Sanctions Notorious Kinahan Organized Crime Group

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated the Kinahan Organized Crime Group (KOCG) along with seven of its key members, including its Irish leaders Christopher Vincent Kinahan Senior, Daniel Joseph Kinahan, Christopher Vincent Kinahan Junior, and three associated businesses pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13581, “Blocking Property of Transnational Criminal Organizations,” as amended. Today’s action is the result of close collaboration between OFAC, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Ireland’s national police force (An Garda Síochána), the United Kingdom’s National Crime Agency, and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation.

“The Kinahan Organized Crime Group smuggles deadly narcotics, including cocaine, to Europe, and is a threat to the entire licit economy through its role in international money laundering,” said Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian E. Nelson. “Criminal groups like the KOCG prey on the most vulnerable in society and bring drug-related crime and violence, including murder, to the countries in which they operate. Treasury is proud to have coordinated so closely with our international counterparts, and the U.S. government will continue to use every available resource to dismantle these criminal networks.”

INAHAN ORGANIZED CRIME GROUP

The KOCG, which operates in Ireland and is also established in the United Kingdom, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates, was designated as a significant transnational criminal organization. The KOCG emerged in the late 1990s and early 2000s as the most powerful organized crime group operating in Ireland. Since then, Irish courts have concluded that the KOCG is a murderous organization involved in the international trafficking of drugs and firearms. Criminal activities of the KOCG, including international money laundering, generate proceeds in the United Kingdom, which are then pooled together and passed to local criminals before being handed to Irish organized crime group members and laundered out of the United Kingdom. The KOCG also frequently uses Dubai as a facilitation hub for its illicit activities. Since February 2016, the KOCG has been involved in a gang war with another group in Ireland and Spain, resulting in numerous murders, including of two innocent bystanders.

THE KINAHAN FAMILY

Irish national **Christopher Vincent Kinahan Senior** (Christopher Sr.), currently based in Dubai, was designated for acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, the KOCG. Demonstrative of a long history of criminality, Christopher Sr. has served prison sentences in Ireland, The Netherlands, and Belgium, including: six years for dealing heroin, two-and-a-half years for possession of cocaine, and four years for money laundering. During this time he was building a list of contacts which grew to what became known as the KOCG. Christopher Sr.'s sons, Daniel Kinahan and Christopher Jr., now manage his drug trafficking operations while Christopher Sr. oversees the property portions of the business. For example, Christopher Sr. has registered a number of companies under aliases or using abbreviations of his name. Christopher Sr. has been known to have used false identity documents.

Irish national **Daniel Joseph Kinahan** (Daniel Kinahan), currently based in Dubai, was designated for acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, the KOCG. Each member of the KOCG reports to Daniel Kinahan, who is believed to run the day-to-day operations of the organization. Daniel Kinahan has instructed KOCG members to send money to a variety of individuals serving prison sentences, including a person convicted of attempted murder on behalf of the KOCG, and an individual imprisoned for murder on behalf of the KOCG. Daniel Kinahan, who sources large quantities of cocaine from South America, plays an integral part in organizing the supply of drugs in Ireland, and is attempting to facilitate the importation of cocaine into the United Kingdom. Daniel Kinahan is known to have used false identity documents.

Irish national **Christopher Vincent Kinahan Junior** (Christopher Jr.), currently based in Dubai, was designated for materially assisting, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, the KOCG. Christopher Jr. regularly contributes to a fund that is used to pay KOCG members. Additionally, Christopher Jr. responds to directives from Daniel Kinahan and has collaborated with other members of the

KOCG to transport and sell narcotics in the United Kingdom. Christopher Jr. was also caught travelling with a false identity document in Germany.

KINAHAN ASSOCIATES

Irish national **Sean Gerard McGovern** (Sean McGovern), currently based in Dubai, was designated for materially assisting, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, Daniel Kinahan. McGovern is Daniel Kinahan's advisor and closest confidant, and evidence indicates that all dealings with Daniel Kinahan go through Sean McGovern. Sean McGovern also has managed communications on behalf of Daniel Kinahan, and he sells multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine.

Irish national **Ian Thomas Dixon** (Ian Dixon), currently based in Dubai, was designated for materially assisting, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, Daniel Kinahan. Ian Dixon has arranged multiple payments on behalf of Daniel Kinahan, as well as moved bulk currency on behalf of Daniel Kinahan in Ireland and the United Kingdom. Ian Dixon also oversees a fund on behalf of Daniel Kinahan and keeps track of money owed by a narcotics trafficker.

Irish national **Bernard Patrick Clancy** (Bernard Clancy), currently based in Dubai, was designated for materially assisting, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, the KOCG. Bernard Clancy is a key KOCG lieutenant, who among other duties is tasked by Daniel Kinahan with providing wages to elements within the KOCG and payments to others.

Irish national **John Francis Morrissey** (John Morrissey), currently based in Spain, was designated for materially assisting, sponsoring, or providing financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, the KOCG. John Morrissey has worked for the KOCG for several years, including as an enforcer, and facilitates international drug shipments for the organization from South America. John Morrissey is also involved in money laundering.

Nero Drinks Company Limited (Nero Drinks) is a UK-based alcoholic beverage company. Nero Drinks was designated for being owned or controlled by, directly or indirectly, John Morrissey. John Morrissey, who outwardly serves as the Nero Drinks' brand ambassador, is heavily invested in Nero Drinks and has given a significant portion of the business to Daniel Kinahan to compensate for loads of drugs seized by law enforcement. John Morrissey controls and operates Nero Drinks through his wife, the primary shareholder, who is used as a frontperson for his interests.

Hoopoe Sports LLC (Hoopoe Sports) is a UAE-based sports management and advisory company. Hoopoe Sports was designated for being owned or controlled by, directly or indirectly, Ian Dixon. Ian Dixon is a 49 percent shareholder and he also receives 80 percent of Hoopoe Sports' profits. Ian Dixon is the sole manager of Hoopoe Sports and has full executive power over the company.

Ducashew General Trading LLC (Ducashew) is a UAE-based business management consulting company. Ducashew was designated for being owned or controlled by, directly or indirectly, Daniel Kinahan. Daniel Kinahan runs Ducashew through various individuals and is involved in its financial and business management.

SANCTIONS IMPLICATIONS

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of the designated individuals or entities that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons must be blocked and reported to OFAC. OFAC's regulations generally prohibit all transactions by U.S. persons or persons within (or transiting) the United States that involve any property or interests in property of designated or otherwise blocked persons. U.S. persons may face civil or criminal penalties for violations of E.O. 13581 as amended or the Transnational Criminal Organizations Sanctions Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 590.

U.S. sanctions need not be permanent; sanctions are intended to bring about a positive change of behavior. Consistent with the findings of [Treasury's 2021 Sanctions Review](#), the removal of sanctions is available for persons designated under OFAC's Transnational Criminal Organizations sanctions authorities who demonstrate a material change in behavior. For detailed information on the process to submit a request for removal from an OFAC sanctions list, please visit [here](#) and refer to OFAC's [Frequently Asked Question 897](#). Additional information regarding sanctions programs administered by OFAC can be found [here](#).

For more information on the individuals and entities designated today, click [here](#).

To view the chart on the individuals and entities designated today, click [here](#).

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KINAHAN CRIME GROUP HIT WITH WORLDWIDE FINANCIAL SANCTIONS

An Irish organised crime group responsible for importing multi-tonne quantities of drugs and firearms around the world for more than 20 years has been hit with international financial sanctions – leaving their bank accounts frozen and funds inaccessible.

The Kinahan crime group, which has also been linked to more than a dozen gangland murders, have been effectively cut off from the global financial system.

Over the last two years, the National Crime Agency, in collaboration with international law enforcement partners and US government bodies, have collated material generated from significant operational activity which shows their involvement in serious and organised criminality.

The material was submitted to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in the United States, who today announced that the head of the crime group, Christopher Vincent Kinahan Snr, and his two sons, Daniel Joseph Kinahan and Christopher Vincent Kinahan Jnr, along with a number of their associates and businesses, will be subject to the sanctions.

Over the years, the Kinahans have gone to extreme lengths to avoid law enforcement action by using corrupt officials, receiving training in anti-surveillance techniques, and working with trusted associates to distance themselves from their criminal activities

And they have sought to locate themselves outside of the UK and Ireland, to frustrate the NCA and partner law enforcement efforts to pursue them.

However, NCA investigations have caused major disruption to the crime group's activity in the UK and beyond.

Last month, Thomas 'Bomber' Kavanagh, who ran the Kinahan's criminal operations in the UK was jailed for 21 years, along with brothers-in-law Gary Vickery and Daniel Canning, who were sentenced to 20 years and 19 ½ years respectively.

Evidence showed they were responsible for cocaine importations estimated to be up to £23.4 million, and cannabis importations worth around £6.4 million.

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

James Mulvey, another key player in the crime group, was arrested in Lithuania in 2017 after NCA investigators evidenced he trafficked drugs worth an estimated £68m. He is currently serving a 32-year jail term.

NCA officers have prevented eight threats to life - murders and punishment beatings - on the streets of the UK and elsewhere by sharing intelligence with law enforcement partners.

The NCA and its partners have also seized dozens of firearms, including machine guns and automatic rifles. The agency's international network of officers have shared intelligence with our overseas law enforcement agencies that has disrupted the group's activities.

NCA Deputy Director of Investigations, Matt Horne, said: "We target criminals who cause the most harm, are the most violent, those who exploit the vulnerable, and dominate communities. The Kinahan crime group fall into all of those categories.

"They have transcended international boundaries – distributing multi-million pound shipments of drugs throughout Ireland, the UK and mainland Europe, and have been engaging in firearms trafficking and money laundering.

"They thought they were untouchable but the sanctions imposed today will be a huge blow to the Kinahans. It has cut them off from the global financial system, making them toxic to legitimate businesses and financial institutions, and will cause other criminals to think twice about doing business with them.

"Additionally, it shows that we will explore every opportunity available to disrupt their criminal activities and, rest assured, we will not stop here.

"It doesn't matter how long it takes, we will ensure those who are responsible for flooding the streets with drugs and firearms, laundering the proceeds of crime, ordering murders and inflicting violence are held to account for their actions."

The NCA has been working with international law enforcement and government agencies – including the US Drug Enforcement Administration and Dept of Treasury, An Garda Síochána the Police Service Northern Ireland, the Spanish National Police and Guardia Civil - since 2019 to collate intelligence and evidence to achieve OFAC designation.

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

The Kinahans, who currently live in the United Arab Emirates, will also now be on the Specially Designated Nationals list, which is used by global institutions to screen and potentially block transactions to avoid any enforcement action.

Other individuals who will be added to the SDN list are Irish nationals Sean Gerard McGovern, Bernard Patrick Clancy, Ian Thomas Dixon and John Francis Morrissey.

Three business entities - Nero Drinks Company Limited (owned or controlled by, directly or indirectly, John Morrissey), Hoopoe Sports LLC (owned or controlled by, directly or indirectly, Ian Dixon) and Ducashew General Trading LLC (owned or controlled by, directly or indirectly, Daniel Kinahan) will also be added to the designation list and are subject to the same sanctions.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Impact of sanctions

- Any financial institution that uploads and adheres to the OFAC SDN lists on a daily basis, as part of its compliance framework, will block any funds/assets they hold belonging to SDNs
- Those currently on the SDN list include individuals involved in terrorism, people who are deemed a state threat or who can cause harm to US foreign policy and those involved in serious and organised crime
- The Presidential executive order that is being used for these sanctions is **13581 – Transnational Criminal Organisations**
 - On July 24, 2011, Executive Order (E.O.) 13581 was signed by President Obama imposing sanctions against significant Transnational Criminal Organisations (TCOs) and authorizing the Department of the Treasury to target TCOs worldwide. TCO are defined as a group that includes one or more foreign persons; that engage in an ongoing pattern of serious criminal activity involving the jurisdictions of at least two foreign states; and that threatens the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States
- More information on the work of OFAC and sanctions, as well as the SDN list, can be found via <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/office-of-foreign-assets-control-sanctions-programs-and-information>

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Today, Ireland's national police force, An Garda Síochána launched the Criminal Justice Initiative **Cooperating at an International Level in Protecting Communities from Organised and Serious Crime** at a press conference at City Hall, Dublin, Ireland.

At the press conference, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated the Irish organised crime group known as the Kinahan gang along with seven of its key members and three associated businesses pursuant to U.S. Executive Order (E.O.) 13581, "Blocking Property of Transnational Criminal Organizations," as amended.

This action results from close collaboration between OFAC, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Ireland's An Garda Síochána, and the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency, with the support of Europol, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation. Europol provided operational coordination, using its capacity to investigate large-scale operations involving several countries.

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of the designated individuals or entities in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons must be blocked and reported to OFAC.

Europol's Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA)

The initiative Cooperating at an International Level in Protecting Communities from Organised and Serious Crime demonstrates the strength of the international law enforcement community with authorities from Ireland, the U.K., the U.S., and Europol, working hand-in-glove to break the criminal networks of drug trafficking and corruption, money laundering, and violence.

According to Europol's Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA 2021), serious and organised crime remains a key threat to the E.U.'s internal security.

- Organised crime affects and undermines all levels of society, from the daily lives of E.U. citizens to the economy, state institutions, and the rule of law.
- Criminal structures are more fluid and flexible than previously thought and their operations are far-reaching, international, and very ambitious.
- 40% of the criminal groups active in the E.U. are involved in drug trafficking, and much of the violence associated with serious and organised crime is related to the drug trade.
- Corruption is a feature of all criminal activities. Almost 60 % of the criminal groups reported to Europol engage in corruption.
- More than 80 % of the criminal networks are active in the use of legal business structures for their illegal activities.

- Serious and organised crime in the E.U. fundamentally relies on the ability to launder vast amounts of criminal profits. For this purpose, professional money launderers have established a parallel underground financial system to process transactions and payments isolated from any oversight mechanisms governing the legal economic system.

Operational Activity associated with the Kinahan Organised Crime Group undertaken by the Garda Síochána

The Kinahan Organised Crime Group (OCG) has its origins in the south inner city of Dublin, Ireland. Consequently, those that are considered to have established the OCG and others believed to be included in its membership have been the focus of attention of the Garda Síochána over many years.

However, while the Kinahan OCG remained based in Dublin in earlier years, its leadership is believed to have since moved to UAE, after a period in which they were located in Spain.

Since leaving Ireland, the Kinahan OCG is believed to have expanded to the extent that it operates at a global level and has accumulated wealth that may even exceed €1 billion.

Criminal organisations of such size frequently display a level of power derived from their wealth, which renders aspects of their criminal activity potentially outside the reach of any one nation or any one law enforcement entity. It is accepted, at an international level, to tackle in any meaningful way criminality associated with OCGs of this nature, requires cooperation involving participation by law enforcement entities of a number of jurisdictions.

The reaction of the Kinahan OCG to the murder of a person associated with the group, in a hotel in Dublin, in February 2016, represented a defining time from the perspective of how the Garda Síochána would tackle criminality associated with the OCG.

The extent to which the Kinahan OCG had developed from being a group of criminals located, and engaged in crime, in Dublin, to being a transnational OCG possessed of significant wealth and the power that is derived from that wealth, became evident. This power was exercised through a campaign of murder in Ireland and elsewhere, directed by the hierarchy of the group, who are believed to have taken up residence at a location far removed from not alone Ireland but also Europe.

Those within the Garda Síochána tasked with tackling organised and serious crime in Ireland reacted by concluding it would be insufficient to merely react to each incident of criminality associated with the Kinahan OCG as it would occur. A decision was made to set a target of totally dismantling the OCG, which it was accepted, would require a particular focus on those at the apex of its hierarchical management structure.

Success it was considered would require, seizing the product in which the Kinahan OCG trade, the firearms to which they have access and use to murder and inflict harm and cash and other commodities that represent the proceeds of their criminal activity.

The identification in 2017 of a warehouse in Greenogue Business Park, Dublin, which appeared to be a legitimate transport business, but in fact was used to hold an arsenal of weapons for use at short notice by the Kinahan OCG represented an import achievement for the Garda Síochána.

The GNDOCB, assisted by the Emergency Response Unit entered the premises on 24th January 2017 and found 17 firearms, including pistols, revolvers, a submachine gun and an AK47-style assault rifle. A number of the handguns were primed, armed and ready for use. The search also located silencers, tracking devices and more than 4,000 rounds of ammunition, with additional ammunition found in a secret compartment in a van parked nearby.

Those arrested, charged and convicted those arrested received sentences of up to ten years. While sentencing those convicted, Mr. Justice Hunt said that the weapons represented “enormous potential for death and destruction” and that it was a “lethal arsenal stored for the purpose of organised and very serious crime”.

The Garda Síochána through the Garda National Drugs & Organised Crime Bureau (GNDOCB), supported by the Garda National Crime & Security Intelligence Service (GNCSIS) placed a particular focus on intervening in threat to life incidents organised by the hierarchy in the Kinahan OCG, intended to result in murder of those that were considered to represent a threat the group.

The task set was to not only locate the firearms that would be used, but also to identify those tasked with using the firearms to kill and to gather sufficient evidence to achieve convictions arising from the criminality involved.

On a total of 46 occasions the Garda Síochána intervened in threat to life incidents believed organised by the Kinahan OCG preventing almost certain murder in many cases.

Intended ‘hit teams’ were identified, placed under surveillance and apprehended in circumstances where intention to murder could be proved to the satisfaction of the criminal courts. A total of 22 persons have been convicted arising from intervention in ‘threat to life’ incidents. Two attempts to murder one particular intended victim were identified and resulted in the conviction of 7 people. Nine people received sentences of 12 years or more, with one person sentenced to a term of 20 years.

One Tarus 9mm pistol was seized in the course of an intervention relating to a particular attempt to murder. While, firearms including a Makarov Pistol, a Beretta Handgun and a Smith & Wesson revolver, were seized in the course of another such intervention.

A total of 13 people have been convicted arising from firearm related offences associated with the Kinahan OCG.

Unfortunately, a number of murders believed linked to the Kinahan OCG occurred in the three years immediately following the incident at the Regency Hotel. However investigation units within the Garda Síochána located in the Dublin Metropolitan Region identified a total of 12 suspects who were arrested, charged and subsequently convicted of criminal offences. A total of 7 received a sentence of life imprisonment having been charged with murder.

One particular murder associated with the Kinahan OCG occurred in Spain, in 2015. The murder was investigated by the law enforcement authorities in Spain, who were provided with significant assistance by the Garda Síochána.

The Spanish investigation resulted in the arresting and charging of James Quinn who was subsequently convicted of murder, and sentenced to 20 years, while he received an additional 2 years for illegal weapons possession.

Controlled drugs with an estimated street sale value of almost €20 million, linked to the Kinahan OCG, have been seized in the course of investigations undertaken by the Garda Síochána, through the GNDOCB, in many cases in conjunction with Revenue Commissioners Customs Service. The investigations have given rise to the charging of a total of 17 people who were subsequently convicted in respect of drug related offences.

Targeting wealth amassed by the Kinahan OCG has resulted in seizures of numerous quantities of cash by the Garda National Drugs & Organised Crime Bureau, totaling €7.5 million. Associated investigations have resulted in the conviction of 17 people arising from money laundering related criminal charges.

The Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) is another important element of the armoury of the Irish State in tackling criminal activity, in particular serious and organised criminal activity. The CAB seeks to deny and deprive criminals of assets acquired through criminal conduct.

Last week, in the High Court in Dublin, the CAB seized what is described as a luxury gated home, situated in Saggart, Co Dublin, which, the Court was informed, was under the control of the Kinahan organised crime group. In the course the Court proceedings, CAB offered evidence of financial transactions to the extent of up to €4.5 million involving members of the Kinahan OCG.

The case stands adjourned to next month so that the Court can receive an update on intended service of Court orders on both Daniel Kinahan and Thomas Kavanagh, identified to the Court as fulfilling a management role within the OCG.

The Garda Síochána through the Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation (GNBCI) is undertaking investigations relating to suspected use by members of the Kinahan OCG of fraudulently obtained genuine passports. Criminal proceedings have commenced arising from the obtaining and use of particular passports and are progressing through the Courts.

The Garda Síochána continues to progress a number of investigations relating to criminal offences believed associated with the Kinahan OCG and looks forward to working with law enforcement authorities in other jurisdictions, including the US and the UK and with Europol in gathering all available evidence required to ensure the commencement of criminal proceedings.

One such investigation recently gave rise to the DPP directing the commencement of criminal proceedings. Consequently, a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) was recently issued in respect of a particular suspect, the locating of whom is a matter in respect of which we seek assistance.

In this regard we ask anyone who has knowledge of the current whereabouts of Sean McGovern, who is subject of a European Arrest Warrant to contact the Garda Síochána. The offences in respect of which the EAW has issued include, murder and a number of organised crime related offences.

In recent days the GNDOCB has undertaken a number of searches targeting persons suspected to be associated with the Kinahan OCG, who, it is believed are engaged in drug trafficking and money laundering related criminal activity.

This particular phase of a one investigation arose as a consequence of three premises, located in Dublin, being identified as being connected with the Kinahan OCG. The searches were undertaken pursuant to the provisions of organised crime related legislation.

During the course of the searches a total of five mobile communications devices, a quantity of cash, relevant documentation and four vehicles were seized.

Today, however, we place particular focus on the Garda Síochána's liaison with law enforcement and other relevant entities from elsewhere on the globe with whom we have forged a powerful working relationship and a common interest in dismantling the Kinahan OCG.

Today, also, we focus on a process of 'dismantling'. However, as is often the case when engaged in demolition, the intention is to build something better that will exist into the future.

Our ambition is, through dismantling the evil edifice of crime within communities across the globe, including in Dublin, we will contribute to rebuilding those communities as places that will be less likely to experience the tragic consequences of organised crime groups.



REWARD



OF UP TO

\$5,000,000.00 USD

**FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE FINANCIAL DISRUPTION OF THE
KINAHAN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION OR THE ARREST AND/OR
CONVICTION OF**



Christopher Kinahan, Jr.

SUBMIT TIPS VIA E-MAIL TO

KinahanTCOTips@dea.gov



REWARD



OF UP TO

\$5,000,000.00 USD

**FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE FINANCIAL DISRUPTION OF THE
KINAHAN CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION OR THE ARREST AND/OR
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Christopher Vincent Kinahan

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Daniel Joseph Kinahan

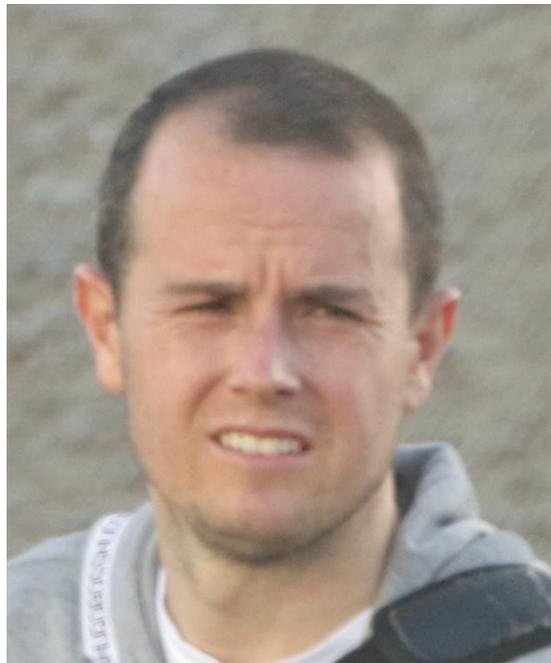
SUBMIT TIPS VIA E-MAIL TO

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AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA



WANTED ON WARRANT



Sean Mc Govern

An Garda Síochána seek the public assistance in establishing the whereabouts of thirty - six year old Sean Mc Govern.

The High Court in Dublin has issued a European Arrest Warrant for the arrest of Sean Mc Govern, relating to offences of Murder and Directing and Participating in a Criminal Organisation.

Sean Mc Govern's last known address is in Kildare Road, Crumlin Dublin 12.

Anyone with information relating to Sean Mc Govern's whereabouts can contact the Garda confidential line on – 1800 666 111

Targeting the Kinahan Organised Crime Group



Operational activity undertaken by An Garda Síochána
(From September 2015 to date)

 **46**

Interventions in threat to life incidents



€20 million

Value of controlled drugs seized



48

Firearms seized



2,212 Rounds

Ammunition seized

€7.5 million

Cash



Kinahan OCG related convictions

79

Total number of Persons convicted to date

 **12**

Murder related

 **23**

Attempted murder related

13 

Firearms related

 **17**

Drug Trafficking

17 

Money Laundering



Targeting the Kinahan Organised Crime Group

Operational activity undertaken by An Garda Síochána (From September 2015 to date)



Kinahan OCG related convictions



Garda Commissioner Drew Harris

Commissioner Drew Harris had 34 years policing experience with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) before joining An Garda Síochána.

In his current role as Commissioner of An Garda Síochána, appointed in 2018, he has responsibility for both Policing and State Security for Ireland. An Garda Síochána is comprised of approximately 18,000 personnel which includes over 14,000 sworn Garda members, approximately 500 Reserve Garda members and over 3,000 Garda Staff working in administration and support roles.



He was previously Deputy Chief Constable of the PSNI where he was specifically responsible for performance and change management.

He was also previously responsible for the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Crime Operations Department and is recognised as a national expert in dealing with high risk covert policing operations and critical incidents. He was appointed in 2013 as a high level expert to a European Parliament Committee reporting on organised crime and corruption.

He held the UK's Association of Chief Police Officers Hate Crime portfolio for eight years where he has led on improving the criminal justice response to victims, improving detection rates and improving data collection. As an Assistant Chief Constable, Drew also led on PSNI initiatives where he took responsibility for the management of sex offenders and the introduction of Public Protection Units.

In 2002, he completed a two-year secondment in the rank of Superintendent to Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Scotland.

He was awarded an (OBE) in 2010 and a Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in 2019.

Qualifications:

- BA (Hons) Degree in Politics and Economics, Open University (1997)
- Masters in Criminology, University of Cambridge (2007)
- Strategic Command Course (2004)
- Leadership in International Counter Terrorism Course (2006)
- FBI's National Executive Institute programme for senior law enforcement officers (2010)



President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. nominated Claire D. Cronin to be United States Ambassador to Ireland on June 23, 2021. After confirmation by the United States Senate, she was sworn in by Attorney William Bonaccorso on January 19, 2022, and presented her credentials to the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, on February 10, 2022.

Prior to her appointment, Ambassador Cronin served as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and was the first woman to serve as House Majority Leader. During her service as a legislator, Ms. Cronin was also Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, where she was the architect of significant pieces of legislation, including major criminal justice and police reform.

Ambassador Cronin dedicated much of her legislative career to advocating for increased education funding. She worked extensively on improving access to mental health and substance abuse services, increasing protections and services for victims of domestic violence, and advancing civil rights. Ambassador Cronin has been a strong advocate for supporting veterans and their families, and she served on the conference committee for the BRAVE Act, which enhanced benefits for veterans and their families.

Public service is a core value for Ambassador Cronin, as well as a cornerstone of her family's history. Cronin's great uncle served as the first blind legislator in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Her uncle, C. Gerald Lucey served in the House of Massachusetts House of Representatives after he returned from military service in Europe during World War II. He later served as Mayor of Brockton, Massachusetts.

For two decades, Ambassador Cronin also served as a Mediator/Arbitrator for Commonwealth Mediation in Brockton, MA. Most notably, she served as an arbitrator on the landmark settlement of the Massachusetts clergy sexual abuse cases.

Ambassador Cronin earned her B.A. from Stonehill College and her J.D. from Suffolk University. She is admitted to practice law in Massachusetts in both state and federal courts and is also admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. She is the recipient of multiple honors and awards, including the Jewish Community Relations Council Legislative Leadership Award (2020), the Massachusetts Bar Association Legislator of the Year (2018), the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers Leader Award (2017), and the Equal Justice Beacon of Justice Award (2016). She and her husband, Ray, have two adult daughters.



Troy A. Miller is the Deputy Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In this role, he serves as the agency's senior career official, overseeing the daily operations of CBP's expansive mission, including matters relating to trade, travel, and national security.

From January to December 2021, Deputy Commissioner Miller most recently served as CBP's Acting Commissioner, where he led more than 60,000 employees and ensured the advancement of the agency's mission, strategic objectives, and related Administration priorities. He directed CBP's three core missions, counterterrorism, border security, and trade enforcement, while facilitating \$4 trillion in trade and facilitating travel of over 410 million people through ports of entry. While serving in this role, he led the agency through a myriad of challenges, to include the COVID-19 pandemic, surges of migration along the Southwest border, hurricane relief efforts, and Operation Allies Welcome – the substantive effort to process refugees fleeing Afghanistan. Mr. Miller made workforce resiliency a top priority during his tenure as Acting Commissioner of the nation's largest law enforcement agency.

Deputy Commissioner Miller also previously served as the Director, Field Operations for CBP's New York Field Office. As the DFO, he directed the activities of almost 3,000 CBP employees and an area with: two of the country's busiest international airports, John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR); the east coast's largest container seaport (New York/Newark); and the Pharmaceutical, Health and Chemicals Center of Excellence and Expertise (PHC Center). Mr. Miller oversaw CBP's national security and anti-terrorism operations, immigration and agriculture inspections, and the agency's trade enforcement efforts throughout the New York metropolitan area.

Prior to his role as DFO, Deputy Commissioner Miller also served as the Executive Director, National Targeting Center (NTC), where he directed over 800 employees and was responsible for providing advance targeting, research, analysis, and coordination among numerous law enforcement and intelligence agencies in support of CBP anti-terrorism mission on a 24/7 basis. The NTC is the principal organization responsible for developing and implementing CBP's counterterrorism strategy. Mr. Miller implemented several intelligence and targeting units that support CBP's primary mission to secure America's borders and he oversaw staff that use a multi-layered risk-based approach, which included collecting and analyzing advance traveler and cargo information.

From 2013 to 2015, Deputy Commissioner Miller served as the Acting Assistant Commissioner, Office of Intelligence and Investigative Liaison, where he initiated an organizational restructuring in direct support of field components and border enforcement entities that partner with them and promoted initiatives to transcend physical borders. In addition, he has held numerous leadership positions including Assistant Port Director, Seattle; Director of Targeting

and Analysis, Office of Intelligence and Operations Coordination; and Director of the National Targeting Center-Passenger.

Mr. Miller began his federal career with the U.S. Customs Service in 1993 as a Customs Inspector. Most recently, he was awarded the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2021, and he is a prior recipient of the Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award in 2016. Mr. Miller holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science degrees from Bemidji State University. He is also a graduate of the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government's Senior Executive Fellows program.

Gregory T. Gatjanis

With 25-years in Federal service focused in national security, Greg Gatjanis joined the Department of the Treasury in January 2013 as the Associate Director for Global Targeting in the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). In this capacity, he oversees the office that targets for U.S. sanctions the individuals and organizations deemed to be the greatest threats to U.S. national security. Among those are rogue regimes, terrorists, drug traffickers, nuclear proliferators, transnational criminals, human rights violators, and others. Prior to arriving at Treasury, Greg served more than six years in the Bush and Obama Administrations on the National Security Staff. There he coordinated White House activities on counternarcotics and counterterrorism, and was a principal architect of President Obama's Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime. While in college, Greg served with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and later spent 17 years with the U.S Drug Enforcement Administration, focusing on the national security dimensions of the global drug trade. Greg received a Master's Degree from American University and a B.A. from the University of Texas at Dallas. He was a contributor to National Public Radio's *This I Believe*. Greg lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife and two sons.



Wendy Woolcock

Special Operations Division
Drug Enforcement Administration
U.S. Department of Justice



Ms. Wendy Woolcock is the Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Special Operations Division (SOD), a premier multi-agency operational coordination and deconfliction center supporting national security and public safety. In this capacity, she leads approximately 500 personnel, with representation from 35 partner agencies, including federal and state law enforcement, the intelligence community, the Department of Defense, and foreign law enforcement counterparts. SOD uses cutting-edge strategies and technology to support drug law enforcement. The core SOD mission is to attack national and international criminal and narco-terrorism organizations by targeting their command and control communications and leadership infrastructure.

Prior to serving as the SAC of SOD, Ms. Woolcock served as the SAC of the DEA Office of Training. In this role, she led a staff of approximately 255 DEA and contract employees dedicated to supporting DEA training in Quantico, VA, and at several additional off-site foreign and domestic training locations. In this role, Ms. Woolcock supported DEA's mission to develop, deliver, and advocate preeminent law enforcement and non-law enforcement training to DEA personnel, as well as appropriate federal, state, local, and foreign, law enforcement counterparts.

Prior to this position, Ms. Woolcock was the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Domestic Training Section at the Office of Training. This section is responsible for training and ensuring Basic Agent Trainees are prepared to be Special Agents upon graduation, and consists of the following units: Academic, Firearms, Practical, and two Tactical Training Units.

From September 2015, until reporting to the Office of Training in January 2017, Ms. Woolcock served as a Board Member on the DEA Board of Professional Conduct. In 2012, Ms. Woolcock was assigned to the Pensacola Resident Office as the Resident Agent in Charge, where she directed all enforcement and administrative aspects of the office.

Ms. Woolcock graduated from Purdue University in 1993 with a degree in Organizational Communication and Spanish. Prior to her career with DEA, Ms. Woolcock was a Police Officer for the Dallas Police Department, where she served for approximately four years.

OFFICIAL

Matt Horne is a National Crime Agency (NCA) Deputy Director (DD) of Investigations. Matt has served as an NCA Officer since the organisation's creation in October 2013. Prior to this Matt worked for 7 years with the Serious Organised Crime Agency, a precursor organisation of the NCA; and prior to this as a police officer from 1992. He has provided 29 years continuing public service in UK law enforcement.

Matt has extensive experience in the field of Serious Organised Crime (SOC), operating at the national and international level. He has worked on, and led, a very large number of SOC investigations, utilising the full range of tactics, investigative methodologies and technical capabilities available to UK law enforcement.

Matt's recent leadership responsibilities have also included Professional Standards and Anti-Corruption; Senior Security Advisor; Asset Denial and Complex Financial Crime; National Capability Lead for Technical Surveillance; Chair of the Five Eyes Law Enforcement Operational Technology Working Group; and Authorising Officer for Undercover Operations. In addition, for the last five years Matt has performed the role of Strategic Firearms Commander.

His previous roles have included Intelligence Manager, Senior Investigating Officer, Branch Commander, Regional Head of Investigations, Head of Technical Operations and Forensics, and Head of the National Cyber Crime Unit. As a police officer, Matt worked in a range of roles as a Detective Constable, Detective Sergeant and Detective Inspector.

Since April 2019, Matt has been the NCA's Strategic Lead for the response to the criminal use of technology, including criminally dedicated secure communications. Matt is the UK Gold Commander for Operation VENETIC, which is the multi-agency national law-enforcement response to the exploitation and take down of the ENCROCHAT criminally dedicated communications platform.

OFFICIAL

Jari Liukku

Head of European Serious and Organised Crime Centre (ESOCC) EUROPOL



Jari Liukku joined Europol in 2017 as Head of the European Serious and Organized Crime Centre (ESOCC). It is a department that aims to provide the most efficient and agile operational support possible for priority and High Value Target investigations into serious and organized cross-border crime in the EU Member States and other partner countries. This includes real-time exchange of information, analysis of crime intelligence, expertise, assistance from Europol headquarters and on-the-spot, and other capabilities to support investigations into individuals and organized crime networks that pose the highest organized and serious crime threat in the EU.

Prior to joining Europol, Liukku worked in Finland as a Police Chief, from which position he is currently on a leave of absence. He holds a Master of Laws degree from the University of Helsinki and a degree from Police School and Police Academy. He has more than 40 years of experience working in several Finnish law enforcement, judicial and administrative authorities (national and regional police organizations, the District Court, the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of the Interior and the Finnish Immigration Service). He has gained experience in a variety of management and operational roles, including strategic management of public administration and operational management of demanding and large-scale field operations and serious crime investigations.

Since 2000, he has led and implemented a number of EU-funded projects in Asia, the Balkans, the Caucasus, the EU and the Middle East as a Project Leader and Advisor to develop the capacity of beneficiary countries to prevent organized and other serious crime.

John O’Driscoll, assistant commissioner
Garda Síochána
(Ireland’s national police and security service)



John O’Driscoll commenced his career in the Garda Síochána, Ireland’s national police organisation, in 1981. He currently holds the rank of assistant commissioner and is the senior officer assigned to tackling organised and serious crime. At the rank of assistant commissioner, Mr. O’Driscoll has previously taken charge of Community Engagement & Public Safety and operational policing in Ireland’s Northern Region.

Mr. O’Driscoll has also previously held the position of head of bureau at Ireland’s National Bureau of Criminal Investigation (NBCI), while earlier having fulfilled a similar role at the Garda National Drugs Unit (GNDU) and the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB).

In his current role Mr. O’Driscoll has charge of a number of bureaus that are assigned a national and international remit with regard to serious and organised crime, including:

- (i) Garda National Bureau of Criminal Investigation (GNBCI);
- (ii) Garda National Drugs & Organised Crime Bureau (GNDOCB);
- (iii) Garda National Economic Crime Bureau (GNECB);
- (iv) Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau (GNCCB);
- (v) Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB);
- (vi) Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB);
- (vii) Garda National Technical Bureau (GNTB);

The assistant commissioner is Ireland’s national coordinator with regard to the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), with responsibility for ensuring implementation of the EU Policy Cycle in Ireland, designed to address prioritised threats of organised and serious international crime.

Mr. O’Driscoll is a member of Ireland’s national oversight committee tasked with providing leadership and direction to ensure implementation of the National Drugs & Alcohol Strategy. He is also the representative from the Garda Síochána on the Board of Ireland’s Private Security Authority, appointed by the Minister for Justice and Equality.

From 2008 to 2014, Mr. O’Driscoll was the representative for Ireland on the Management Board of Frontex (European Border and Coast Guard Agency).

John O’Driscoll holds a M. Sc. in Drugs & Alcohol Policy (Trinity College, Dublin), a B.A. in Public Administration (IPA, Dublin) and an Advanced Diploma in Immigration & Asylum Law (Kings Inn’s, Dublin).
