



March 2026

An Garda Síochána
COMMISSIONER'S MONTHLY
REPORT TO THE POLICING
AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
AUTHORITY



An Garda Síochána

Monthly Report for March 2026 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
Baile Átha Cliath 8
D08 HN3X



Luaigh an uimhir tharaghta seo a leanas le do thoil:
Please quote the following ref. number: **CMR_86-49721/26**



Office of the Commissioner
Garda Headquarters
Phoenix Park
Dublin 8
D08 HN3X

Láithreán Gréasáin/ Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomhpost/E-mail:
commissioner@garda.ie

Ms. Helen Hall
Chief Executive
Policing and Community Safety Authority

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

Dear Helen,

I am pleased to provide the Commissioner's Monthly Report, now in line with the new arrangement as agreed at the meeting held on 2 April 2026.

As agreed, the report includes the key aspects of finance, human resources and operational data. This means the statistics for February 2026 are reported a month in arrears on key metrics. Please note, the March 2026 human resources and finance metrics will be available on the Garda website on 22 April 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Thelma Watters' followed by the initials 'c/spt'.

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

Commissioner's Message

Chairperson

I'm pleased to provide you with our monthly report for March 2026, which is the first report aligning with the new agreed reporting arrangements. The new report format aims to highlight key activities relative to our obligations under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024 to report to the Minister for Justice, An Garda Síochána Board and the Policing & Community Safety Authority.

As agreed with you, this report and those following thereafter will include key updates in the areas of finance, human resources and operational data for February 2026. As this report also aims to reflect on activities conducted in the month of March 2026, I will touch upon a number of key updates, which speak to the significant work conducted during that period.

March was another busy month for An Garda Síochána where we continued to meet the complex and growing demands on a modern policing service. Again this month, our frontline members have demonstrated courage and professionalism responding to high-risk and violent incidents. Again this month we have seen colleagues injured, and continuing to recover from injuries received, in the course of their duty.

This month we joined other police services from around the world to honour INTERPOL's International Day of Remembrance for Fallen Police Officers 2026. Many of our buildings as well as other landmarks around the globe were illuminated in blue and flags flew at half-mast on Garda buildings, a fitting tribute to the 90 members of An Garda Síochána who lost their lives in the line of duty. Our colleague Garda Kevin Flatley who died in May last year was recognised and remembered at a ceremony at Europol Headquarters.

There are many challenging and diverse policing needs across Ireland and our Divisional approach, supported by national and regional teams results in meaningful and consistent impact. I am proud of the many achievements delivered in March, protecting vulnerable individuals and disrupting crime at the various levels which causes significant harm to individuals and communities. The numerous successful convictions in our courts provides reassurance to our communities of our capacity to deliver on our policing and security responsibilities.

The allocation of our Probationer Gardaí allowed us to expand our High Visibility Policing Plans to Limerick. As you are aware, this is already showing positive impact on crime trends and preventative policing where it is in place in Dublin and Cork City.

A significant policing operation was undertaken as part of Saint Patrick's Day festivals in Dublin City Centre and right around the country. Over half a million people were estimated to be in Dublin city centre for St Patrick's Day 2026 and associated festivities, with over 850,000 passengers travelling through Dublin Airport between 13th and 15th March. More than 1,000 Garda members, both uniform and specialised, were on duty in the Dublin Metropolitan Region, ensuring that everyone had a safe and enjoyable time.

Significant policing operations were also established for the State visit of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Keir Starmer to Cork, the Six Nations rugby match between Ireland and Scotland and the Women's international friendly soccer match between Ireland and Belgium. These operations ensured safety and provided public information on planned traffic management arrangements.

Yet again this month, the impact on serious and organised crime was significant with seizures and arrests of key individuals in organised crime groups. This included the seizure of €1.6million worth of suspected drugs as part of ongoing investigations targeting drug trafficking, money laundering and associated criminality by organised crime groups on 3 and 4 March. Over the course of this two-day operation, Gardaí searched 27 properties, seizing a suspected 'cocaine press', electronic remote control devices and linear actuators, believed to be used in constructing concealed 'hides' in vehicles for the transportation of significant quantities of drugs. Two vans were also seized with built in 'hides'.

Across the organisation, we remain focussed to delivering on our strategic commitments in this area. Further training in money laundering and financial investigation took place this month for selected Gardaí based throughout the country. This will continue to enhance capacity and resilience to this evolving and often complex crime type.

Alongside targeted enforcement, we continue to work with key partners in local communities to reduce harm and build community safety. Early interventions and community safeguarding is achieved quietly and effectively by our committed community policing and juvenile liaison teams right across the country, while also responding to operational demand.

Our recently appointed Rural Crime Lead Superintendent has now completed a Garda Podcast, which is publicly available. This addresses issues of trespassing, illegal hunting and other rural crime as well as crime prevention advice for those living in rural Ireland.

Our continued focus on road safety education and enforcement reflects our commitment to reducing harm and protecting life across our communities. A road safety campaign was conducted from 11 – 18 March. Unfortunately, six individuals lost their lives during the period of this operation on our roads.

Over the course of this period, 235 individuals were arrested for driving under the influence of an intoxicant (alcohol or drugs). Meanwhile, in excess of 5,000 motorists were detected for speeding offences, with a further 500 drivers detected for mobile phone and seat belt offences. The volume of detections reinforces the need to continue to address driver behaviour in the key area of lifesaver offences. Enforcement will continue through 2026 to ensure safer roads and safer communities. We will continue to work with other partners in this area to deliver coordinated opportunities, including road design, education and legislative changes.

Building on the importance of continued collaboration and meaningful engagement, I was pleased to attend the Cross Border Conference held in Cavan with the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, and senior members from An Garda Síochána. It allowed engagement with our partner bodies the PSNI and the Minister of Justice, Northern Ireland. This is a valuable engagement

opportunity to discuss common issues relating to policing on the island of Ireland. This event focussed on our joint efforts to dismantle organised crime groups and combat human trafficking.

This month, I also met with Mr Maurice Cohen of the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland where we discussed a number of matters including the ongoing collaboration from An Garda Síochána, and also policing and security of Jewish places of worship and community events.

March saw the launch of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026 – 2030 which marks the next chapter of our continued commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of all Garda personnel, building on the significant progress made since 2018. This Strategy firmly aligns with our organisational priorities set out in our Strategic Plan 2026 – 2028. There is particular commitment to expanding mental health supports and strengthening our occupational health services.

Reflecting our commitment to develop an inclusive workforce, it was a great to see so many personnel from across An Garda Síochána marking International Women's Day 2026. The events celebrated the achievements of women in policing while also fundraising for worthy charitable causes, including for services supporting women and children affected by domestic violence. This reinforces the strength of support and network that continues to empower women in An Garda Síochána.

An informative and engaging workshop for all personnel within An Garda Síochána in collaboration with AsIAm, Ireland's Autism charity was held to mark World Autism Awareness Day. The session provided attendees with a deeper understanding of Autism and provided practical insights to support more inclusive and informed interactions in both professional and community settings. Initiatives such as this will continue to strengthen the organisation's accessibility, inclusion and support to members of the public with diverse needs.

This month, we also held an inaugural seminar for those with responsibilities in the Performance Assurance Functional Area. The event afforded the opportunity to strengthen collaboration and support across the governance function.

Recognising our key strategic activities and the continued demands on our service, our Senior Leadership Team are reviewing the substantial demands on our policing service to ensure we prioritise core policing responsibilities and deliver a professional policing service to our communities and maintain the confidence of the communities we serve. I look forward to discussing this with you at a future date.

Justin Kelly
Commissioner

USE OF FORCE



The following table sets out the statistics for use of force for February 2026, it also illustrates the variances between January and February 2026 – the most significant being the decrease in the overall incidents by a decrease of 43.

| Use of Force Comparison – January 2026/February 2026 | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|-----------------------|----------|
| Category | Jan-26 | Feb-26 | Increase/ Decrease | % Change |
| Total UOF for Month | 1,220 | 1,177 | -43 | -4% |
| Civilians Injured | 22 | 21 | -1 | -5% |
| Garda Members Injured | 14 | 4 | -10 | -71% |
| Pepper Spray Deployed | 118 | 116 | -2 | -2% |
| Batons | 29 | 19 | -10 | -34% |
| Handcuffs | 1,066 | 1,033 | -33 | -3% |
| Anti-spit guard | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0% |
| Unarmed Restraint | 171 | 161 | -10 | -6% |
| Taser | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0% |
| Less Lethal Firearm | 2 | 1 | -1 | 50% |
| Firearm | 0 | 1 | 1 | NA |
| Gender Subject to Force – Male | 894 | 898 | 4 | 0% |
| Gender Subject to Force - Female | 137 | 125 | -12 | -9% |
| Drugs Involved | 338 | 317 | -21 | -6% |
| Alcohol Involved | 610 | 575 | -35 | -6% |
| | | | | |
| Division with highest level UOF: DMR South Central | 192 | 190 | -2 | -1% |
| Percentage of UOF Deployments occurring Friday, Saturday & Sunday | 47% | 48.10% | 1.10% | |

This is operational information which may be subject to change.

FINANCE



An Garda Síochána has a gross expenditure budget of €2.74b for 2026 and net allocation of €2.62b. At the end of February 2026, the total gross expenditure is €412.83m (15% of allocation) and receipts are €24.50m (20% of allocation). An additional €17.31m is available by way of capital carryover giving an adjusted gross allocation of €2.76b.

The profiles for the year are now reflected in the February 2026 accounts.

Current expenditure to date is €389.42m, which is €22.51m under budget profile of €411.92m, principally driven by salaries and the EU Presidency.

- Pay (including salaries, overtime and superannuation) is €355.37m, which is €15.65m under budget, of which overtime is €0.24m over budget.
- Non-pay is €34.02m, which is €0.47m under budget.
- EU Presidency expenditure is €0.26m, which is €6.51m under budget, driven by the timing of fleet purchase.

Capital expenditure of €23.42m is €4.68m under budget, driven by an underspend of €4.5m in the Capital Building Programme.

Appropriations in Aid is €24.50m, which is €1.7m over budget. This is largely driven by pay related receipts of €17.85m.

| | 2026 Allocation €'000 | Expenditure/Receipts end February 2026 €'000 | Remaining Mar-Dec 2026 €'000 | Surrender Balance % |
|--|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gross Total | 2,741,171 | 412,834 | 2,328,337 | 85% |
| Appropriation in Aid (receipts) | -121,750 | -24,500 | -97,250 | 80% |
| Net Total | 2,619,421 | 388,334 | 2,231,087 | 85% |
| Deferred Capital | 17,310 | | | |

PEOPLE AND DEVELOPMENT



The Strength of Garda Personnel

As at 28 February 2026, the Garda member strength stood at 14,529 and the Garda Staff strength stood at 3,679. A full breakdown by rank, grade and gender is outlined below.

Garda Member Strengths as at 28 February 2026

| Rank | As at 28 February 2026 | Male | % | Female | % | WTE |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Commissioner | 1 | 1 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Deputy Commissioner | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 | 1 |
| Assistant Commissioner | 8 | 3 | 37.5 | 5 | 62.5 | 8 |
| Chief Superintendent | 46 | 38 | 83 | 8 | 17 | 46 |
| Superintendent | 165 | 133 | 81 | 32 | 19 | 165 |
| Inspector | 479 | 381 | 80 | 98 | 20 | 479 |
| Sergeant | 2,166 | 1,624 | 75 | 542 | 25 | 2,164.5 |
| Garda | 11,663 | 8,157 | 70 | 3,506 | 30 | 11,629 |
| Total | 14,529 | 10,337 | 71 | 4,192 | 29 | 14,493.5 |

| Of which | As at 28 February 2026 | Male | % | Female | % |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Career Breaks (incl. ICB) | 33 | 21 | 63.6 | 12 | 36.4 |
| Work-sharing | 35.5 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 35 | 98.6 |
| Secondments (Overseas etc.) | 48 | 33 | 69 | 15 | 31 |
| Maternity Leave | 51 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 100 |
| Unpaid Maternity Leave | 29 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 100 |
| Paternity Leave | 12 | 12 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Available Strength | 14,320.5 | 10,270.5 | 71.7 | 4,050 | 28.3 |

| Garda Reserves Strength 28/02/2026 | Total | Male | % | Female | % |
|------------------------------------|-------|------|----|--------|----|
| | 308 | 237 | 77 | 71 | 23 |

Suspended Members

As of 28 February 2026, the total number of suspended Garda members is 98; seven female and 91 male. The tables below categorises the lists by rank and the causes for suspension.

| CURRENT MEMBERS ON SUSPENSION BY RANK | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Region | All |
| Suspension (Ended / Ongoing) | Ongoing |
| Rank | Total |
| Inspector Rank and above | 3 |
| Sergeant | 11 |
| Detective Garda | 55 |
| Garda | 15 |
| Probationer Garda | 1 |
| Reserve Garda | 13 |
| Grand Total | 98 |

| CURRENT SUSPENSIONS & CORE ISSUES INVESTIGATED BY AGS & GSOC | |
|--|-----------|
| Suspension (Ended / Ongoing) | Ongoing |
| Main Reason | Total |
| Driving under Influence of Intoxicant | 17 |
| Fixed Charge Notice (FCN) Interference | 2 |
| Other | 12 |
| Corruption/Criminal Association | 8 |
| Assault/Assault Causing Harm | 9 |
| Domestic Violence/Coercive Control | 10 |
| Theft/Forgery/Fraud/Dishonesty | 11 |
| Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct | 16 |
| Drugs/Drug Related | 4 |
| Disclosure of Information/Data Protection/Abuse of PULSE | 9 |
| Grand Total | 98 |

| Suspensions | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Year | New Suspensions | Lifted | Ended (Resignation /Retirement) | Dismissal | Total (Lifted/ Ended/ Dismissal) |
| 2019 | 26 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 19 |
| 2020 | 41 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 15 |
| 2021 | 44 | 13 | 8 | 1 | 22 |
| 2022 | 44 | 11 | 7 | 1 | 19 |
| 2023 | 27 | 19 | 13 | 0 | 32 |
| 2024 | 18 | 21 | 13 | 1* | 35 |
| 2025 | 42 | 13 | 15 | 1 | 29 |
| 2026 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 14 |

* Section 17(4)B Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act 2018 – Court Ordered

The following tables outline Garda Staff strengths by gender as at 28 February 2026.

| Grade | Total | WTE | Male | % | Female | % |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| CCO | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 100 |
| Executive Director | 4 | 4 | 1 | 25 | 3 | 75 |
| Chief Medical Officer | 1 | 1 | 1 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Director | 3 | 3 | 2 | 66.7 | 1 | 33.3 |
| PO | 30 | 30 | 16 | 53.3 | 14 | 46.7 |
| AP | 123 | 123 | 59 | 48 | 64 | 52 |
| HEO | 249 | 247.4 | 101 | 40.6 | 148 | 59.4 |
| AO | 22 | 22 | 11 | 50 | 11 | 50 |
| EO | 906 | 897 | 311 | 34.3 | 595 | 65.7 |
| CO | 1,988 | 1,923.4 | 525 | 26.4 | 1,463 | 73.6 |
| Total | 3,327 | 3,251.9 | 1,027 | 30.9 | 2,300 | 69.1 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Total | WTE* | Male | % | Female | % |
| Professional/Technical (including Chief Medical Officer) | 71 | 70.8 | 34 | 47.9 | 37 | 52.1 |
| Administrative *** | 3,326 | 3,250.9 | 1,026 | 30.8 | 2,300 | 69.2 |
| Industrial/Non Industrial | 282 | 192.7 | 94 | 33.3 | 188 | 66.7 |
| Total | 3,679 | 3,514.4 | 1,154 | 31.4 | 2,525 | 68.6 |
| | | | | | | |
| Of which | Total | WTE* | Male | % | Female | % |
| Maternity Leave | 24 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 100 |
| Unpaid Maternity Leave | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 100 |
| Paternity Leave | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Available Total | 3,646 | 3,481.4 | 1,154 | 31.7 | 2,492 | 68.3 |

* WTE = Whole time equivalent – Garda Staff work on a number of different work-sharing patterns.

** Garda Staff Headcount is exclusive of Temporary Clerical Officers.

*** Civil Service grades and other administrative posts.

| Work Sharing | Total | WTE | Male | % | Female | % |
|--------------|------------|------|------|---|--------|----|
| | 282 | 75.3 | 18 | 6 | 264 | 94 |

*** Work-sharing figure excludes industrial/non-industrial staff. Many posts are part-time.

| Career Breaks**** | Total | WTE | Male | % | Female | % |
|-------------------|-----------|-----|------|----|--------|----|
| | 24 | 24 | 7 | 29 | 17 | 71 |

**** Staff on career breaks are not included in total Garda strengths above.

As of 28 February 2026, the total number of suspended Garda Staff is seven. Due to the small proportion of suspended staff, the table categorises the lists by causes for suspension only. This table does not categorise by gender or grade, as this would make the staff easily identifiable.

| Suspensions | |
|---|--------------|
| | |
| Main Reason | Total |
| Driving under Influence of Intoxicant | 1 |
| Criminal charges | 2 |
| Misconduct in role | 2 |
| Disclosure of Information/Data Protection/Abuse of PULSE/breach of ICT policy | 2 |
| Grand Total | 7 |

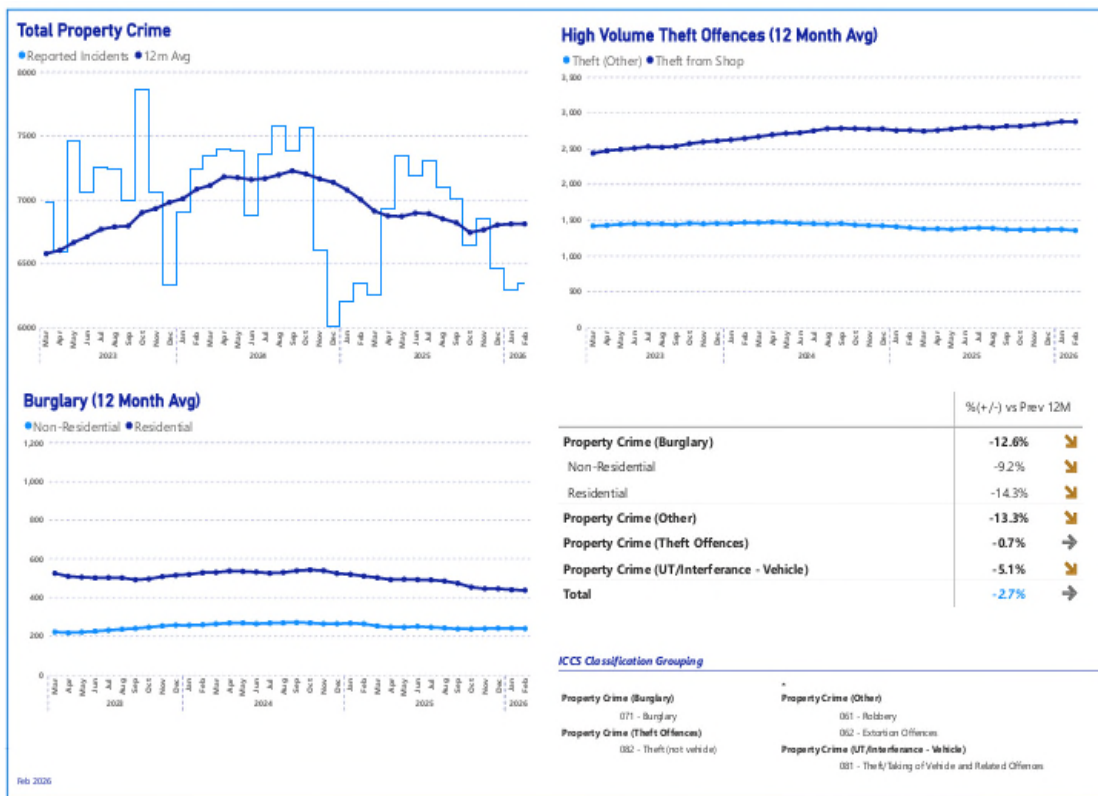
Crime Trends (February 2026)

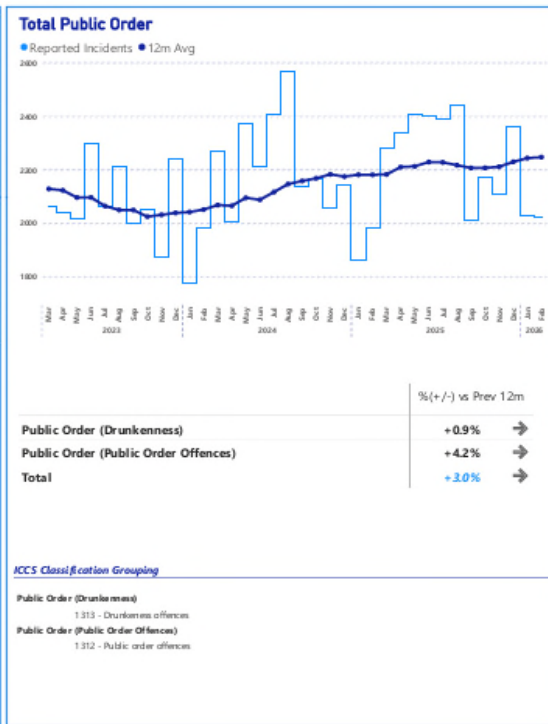
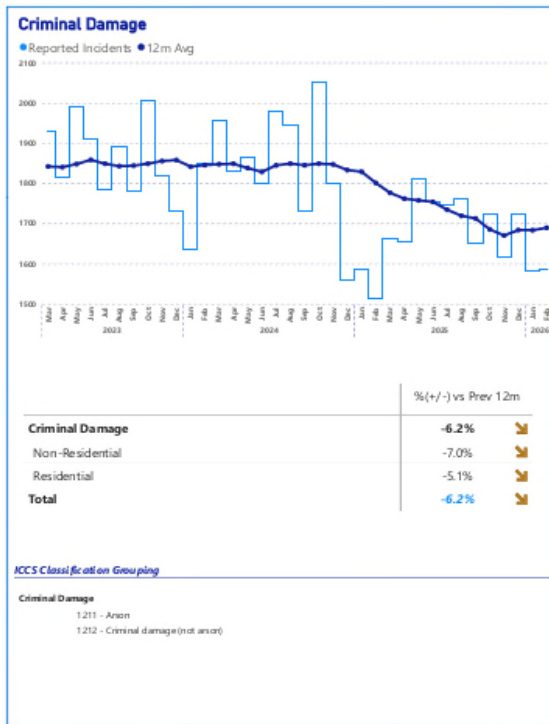
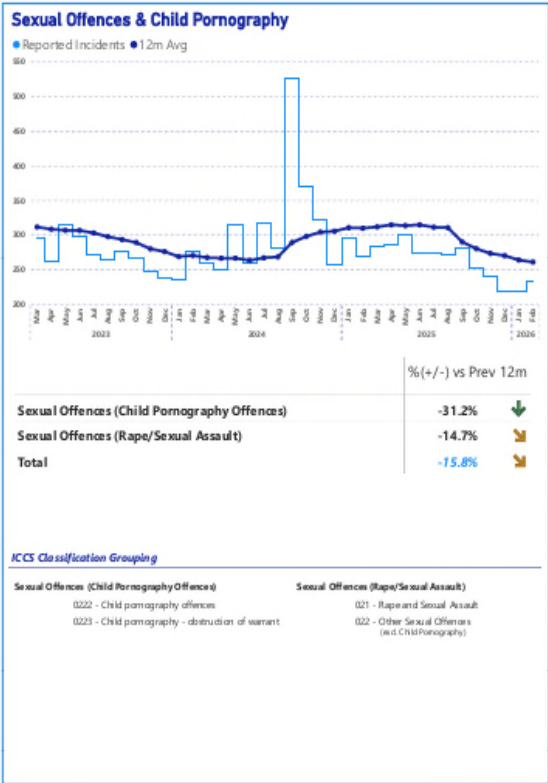
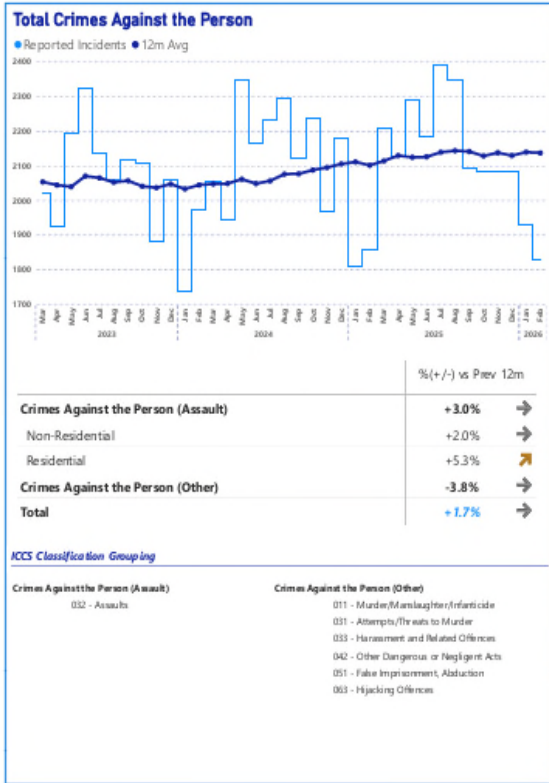
The Garda Síochána Analysis Service closely monitors crime trends, and disseminates analysis on a national, regional and divisional basis. This feeds directly into planning operational activities aimed at reducing and preventing crime at various levels.

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.

Nationally, there was an overall increase of 3% in property crime. However, there was been a decrease of robbery from the person and burglary (not aggravated). Theft from Vehicle and Theft from Shop incidents have increased nationally and will continue to be the focus of various operations which are managed under Deputy Commissioner Policing Operations.

While crimes against the persons have evidenced a slight increase when considered across 12 months, there were no murders recorded for February 2026.





Roads Policing (February 2026)

An Garda Síochána continues to respond to road safety challenges through education, engagement and enforcement. Despite proactive activity, in February 2026, 12 people died in fatal collisions. There were 54 serious injury collisions reported in February 2026.

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 February 2026, there were 3,927 MIT checkpoints conducted.

There was an average of approximately 12 arrests per day nationally for driving under the influence of drugs, 13 per day for driving under the influence of alcohol and more than 3,100 vehicles seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act, in February 2026.

| | February 2026 |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Mobile Phone FCNs | 2,135 |
| Seatbelt FCNs | 415 |
| Intercept Speed FCNs | 4,033 |
| Non-Intercept Speed FCNs | 14,579 |
| Total Speed FCNs | 18,612 |
| E-scooter FCNs | 141 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Driving While Intoxicated* | 677 |
| Driving While Intoxicated - alcohol as a factor | 342 |
| Driving While Intoxicated - drugs as a factor | 303 |
| Driving While Intoxicated – alcohol & drugs as a factor | 32 |

| Section 41 Detentions | February 2026 |
|---|---------------|
| Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)** | 3,111 |
| Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no ins. | 1,658 |
| Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax | 1,021 |
| Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT | 506 |
| Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers | 787 |

| MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests | February 2026 |
|---|---------------|
| MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed | 14,891 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed | 905 |
|--|-----|

** 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 02/03/2026 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

St. Patrick's Day Festival



Members of the Garda Mounted Unit and the Garda Reserves participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

During the month of March, a significant policing operation was undertaken as part of Saint Patrick's Day festivals, in Dublin City Centre and right around the country.

Gardaí and parade stewards were on duty across Dublin City Centre, to help and advise visitors, supported by key stakeholders in local authorities and public transport providers. Advice was issued to ensure those attending were made aware of traffic and parking restrictions, together with public safety advice.

In addition to the policing operation, this year marked the 20th anniversary of the Garda Reserves and in honour of this, 30 Garda Reserves, drawn from each Garda Region, took part in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade. While other representatives marching included the Garda Band, the Ceremonial Unit, the Garda Dog Unit, the Garda Mounted Unit and Student Gardaí. It was great to see members of the Garda Reserve march in the Dublin City St Patrick's Day parade for the first time.

Community Policing Office in Stepside

Building on our strategic commitments, a community policing office opened in Stepside Garda Station to support the rapidly growing area and strengthen the local community policing presence. The office was officially opened by Minister Neale Richmond with remarks also delivered by Mr Frank Curran, CEO of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Superintendent Gordon Woulfe. Local Councillors, the newly appointed Chair of the local community safety partnership JP Durkan, Vice Chair Aileen Eglinton and representatives from local community groups and the Crosscare Youth Project also attended.



Minister Neale Richmond, Garda Liam Byrne, Garda Aidan Healy, Leas Cathoirleach Pierce Dargan, Garda Phil Byrne, Garda Rosemary Clancy, Sergeant Peter Clifford, Deputy Maeve O Connell, Cllr JP Durkan

State Visit of Prime Minister Kier Starmer



The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Keir Starmer, visited Ireland on 12 and 13 March 2026, arriving and departing from Cork Airport. As such, a policing operation was put in place, with a number of rolling road closures put in effect during the visit. Public advice was issued, providing details of the closures in place and the operation ensured a safe visit by the head of State.