AGS Crime Incident Data Quality Metrics – July 2024 Update

AGS has created an initial set of data quality metrics which will be published monthly.
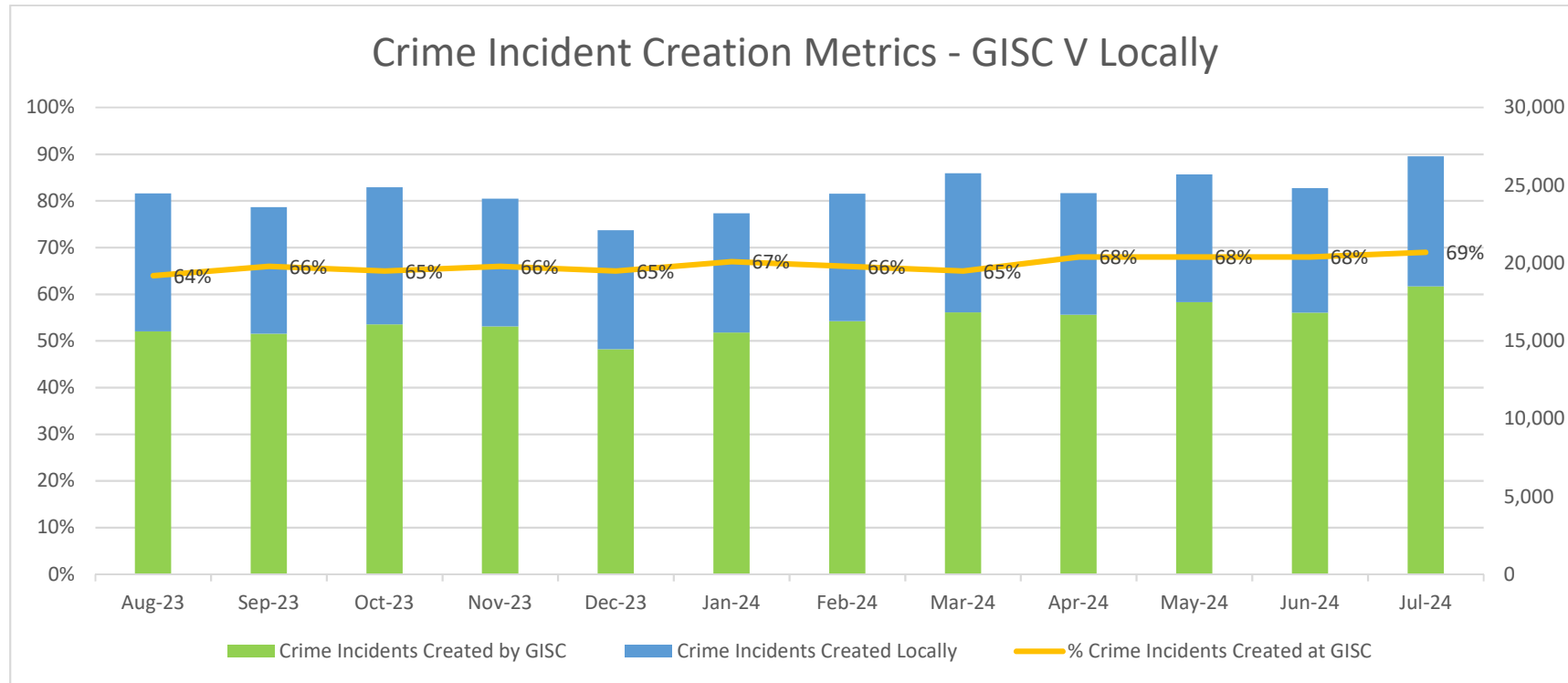
These metrics together with our PULSE data quality framework are intended to inform users of Crime statistics about the quality of the underlying PULSE data. It should be noted that the Central Statistics Office (CSO) produce and disseminate official statistics on recorded crimes.

This publication of quality metrics is another important milestone in the implementation of our data quality strategy.

There are thirteen metrics being published at this stage. These figures are operational and subject to change.
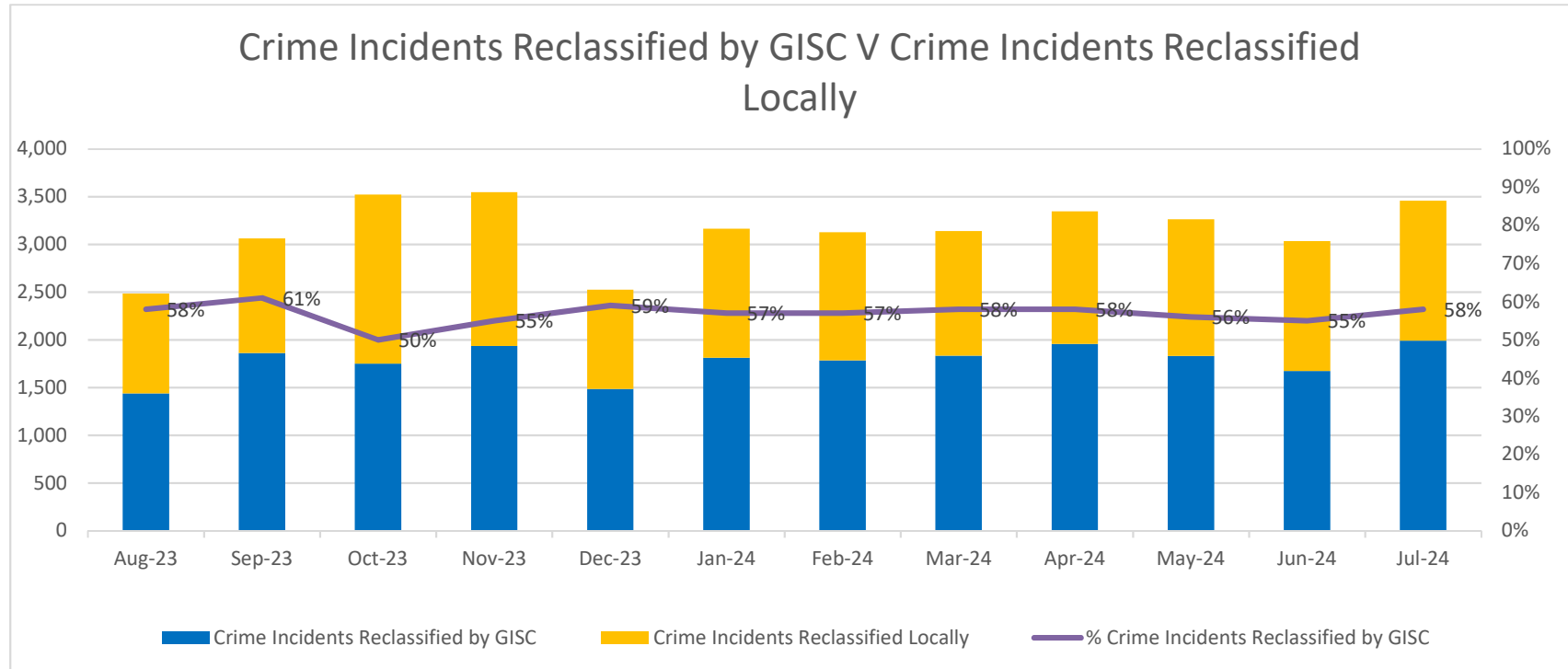
1. Data Quality Incident Creation.

The incident creation process, as outlined in the Crime Recording Document, published here, summarises the process for the recording of Crime Incidents. The organisational goal is for the Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) to create > 95% of Crime Incidents. The below metrics outline the % and numbers of Crime Incidents created at GISC versus locally at Garda stations by Garda Members. Note this figure includes the update to the CAD skeleton Incident. The Crime Counting Rules are not applied to these figures.
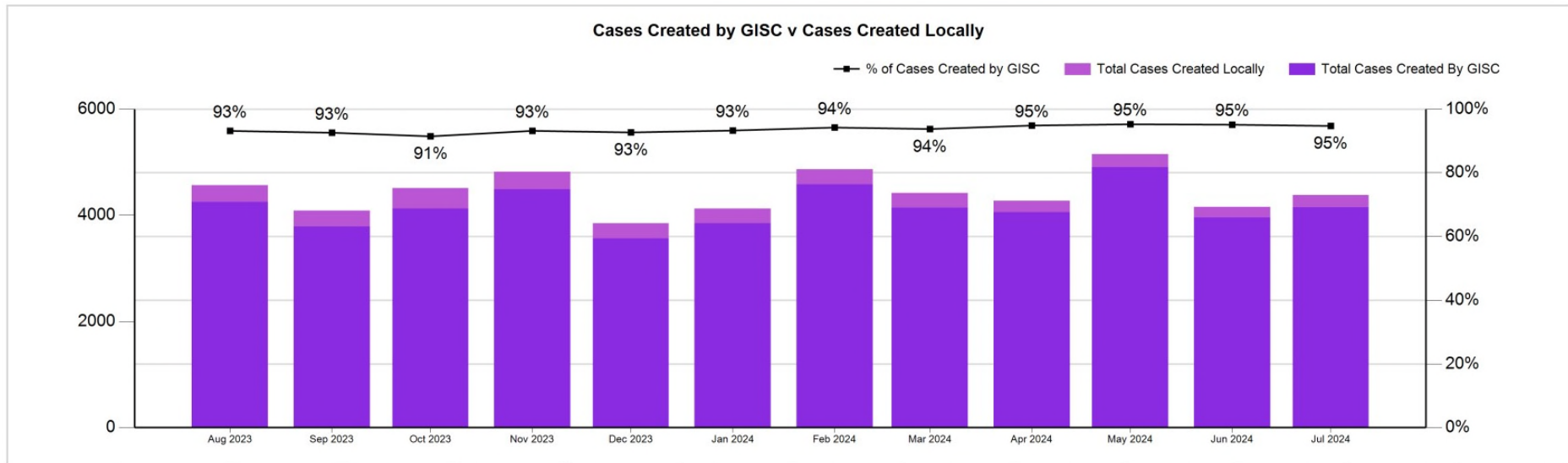

Crime Incident Creation Metrics - GISC V Locally

2. Crime Incident Reclassification.

The reclassification process, as outlined in the Crime Recording Document, published here, outlines the process for the recording of the reclassification of crime and non-crime incidents. The organisational goal is for the Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) to reclassify all incidents. Note this figure includes crime incidents reclassified and non-crime incidents reclassified to crime incidents. The Crime Counting Rules are not applied to these figures.

Crime Incidents Reclassified by GISC V Crime Incidents Reclassified Locally

Month	% Crime Incidents Reclassified by GISC
Aug-23	58%
Sep-23	61%
Oct-23	50%
Nov-23	55%
Dec-23	59%
Jan-24	57%
Feb-24	57%
Mar-24	58%
Apr-24	58%
May-24	56%
Jun-24	55%
Jul-24	58%

Legend:
- Crime Incidents Reclassified by GISC
- Crime Incidents Reclassified Locally
- % Crime Incidents Reclassified by GISC

3. Cases on PULSE.

Incidents are grouped together on PULSE, 'cased', to facilitate application of the Crime Counting Rules. Further information on the Crime Counting Rules can be found in the Crime Recording Document, published here. Incidents may also be cased for operational reasons. The metrics below show the number of cases created at the Garda Information Services Centre (GISC) versus locally at Garda stations by Garda Members. These figures are operational and subject to change.

Cases Created by GISC v Cases Created Locally

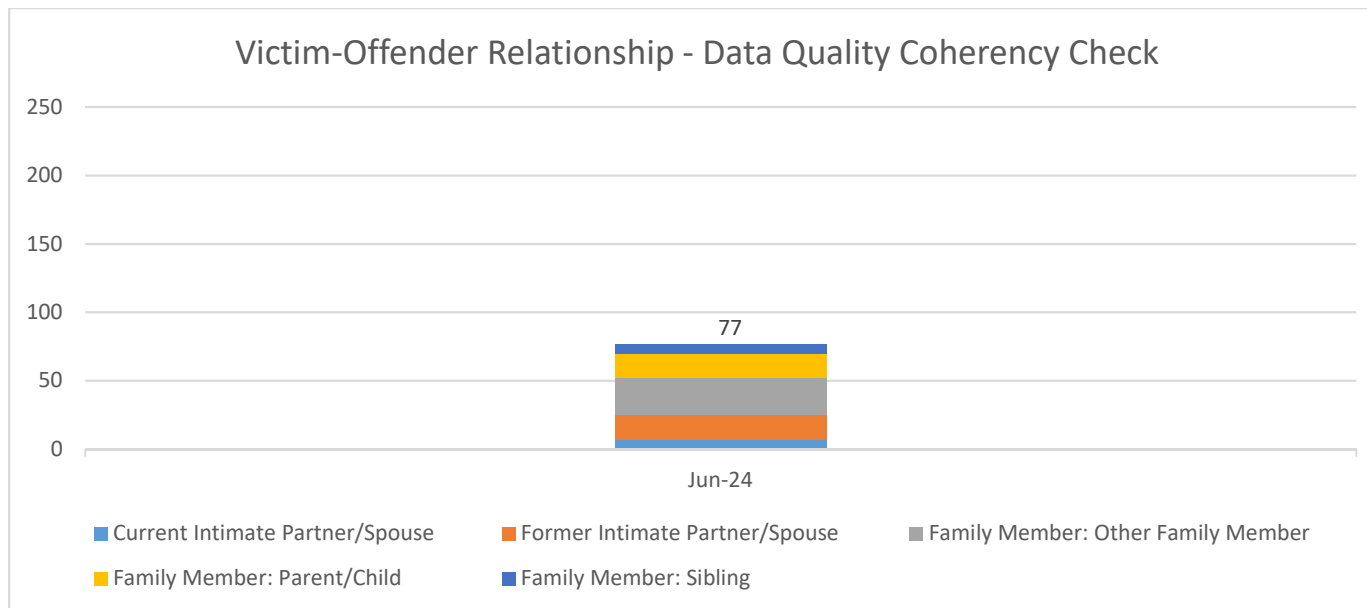**Data Quality Assurance Checks on Crime Counting Rules**

In 2018, GISC implemented a data quality check on sexual offences and fraud incidents to ensure the correct application of the Crime Counting Rules.

In the autumn of 2022, an enhanced process was put in place extending data quality checks on the application of the Crime Counting Rules to all crime categories. All cases created on PULSE from 1st July 2022 to 31st March 2024 have been reviewed to ensure the correct application of the Crime Counting Rules. GISC will review all cases created since July 2022 on a quarterly basis to ensure correct application of the Crime Counting Rules.

4. Victim-Offender Relationship – Data Quality Coherency Check.

In July 2021, An Garda Síochána introduced a mechanism to record the relationship between the Victim and the Offender. Since then, GISC has implemented a data quality coherency check on the recording of the relationship to improve the recording of the domestic abuse motive attached to PULSE incidents. This data coherency check was modified in June 2024. It now involves a review of all incidents in which the relationship between the victim and the offender has been recorded as falling into one of five categories (current intimate partner/spouse, former intimate partner/spouse, family member: parent/child, family member: sibling, or family member: other family member) but a domestic abuse motive has not been recorded. The domestic abuse motive is then added to incidents in instances where it is required.
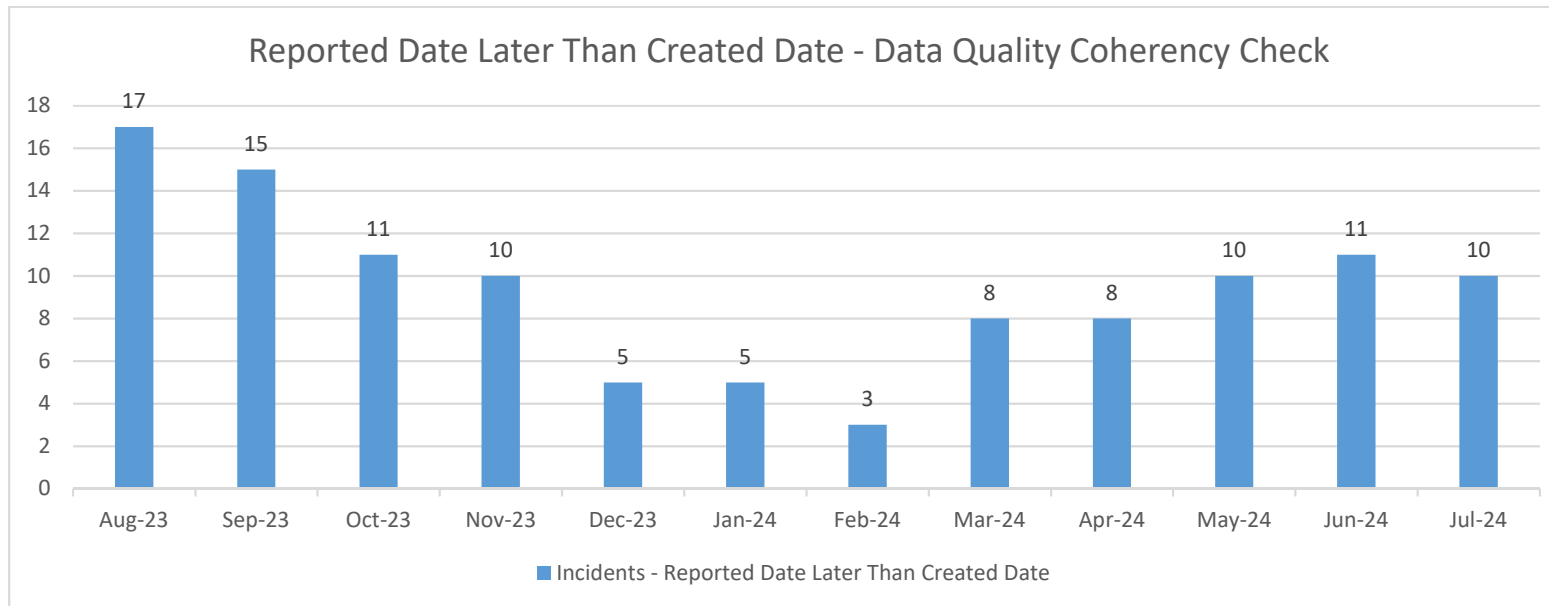
77 incidents reported in June 2024 have been reviewed.

5. Reported Date Later Than Created Date – Data Quality Coherency Check.

GISC has implemented a data quality coherency check on the date fields on PULSE crime incidents.

Graph 5 presents the number of incidents in which the recorded Reported Date was later than the Created Date.

Reported Date Later Than Created Date - Data Quality Coherency Check

Incidents - Reported Date Later Than Created Date

6. Discharging a Firearm PULSE incidents – Data Quality Coherency Check.

Section 8 of the Firearms and Offensive Weapons Act 1990 provides for an offence of reckless discharge of a firearm. This crime is recorded as a '(Firearms) Discharging a Firearm' incident on PULSE. GISC has implemented a data coherency check of '(Firearms) Discharging a Firearm' PULSE incidents. This data check centers on a review of the incident classification.
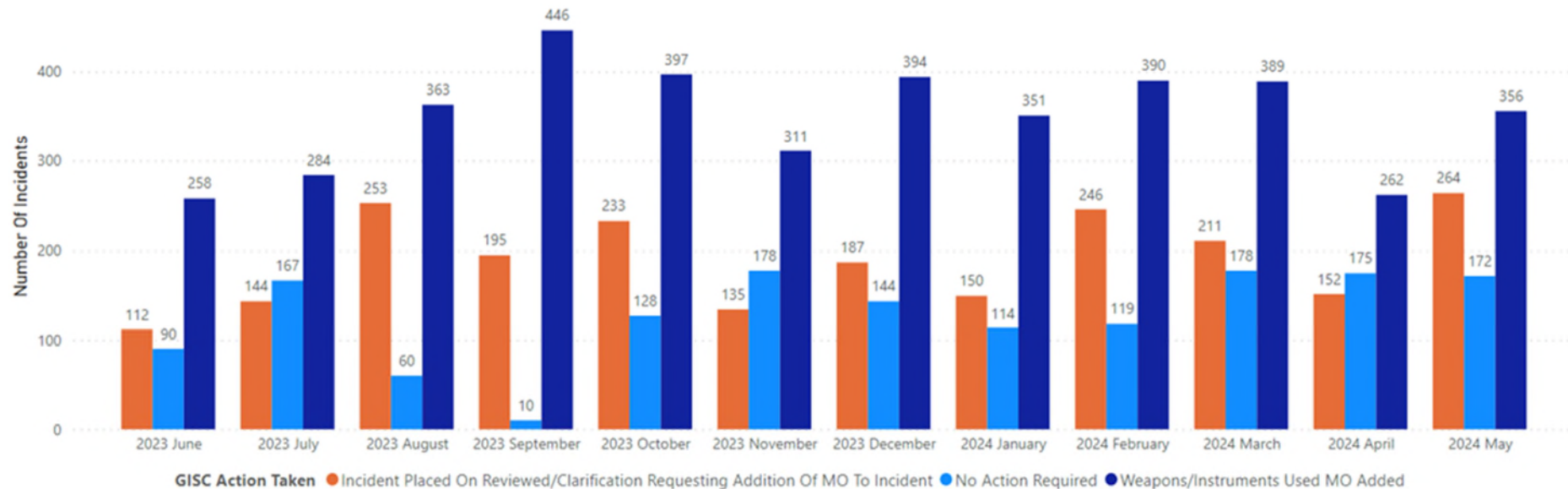
Low volumes of incidents recorded under this incident type means that for operational reasons it is not possible to publish detailed data relating to this coherency check at this time.

'(Firearms) Discharging a Firearm' PULSE incidents created from June 2023 to May 2024 have now been reviewed. Incidents will be reviewed on a monthly basis going forward.

7. Weapons/Instruments Used MO – Data Quality Coherency Check.

GISC has implemented a data coherency check of PULSE incidents in which the Modus Operandi (MO) data field on PULSE was not updated in line with recording guidelines to include an MO of 'Weapons/Instruments Used'. As part of this data coherency check, incidents are either updated to include the MO or they are placed on Reviewed/Clarification on PULSE[1] requesting the addition of the MO to the incident[2]. In some instances, no action is required (e.g. in cases where data recording issues have already been addressed). Incidents will be reviewed on a monthly basis going forward. These figures are operational and subject to change.

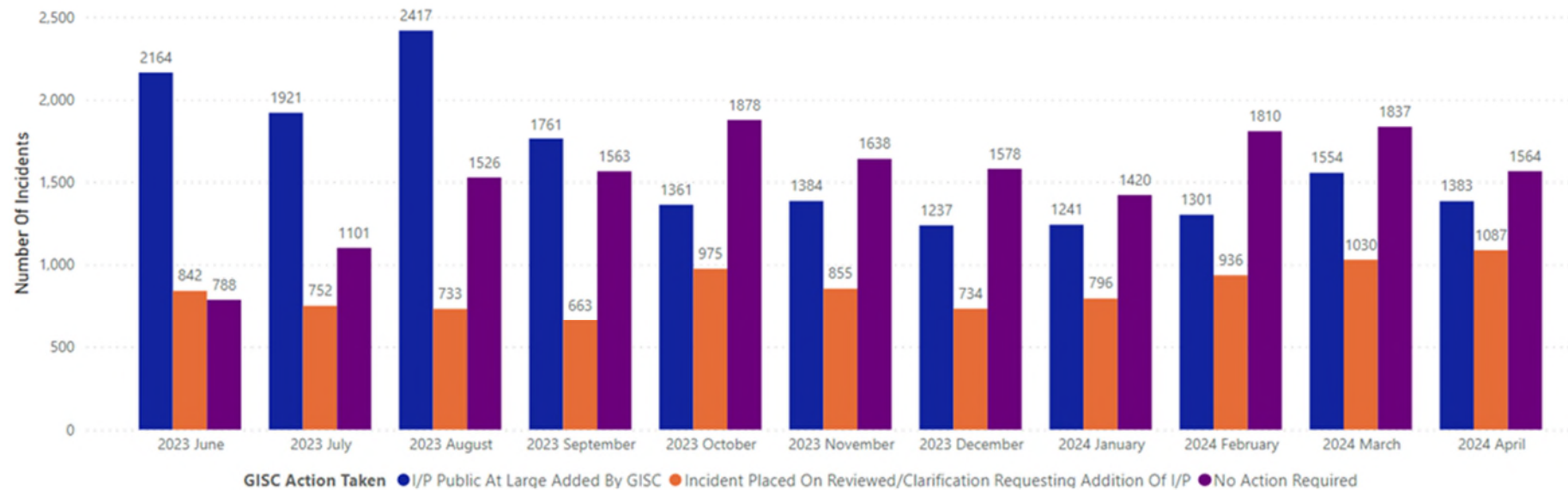Weapons Instruments Used MO - Data Quality Coherency Check

---

[1] In cases where certain elements of a PULSE incident need to be clarified, GISC reviewers can place an incident on 'Reviewed/Clarification' on PULSE. This requires the Garda member to contact GISC to resolve the issue. Further information on how a crime is recorded is available in the 'Guide to How Crime is Recorded and Counted by An Garda Síochána', which is available at the following link: Crime Reporting Document (garda.ie)

[2] A proportion of these incidents will already have been placed on Reviewed/Clarification as part of data quality reviews of incidents.

8. Injured Party – Data Quality Coherency Check.

In some crime incidents, details of the injured party (a person) must be added to the PULSE incident (e.g. a murder incident). For other crimes, e.g. some public order offences, the injured party is recorded as the public at large on PULSE. GISC has implemented a data coherency check of PULSE crime incidents[3] in which an injured party was not recorded in line with recording guidelines. As part of this data coherency check, incidents are either updated to include 'IP Public at Large' or they are placed on Reviewed/Clarification[4] on PULSE requesting the Garda member to add the details of the injured party to the incident. In some instances, no action is required (e.g. incidents have already been updated). PULSE incidents created from June 2023 to April 2024 have now been reviewed. Incidents will be reviewed on a monthly basis going forward. These figures are operational and subject to change.
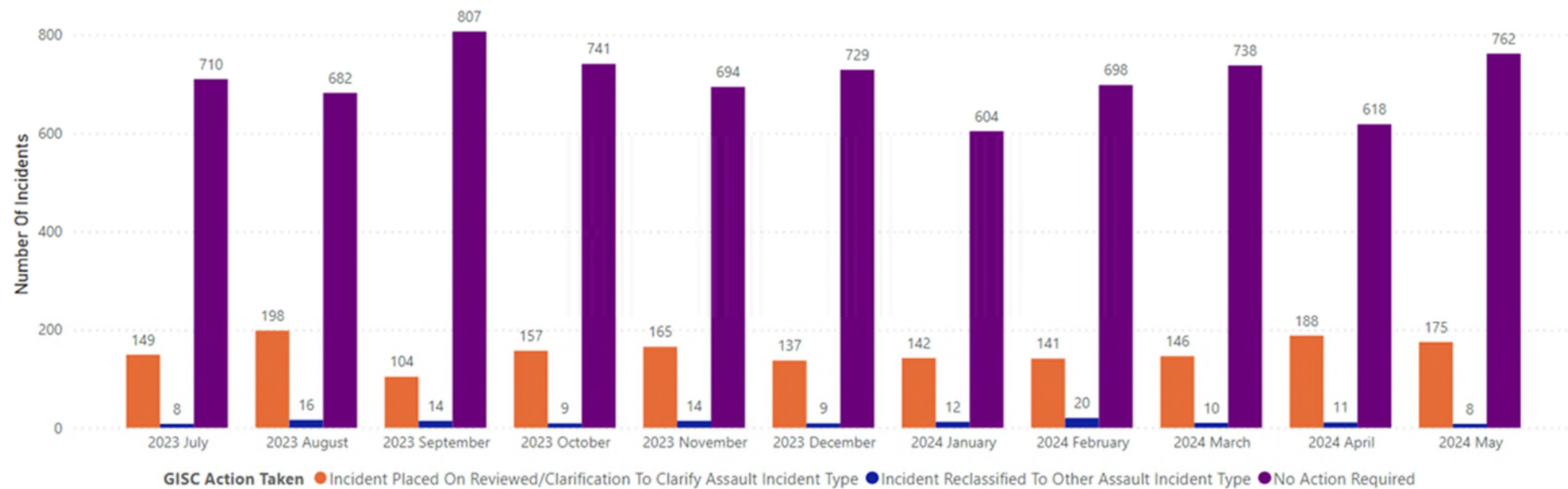

Injured Party - Data Quality Coherency Check

GISC Action Taken ● I/P Public At Large Added By GISC ● Incident Placed On Reviewed/Clarification Requesting Addition Of I/P ● No Action Required

---

[3] Automated FCPS incidents transferred to PULSE not included.
[4] A proportion of these incidents will already have been placed on Reviewed/Clarification as part of data quality reviews of PULSE incidents.

9. Assault Minor PULSE Incidents – Data Quality Coherency Check.

GISC has implemented a data coherency check of Assault Minor incidents searching for keywords in PULSE Narratives that might indicate that incidents have been misclassified as Assault Minor incidents. As part of this data coherency check, incidents are either reclassified to another incident type or they are placed on Reviewed/Clarification[5] on PULSE requesting additional information to confirm the selected classification. In most instances, no action is required (e.g. incidents deemed to have been classified correctly). PULSE incidents created from July 2023 to May 2024 have now been reviewed. Incidents will be reviewed on a monthly basis going forward. These figures are operational and subject to change.

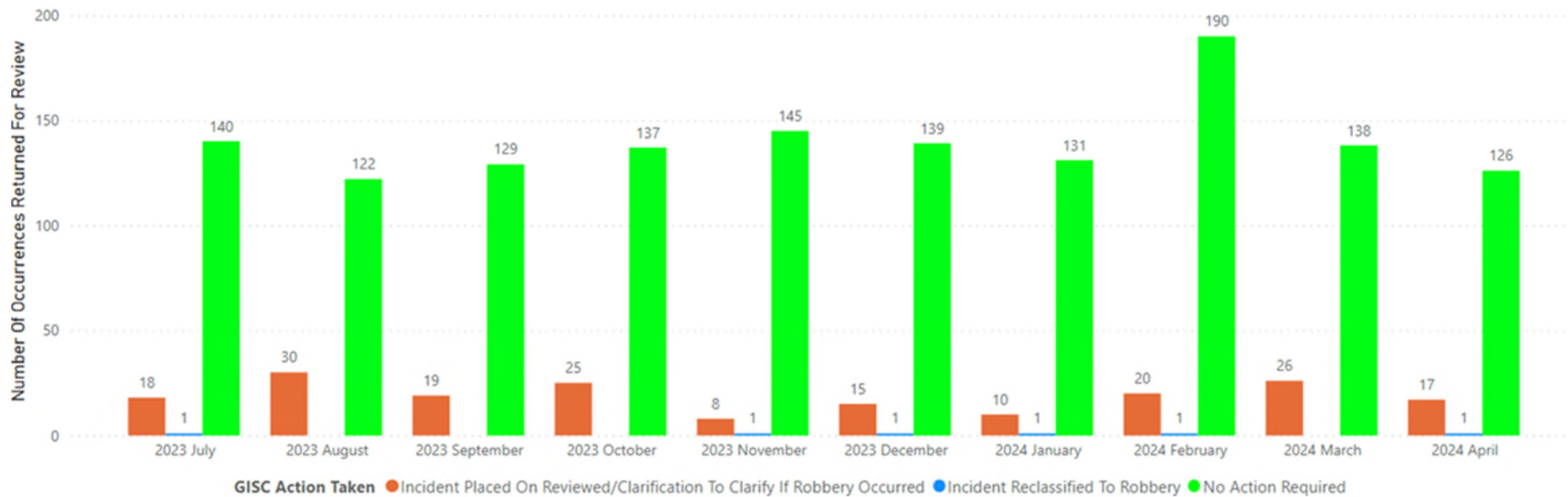Assault Minor PULSE Incidents - Data Quality Coherency Check

_____

[5] A proportion of these incidents will already have been placed on Reviewed/Clarification as part of data quality reviews of incidents.

10. Theft PULSE Incidents Coinciding with Assault PULSE Incidents – Data Quality Coherency Check.

GISC has implemented a data coherency check of Assault incidents which have taken place at approximately the same time and in the same District as a Theft incident to identify cases where it may be necessary to record a Robbery incident. As part of this data coherency check, incidents are reviewed and placed on Reviewed/Clarification on PULSE in situations where further information is needed to clarify data recording requirements. PULSE incidents created from July 2023 to April 2024 have now been reviewed. Incidents will be reviewed on a monthly basis going forward. These figures are operational and subject to change.

Theft PULSE Incidents Coinciding With Assault PULSE Incidents - Data Quality Coherency Check

11. Sudden Death PULSE Incidents – Data Quality Coherency Check.

GISC has implemented a data coherency check of Sudden Death PULSE incidents (non-crime incidents) searching for keywords potentially indicating that an incident may need to be reclassified to a crime category. PULSE incidents created from January 2023 to May 2024 have now been reviewed.

For operational reasons, it is not possible to publish detailed data relating to this coherency check at this time.

12. Traffic Collision FATAL PULSE Incidents – Data Quality Coherency Check.
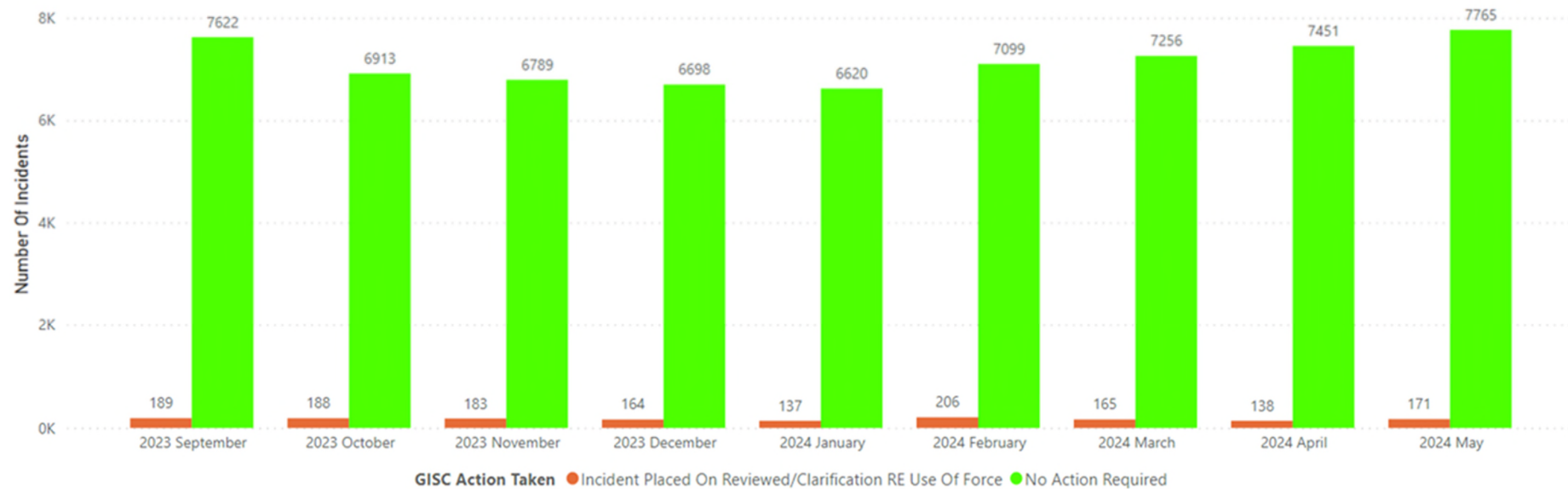
GISC has implemented a data coherency check of Traffic Collision FATAL PULSE Incidents (non-crime incidents) searching for keywords potentially indicating that a separate additional incident (a crime incident) may need to be created.

PULSE incidents created from January 2023 to May 2024 have now been reviewed. Incidents will be reviewed on a monthly basis going forward. Low volumes of incidents recorded under this incident type means that for operational reasons it is not possible to publish detailed data relating to this coherency check at this time.

13. Use of Force – Data Quality Coherency Check

GISC has implemented a data coherency check of PULSE incidents searching for keywords in PULSE Narratives potentially indicating that the use of force by Garda members may need to be recorded in specific data fields in these incidents. As part of this data coherency check, some incidents are placed on Reviewed/Clarification[6] on PULSE to clarify whether there is a need to create a use of force record. PULSE incidents created from September 2023 to May 2024 have now been reviewed. Incidents will be reviewed on a monthly basis going forward. These figures are operational and subject to change.

Use Of Force - Data Quality Coherency Check

---

[6] A proportion of these incidents will already have been placed on Reviewed/Clarification as part of data quality reviews of PULSE incidents.