



**An Garda Síochána**

**Monthly Report for April 2025 to the Policing and Community Safety Authority**

**In accordance with Section 133 (1) of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024**

# An Garda Síochána

Oifig an Choimisinéara  
An Garda Síochána  
Páirc an Fhionnuisce  
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Luaigh an uimhir tharaghta seo a leanas le do thoil:  
Please quote the following ref. number: **CMR\_86-53736/25**



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Ms. Helen Hall  
Chief Executive  
Policing and Community Safety Authority

**RE: Commissioner's Monthly Report to the Policing and Community Safety Authority**

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Dear Helen,

I am pleased to provide the Commissioner's monthly report, outlining the key aspects of the administration and operation of An Garda Síochána for the month of April 2025, in accordance with Section 133(1) of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024.

Yours sincerely,

**THELMA WATTERS  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT  
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

**26<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

## **Message from the Commissioner**

During the month of April 2025, An Garda Síochána had a number of significant operational policing demands and policing successes to report upon.

This month we released an update in respect of Operation Thor, a policing initiative targeting the prevention of burglaries. Significantly we have recorded a 75% reduction in recorded residential burglaries during the ten years of Operation Thor. For this past winter period, residential burglaries equate to an average of 17 burglaries per day across the 26 counties, less than one residential burglary per day per county. This is a very welcome trend. Detections under Operation Thor have led to over 900 arrests for incidents linked to the operation and more than 2,000 charges being issued in respect of burglary, aggravated burglary or possession of an article.

An Garda Síochána continued to place a focus on road safety, with the holding of a bank holiday road safety enforcement initiative over the Easter Bank Holiday period. During this initiative, An Garda Síochána carried out more than 912 Mandatory Intoxicant Testing (MIT) checkpoints. Over 4,500 breath tests and 213 oral fluid tests were performed, leading to 149 arrests for driving under the influence of an intoxicant. While 2,800 were detected speeding. Unfortunately, three fatalities and 11 serious collisions took place, which resulted in 12 people receiving serious and life-threatening injuries during this period.

We continue our efforts in the area of roads policing, but a societal reset of the attitudes and behaviours adopted on our roads is needed. All motorists need to observe the speed limits, wear their seatbelts and avoid distractions while driving. This is what will drive a change on our roads.

**Drew Harris**  
**Commissioner**

## 1. Financial Expenditure and Receipts

	2025 Allocation €'000	Expenditure/Receipts end April 2025 €'000	Remaining May-Dec €'000	Remaining %
<b>Gross Total</b>	2,480,453	836,668	1,643,785	66%
<b>Appropriation in Aid (receipts)</b>	113,500	47,891	65,609	58%
<b>Net Total</b>	2,366,953	788,777	1,578,176	

The total gross 2025 allocation is €2.48b and net allocation is €2.37b. At the end of April 2025, the total gross expenditure is €836.67m (34% of allocation) and receipts are €47.89m (42% of allocated). Of the 2025 allocation, €173.1m relates to capital. In addition to this, there is deferred capital funding carried over from last year of €16.59m which means the total capital budget for 2025 is €189.7m.

### Estate Management

#### **Drogheda PEMS & Locker Room/Tallaght PEMS/Naas PEMS:**

- Tallaght PEMS: Stage 2 finalisation of the tender package was advanced by the OPW in February 2025, with a target date of April/May 2025 for contractor selection, and possibly, contract award.
- Naas PEMS: It is envisaged that a construction contract will be awarded in late 2025.

**Cell Refurbishment Programme:** Large-scale refurbishment at Abbeylaxey Garda Station to upgrade cells and custody area are completed. Some minor works to adjoining office accommodation are ongoing. A number of other cell projects are at various stages of development: Wicklow, Thurles, Gorey, Castleblayney and Nenagh. In addition, some cell projects are at earlier stages of development between An Garda Síochána and the OPW to finalise designs.

**Development of New Garda Stations at Clonmel and Macroom:** The tender returns remain under review. Works are now anticipated to commence in Q3 2025.

## 2. People and Development

### **Garda Trainee Recruitment**

- The first candidates from the 2025 Garda Trainee recruitment campaign, who have been successful at interview with Public Jobs, are now with An Garda Síochána for the next stage of the selection process. These candidates will complete a physical competency test, a medical assessment, substance misuse testing and commence the vetting process.
- The remaining candidates will be processed by Public Jobs and An Garda Síochána throughout 2025.
- A further recruitment campaign will be planned for Autumn 2025.
- The first Garda Reserve Pilot commenced on 26 April 2025 with 20 trainees. The next reserve trainee process will be scheduled for later in 2025.

### **Garda Personnel Strengths**

As at 30 April 2025, Garda personnel strength stood at 18,194 broken down as follows:

- Members – 14,221
- Staff – 3,669\* (includes 357 professional/technical/industrial/non-industrial roles)
- Reserves – 304

*\* Garda Staff Headcount is exclusive of Temporary Clerical Officers (TCOs). There were 52 TCOs in An Garda Síochána as at 30 April 2025.*

### 3. Corporate Communications

Throughout the month of April 2025, the Office of Corporate Communications continued to communicate internally and externally on a broad range of policing activities undertaken by An Garda Síochána.

During this month, this office conducted a number of media briefings in support of operational activities across the organisation. This included media briefings with Superintendent David Callaghan of Tralee Garda Station in respect of the ongoing missing person investigation into the disappearance of Michael Gaine in Kenmare, Co. Kerry.

Interviews were also conducted by Detective Chief Superintendent Seamus Boland of the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau in respect of Operation Thor, which concluded at the end of March 2025.

A media briefing was also conducted with Commissioner Drew Harris at the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors Conference in Killarney; while Chief Superintendent Jane Humphries of the Garda Roads Policing Bureau spoke to media about our road safety appeal ahead of the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

This office also promoted the annual Road Safety Reimagined Awards Ceremony at the University of Limerick, which was attended this year by Commissioner Drew Harris. This included highlighting the great work carried out by marketing students to address road safety and saw winning projects highlighted across our social media accounts.

This work underpinned media briefings and other awareness pieces issued ahead of the Easter and May Bank Holiday weekends.

## Office of Corporate Communications Activities:

### Media Briefing: Michael (Mike) Gaine Missing Person Media Briefing 11 April 2025, Kenmare Co. Kerry



*Superintendent David Callaghan speaking to media, Kenmare, Co. Kerry 11 April 2025; Michael Gaine (right).*

The Office of Corporate Communications facilitated a media briefing in Kenmare, Co. Kerry on 11 April 2025, in support of a missing person investigation into the disappearance and suspected homicide of Michael (Mike) Gaine. The briefing was conducted by Superintendent David Callaghan and highlighted key information about the last known sighting of Michael Gaine, appealing to the public for information. This office continues to highlight this ongoing investigation across our communications channels and on 30 April 2025, facilitated a public appeal by the family of Michael Gaine.

### Public Awareness Road Safety: Easter Bank Holiday Weekend and Road Safety Reimagined



*Chief Superintendent Jane Humphries speaking to media ahead of the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend; Commissioner Drew Harris, Assistant Commissioner Eileen Foster Southern Region pictured with winners of Road Safety Reimagined, Shane Kilcommins Acting President UL and Minister of State at Department of Justice Niall Collins TD*

In support of road safety awareness, this office facilitated a media briefing with Chief Superintendent Jane Humphries of the Garda National Roads Policing Bureau ahead of our Easter Bank Holiday roads enforcement campaign. Updates were provided to media in respect of the operation which saw 2,800 drivers detected for speeding offences.

Meanwhile, this office also promoted a positive road safety initiative held in the University of Limerick, where students developed a marketing campaign to highlight road safety as part of their marketing course. This year's awards ceremony was attended by Commissioner Drew Harris. The winning entries saw their campaigns promoted by our office across social media.

### **Media Briefing: Operation Thor**



*Chief Superintendent Seamus Boland, Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau, speaking to media on Operation Thor, 14 April 2025*

This office promoted an update in respect of Operation Thor, which concluded at the end of March 2025, by facilitating a media briefing with Detective Chief Superintendent Seamus Boland, Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau. This was further supported with a social media video of the interview and a press release highlighting key findings in Operation Thor. This included a notable 75% drop in recorded residential burglaries during the winter phase over a ten-year period.

### **Garda Press Office Activity:**

The Garda Press Office operates from 7am-11pm, seven days a week, responding to hundreds of queries, coordinating external communications and media relations, and regularly updating our social media platforms. This office issued 177 press releases, including 60 missing person appeals in respect of 32 individuals; 21 witness appeals; together with those related to successful operations undertaken by the organisation during the month of April 2025.








### **Social Media Activities**

The Office of Corporate Communications oversees six official social media channels for An Garda Síochána; Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter) and Bluesky. Within these channels there are 43 separate accounts, including regional Facebook and regional Instagram profiles. There are approximately 2.3million followers across all platforms. These channels are used to promote activity within the organisation, highlighting the good work being done nationwide. These channels are further used to provide key communications to the public on behalf of An Garda Síochána. These communications may include public information regarding traffic disruption, public appeals for information, alerts i.e. CRI alerts, and campaigns.

The Office of Corporate Communications measures the success of these communications by capturing;



- The number of followers/individual users who have subscribed to each account.
- The rate of engagement with the account. A high percentage indicates we are producing compelling posts that resonate with our audience. Typically, a good engagement rate is in the region of 1-5%.
- The number of engagements with the content/posts we produce.



Social Media Channel	Number of Followers	Engagement Rate
 Facebook - @AnGardaSióchána	424,548	1.00%
 Facebook – Missing Persons	27,383	0.99%
 Instagram - @GardaInsta	242,690	2.80%
 X- @GardaInfo	297,517	2.20%
 X - @GardaTraffic	629,970	11.19%
 LinkedIn – An Garda Síochána	74,188	5.00%
 TikTok – @GardaInfo	67,225	3.15%

### Internal Communications

In April 2025, eight comprehensive Newsbeat updates were issued. The average Newsbeat open rate is 66%, which is higher than the industry standard open rate of 57.17% for internal newsletters, and the 52.26% average within Government and Public Service organisations. Also published this month was an update on the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024.

15 April 2025

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### Over 900 arrests and 2,000 charges linked to Operation Thor

Operation Thor is designed to tackle burglaries and associated criminal activity.

The operation commenced in 2015 and includes an annual winter phase, which runs from 1 October to 31 March each year.

This week, we released the statistics for winter phase 2024/2025.


Speaking at a media briefing at Walter Scott House yesterday, Detective Chief Superintendent Seamus Boland, OINEXOR said, 'An Garda Síochána takes a whole of organisation approach to tackling rural residential burglaries being carried out by organised crime groups. Significant detections carried out by Divisional Serious Crime Units supported by National Units clearly demonstrate An Garda Síochána's determination to continue to detect and prevent these pernicious crimes.'



Detective Chief Superintendent Seamus Boland speaking at media outside Walter Scott House yesterday.



'An Garda Síochána recognises the long lasting impact any burglary has not just on the victim but on communities, both rural and urban. An Garda Síochána's message is that we are here to help, we are here to protect and we continue to arrest and charge those involved in these insidious crimes'.

Thank you to all Garda personnel involved in Operation Thor. You can click the link below to explore the statistics in more detail.



**75%** decrease in residential burglaries in winter over 10 years

17 residential burglaries per day nationwide (less than 1 residential burglary per day in 2014)

2 April 2025

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### Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024

The Minister for Justice, Jim O'Callaghan TD, has commenced the [Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024](#) on 2 April 2025.

The commencement of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 repeals the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

As a result, the following bodies are now established:

The Garda Board;

- The Policing and Community Safety Authority (replacing the existing Policing Authority and Garda Síochána Inspectorate);
- Fiosrú – the Office of the Police Ombudsman;
- The Office of the Independent Examiner of Security Legislation; and
- The National Office for Community Safety.


The office holders, senior leaders and Board and Authority members to these new and reformed bodies will now formally take up their appointments and roles. Ms Emily Logan is also appointed by the President as Ireland's first Police Ombudsman.

For further information, please see the [PSCS Act Portal page](#).

The PSCS Act Portal page will be updated on a regular basis. There is a contact email address for queries and FAQs will be published on the basis of your questions, which are to be sent via your Superintendent or Assistant Principal.

Please note the updated Internal Affairs page on the Portal with information, processes and forms relevant to the PSCS Act.

HQ Directives relating to the provisions of the PSCS Act will also continue to be published on the [MFI Flowchart \(Droicte\) website](#).



Newsbeat highlights from April 2025:

- Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024: Relevant information was shared with personnel following commencement of the Act to ensure awareness.
- Operation Thor: Update on the 2024/2025 winter phase of Operation Thor.
- LifeSaver Project: An update was provided on the LifeSaver Project, highlighting two years of the initiative which sees Gardaí deliver road safety presentations in schools and colleges.
- Excellent Police Work (EPW) Awards: We shared a recap and photos from the Wexford/Wicklow Division EPW Awards ceremony.
- Go Purple Day: Promotion of Go Purple Day, an An Garda Síochána initiative to raise awareness about domestic abuse and supports available.
- National Slow Down Day: Operational details shared supporting the 24hour National Slow Down Day campaign.

## 4. Operating Model

The completion of the Operating Model comprises of six (6) key streams:

- (i) Divisional rollout.
- (ii) Handover of Operating Model Divisions to BAU.
- (iii) Regional rollout.
- (iv) Rollout of BSFA and governance to National Function/Bureaus.
- (v) Design Divisional Court Management Office (DCMO).
- (vi) Completion of Crime and Community Engagement process manuals.

Following the implementation of the Operating Model in the Donegal Division on 27 April 2025, 20 divisions are operating under the Operating Model Four Functional Area structures (Business Services, Performance Assurance, Crime and Community Engagement). The remaining division, the Kildare/Carlow Division, is scheduled to implement the Operating Model on 11 May 2025.

The Southern, North Western and Dublin Metropolitan Regions have all divisions operating under the Operating Model Four Functional Area structure. The Operating Model Central Implementation Team continues to engage with divisions following implementation to provide support to the respective divisional management teams in managing the transitional and post-implementation phases.

Transition from the Operation Model programme to Business as Usual (BAU) divisional ownership is fully complete for 16 divisions, with final stages of handover underway for a further three divisions. The plan is for the remaining divisions to transition to BAU ownership within a 12-week period of going live.

Rollout of the Operating Model to regions is on track for completion in Q2, with engagement ongoing across National Functions and Bureaus.

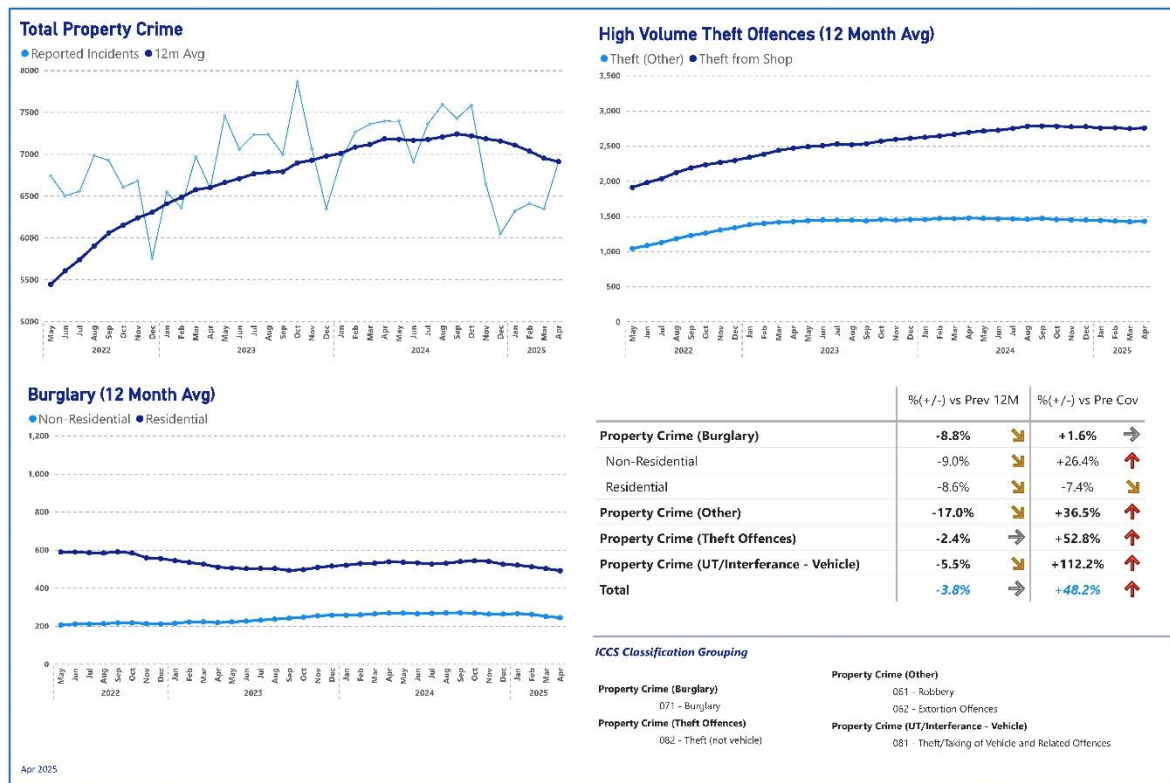
### Implementation Overview (30 April 2025)



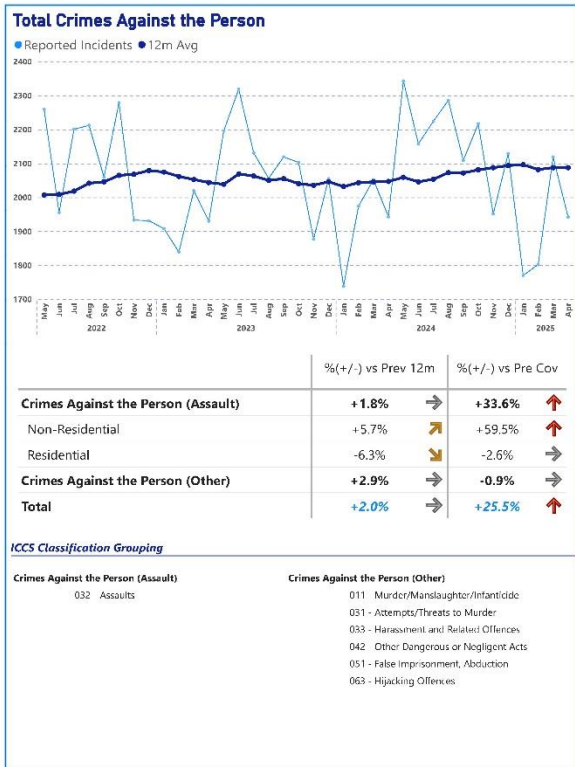
## 5. Crime Trends

### Crime Trends

The Garda Síochána Analysis Service closely monitors crime trends, and disseminates analysis on a regional and divisional basis. This feeds directly into planning operational activities aimed at reducing and preventing crime. Crime incident figures and the associated trends are based on provisional data, and are subject to change following review. The CSO publications represent the official crime statistics. These are carried in the CSO's quarterly publications of crime trends and in their annual reports.



Apr 2025



**Use of Force April 2025**

<b>Category</b>	<b>April 2025</b>
<b>Total UOF for Month</b>	1,096
Civilians Injured	30
Garda Members Injured	16
Pepper Spray Deployed	126
Batons	37
Handcuffs	1,006
Anti-spit guard	0
Unarmed Restraint	181
Taser	2
Less Lethal Firearm	1
Firearm	1
Gender Subject to Force – Male	856
Gender Subject to Force – Female	128
Drugs Involved	304
Alcohol Involved	588
Division with highest level UOF – DMR South Central	258
Percentage of UOF Deployments occurring Friday, Saturday and Sunday	45%

## 6. Policing Challenges

### Demonstrations

An Garda Síochána continues to provide a policing response, including traffic management, to protests nationally. This type of incident can be resource-intensive due to potentially large numbers of people involved. The international conflict and anti-immigration/housing of refugees continue to be the main causes for protests/demonstrations.

Table 1 - Demonstration (Non Crime) - 2025YTD

Region	2025 YTD
Dublin Region	229
Eastern Region	40
North Western Region	29
Southern Region	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>345</b>

Table 2 - Demonstration (Non Crime) – April 2025

Region	April 2025
Dublin Region	64
Eastern Region	16
North Western Region	6
Southern Region	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Policing at Events

The planning for, resourcing and policing of major events continues to provide a challenge in terms of policing resources. April 2025 was an eventful month for policing, security and traffic management. An Garda Síochána grades events to determine the appropriate policing response, through the assessment of available information and intelligence, as well as any other related reports or material. This assists the subsequent categorisation of such events (where applicable) for cost recovery purposes. A number of major events drew people into Dublin City Centre. On 5 April 2025, Croke Park hosted Leinster Rugby v Harlequins, where in excess of 55,000 patrons were in attendance at the ticketed event.

### Roads Policing

An Garda Síochána continues to respond to road safety challenges. In April 2025, 13 people died in fatal collisions. There were 89 serious injury collisions reported in April 2025. An Garda Síochána continues to implement the 30-minute roads policing initiative which was introduced in April 2024 to increase visibility on our roads. In April 2025, there were 4,710 MIT checkpoints conducted. There was an average of approximately nine arrests per day nationally for driving under the influence of drugs, 13 per day for driving under the influence of alcohol and there were over 2,900 vehicles seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act in April 2025.

		April 2025
Mobile Phone FCNs		2,051
Seatbelt FCNs		509
Intercept Speed FCNs		4,306
Non-Intercept Speed FCNs		8,281
Total Speed FCNs		12,587

Driving While Intoxicated*		678
Driving While Intoxicated - alcohol as a factor		380
Driving While Intoxicated - drugs as a factor		270

Section 41 Detentions		April 2025
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)**		2,915
<i>Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no ins.</i>		1,723
<i>Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax</i>		1,075
<i>Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT</i>		532
<i>Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers</i>		702

MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests		April 2025
MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed		24,865
MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed		743

\* Driving while intoxicated excludes incidents of type 'Driver Under the Limit (No Offence Disclosed)' and 'In Charge Under The Limit (No Offence Disclosed)'.

\*\* It is important to note that vehicles may be detained under S.41 of the Road Traffic Act for more than one reason.

Information contained in this section is based upon operational data from the Pulse and FCPS systems as was available on 02/05/2025 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.



## 7. Community Engagement

### **Webinar in relation to the publishing of a new report from the Economic and Social Research Institute**

On 1 April 2025, the Garda National Community Policing Unit attended a webinar in relation to the publishing of a new research document/report from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) titled: *'The Response of Low-Income Households to the Cost-of-Living Crisis in Ireland'*. This independent report examines the impact of the 'cost of living crisis' or the higher economic inflation period of 2022-2023 on lower income households and those who suffer economic deprivation.

The research was sponsored by JP Morgan Chase, an American financial company that has a branch in Ireland. The main theme of this research was how low-income households respond to a reduction to their financial circumstance. The findings from the ESRI survey (1,600 anonymous participants) found that as a result of the 'cost of living crisis', low income households may make high-risk changes to their finances, for example, entering into arrears with household utility bills, taking on financial debt or spending savings. This research also found that this 'high-risk' approach can result in having a negative long-term effect on the mental health of low income families, with children of low income families more strongly affected and experiencing higher stress.

### **Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána Youth Diversion engagements in Tipperary**

On 4 April 2025 in Cashel and 7 April 2025 in Clonmel, representatives from the Garda National Youth Diversion Bureau (GNYDB) attended meetings with colleagues from the Department of Justice, the community based organisations within the youth justice context, local Garda management and Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers, and probation services based in Tipperary. These meetings were arranged by the Department of Justice to explore the causes of a reported anomaly by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, regarding disproportionately high numbers of children from the southeast being brought before the Children's Court and detained, and explore possible approaches to supporting local agencies to address the causes identified. The Department of Justice will monitor developments in progressing the proposed actions agreed. GNYDB and local Garda management will support the work of the group, and continue to engage on this work towards enhanced youth justice outcomes in this region.

### **Focus Day Webinar: Public-Private Partnerships to Prevent Domestic Burglary**

On 24 April 2025, the Garda National Community Policing Unit attended a European Crime Prevention Network webinar regarding the EU Focus Day on the topic of public-private partnerships to prevent domestic burglary. The webinar focused on public-private partnerships (PPPs), EU examples of arrangements between public and private actors, and the key messages related to the implementation of PPPs in the field of crime prevention. Guest speaker, Ms. Dominique Storimans from the Netherlands, introduced the Dutch Police Quality Mark (PQM). The quality mark can be applied to existing houses, new buildings and public spaces, ensuring compliance with requirements related to lighting, visibility and the security of windows, doors and skylights. Research has shown that houses with a PQM are targeted less by burglars.