

# An Garda Síochána

Monthly Report for November 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 Baile Átha Cliath 8 D08 HN3X



Luaigh an uimhir tharaghta seo a leanas le do thoil: Please quote the following ref.

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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

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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 November 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

12 December 2025

#### 1. Message from the Commissioner

During the month of November 2025, I was delighted to welcome 194 Gardaí and 17 Garda Reserves into An Garda Síochána, following attestation ceremonies held in the Garda College on 14 November 2025. These Gardaí and Garda Reserves have been deployed right across the country, where they will support the delivery of policing services to communities in both urban and rural settings. This latest graduation has also paved the way for the roll out of high visibility policing in Cork City, with a large cohort of these new Probationer Gardaí assigned to the Cork Garda Division. These additional recruits bring our strength to 14,462 sworn Garda members, 308 Garda Reserves and 3,654 Garda Staff.

The recruitment into our Garda Reserve is also significant as it marks the first attestation of Garda Reserves since 2020. These Garda Reserves were the first to partake in a revised pilot training programme.

The latest recruitment campaign supports An Garda Síochána in growing even further, providing us with a strong pipeline of applicants to draw from. With more than 223 new Garda Trainees commencing their training at the Garda College in November 2025, one of the largest intakes in recent times, we have also grown our capacity in recruitment and training, which will meet our commitments in this important area. We also hope to be in a position to run another recruitment campaign in quarter one of 2026.

This month, An Garda Síochána was pleased to run the Garda National Youth Awards event, recognising the significant contributions of young people to their communities. The awards were hosted and presented by Assistant Commissioner Catharina Gunne and 25 remarkable young people received awards on the day. It is always a positive event, and each year we are amazed by the impact our young people are making to improve the lives of others.

A further highlight this month, was the conference hosted by the Garda National Protective Services Bureau in the Hodson Bay Hotel in Athlone, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. The conference, which was attended by approximately 135 delegates from over 60 Non-Governmental Organisations, supported our continued commitment to consolidate new and established relationships, through transparency and the sharing of information. The conference, supporting the implementation of a recommendation made by the Garda Inspectorate Report on Domestic Abuse in October 2024, created more formal structures to facilitate multi-agency approaches.

I was delighted to open the Garda Women's Network Conference held in Gormanstown, Co. Meath on 5 November 2025. This year's theme was "Inspiring Voices, Inspiring Futures" and saw a number of special guests deliver talks on a range of topics, including career development and women's health.

This month we also released the results of the Public Attitudes Survey, which highlighted sustained high levels of public trust in An Garda Síochána, and found that 70% of adults are satisfied with the service provided in their local communities by An Garda Síochána.

I also wish to highlight another operation, which was undertaken by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) this month. On 3 November 2025, GNIB completed its sixth charter flight, its largest deportation charter flight to have ever left the State. Fifty-two Georgian nationals were removed from the State on foot of deportation orders issued by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

Our Office of Corporate Communications facilitated the attendance of a journalist on board this flight, providing insights into the planning, preparation and implementation of such a large operation. This was met with positive coverage, highlighting to the public the significant level of human rights compliance, as well as the consideration given to the sensitivities of such an operation.

Also this month, together with the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, and the Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, An Garda Síochána officially opened our new Garda Water Unit premises in Garycastle, Athlone. The Garda Water Unit operates 365 days a year and is a key resource supporting frontline operations up and down the country. This facility supports the storage and maintenance of the unit's equipment and assets, and is ideally situated for swift deployment.

Twenty Gardaí were recently recognised for their bravery at this year's Water Safety Ireland Awards. Gardaí from Westmeath, Dublin, Galway, Clare, Louth, Carlow and Wicklow were awarded for their quick thinking and courageous actions in dangerous situations, which led to the rescue of twelve individuals in difficulty in the water. Congratulations to all our colleagues who received their awards on the night. Your heroic actions have helped keep people safe.

Justin Kelly Garda Commissioner

# 2. Financial Expenditure and Receipts

	2025 Allocation €'000	2025 Supplementary €'000	Expenditure/Receipts end November €'000	Remaining Dec €'000	Remaining %
Gross Total	2,480,453	2,540,453	2,285,961	254,492	10%
Appropriation in Aid (receipts)	113,500	153,076	145,877	7,199	5%
Net Total	2,366,953	2,387,377	2,140,084	247,293	

Under Vote 20, An Garda Síochána has a gross cost allocation for 2025 of €2.48b split between €2.31b operating budget (current) and €173.1m capital expenditure. In addition, €16.59m of capital funding has been carried forward from 2024 into 2025. Following the completion of the Supplementary Estimates An Garda Síochána was allocated an additional €60m in gross expenditure. At the end of November 2025, total gross expenditure is €2.29b (92% of allocation, and 90% of allocation plus supplementary). In terms of appropriations in aid, income receipts are €145.88m (129% of allocated, and 95% of allocation plus supplementary).

Pay (including Salaries, Overtime, Garda College and Superannuation) November 2025 YTD of €1,885.63m is €19.24m over Budget Profile of €1,866.39m, driven by overtime.

Non Pay (including College) November 2025 YTD of €266.52m is €20.78m over Budget Profile of €245.73m, driven by ICT, Operational Service Expense and Compensation.

Capital November 2025 YTD of €146.94m is €21.83m under Budget Profile of €168.8m (Deferred Capital of €16.59m (YTD €13.12m) is included).

Appropriations in Aid November YTD of €145.88.m is €40.66m over Budget Profile of €105.22m.

Overall YTD November 2025 gross expenditure is over budget profile by €21.66m. There has been a significant overspend in overtime of €36.27m. There is a forum of ongoing engagement with Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation and Department of Justice. A suite of cost containment measures has been put in place. Overall Budget overspends have been considered within the Supplementary Estimates Process. In addition, there are over spends in Compensation, Premises Expenses, Towing Expenses, Expenses of Persons Detained, Postal Services, Travel and ICT, with under spends in Superannuation costs, Clothing, Road Traffic Equipment, Communications, Other Operational Equipment, along with higher receipts in Appropriations in Aid.

Overtime is required to meet operational policing demands including crime investigation, crime prevention, security, court related activity and to supplement understaffed units. Drivers of overtime are: Crime Investigation (22%), Other Recurring (19%), Court (14%), Crime Prevention (12%) and Briefing Time (11%), Supplementing Units (8%), Security and Protection (5%), Events (4%), Roads Policing (2%), Immigration (2%), Escorts (1%). Court and pre-tour briefing time are not in the direct control of An Garda Síochána management.

#### **Estate Management**

- Clonmel Garda Station commenced onsite in late Q4 2025, with completion due in Q1 2028.
- Macroom Divisional Headquarters due to commence onsite in early Q1 2026, with a planned completion due in Q1 2028.
- Drogheda PEMS onsite since Q4 2024, with completion due in Q1 2026. Tallaght and Naas PEMS to follow on from that project.

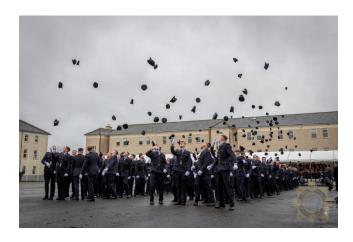
# 3. People and Development

#### **Garda Recruitment**

On 17 November 2025, Intake 25.4, with 223 Garda Trainees, commenced training in the Garda College, bringing the number of Garda Trainees who entered the College in 2025 to approximately 792.

The second Garda Trainee recruitment campaign of 2025 closed on 9 October 2025. Over 11,000 applications were received across the two competitions held in 2025, with the latest competition attracting 4,334 applications.

On 14 November 2025, 194 Gardaí (137 male / 57 female) and 17 Garda Reserves (13 male / 4 female) were attested as sworn members of An Garda Síochána bring the total Garda Member strengths to 14,462 as of 30 November 2025.



# The Strength of Garda Personnel

The Garda Member strength as at 30 November 2025 stood at 14,462 and the Garda Staff strength stood at 3,654. A full breakdown by rank, grade and gender is outlined below.

# **Garda Member Strengths as at 30 November 2025**

Rank	30/11/2025	Male	%	Female	%	WTE
Commissioner	1	1	100%			1
<b>Deputy Commissioner</b>	1			1	100%	1
<b>Assistant Commissioner</b>	8	3	37.5%	5	62.5%	8
<b>Chief Superintendent</b>	46	38	83%	8	17%	46
Superintendent	160	131	82%	29	18%	160
Inspector	482	381	79%	101	21%	482
Sergeant	2186	1642	75%	544	25%	2184.5
Garda	11578	8115	70%	3463	30%	11545
Total	14462	10311	71%	4151	29%	14427.5

Of which	30/11/25	Male	%	Female	%
Career Breaks (incl. ICB)	36	22	61.1%	14	38.9%
Work-sharing	34.5	0.5	1.4%	34	98.6%
Secondments	46	31	67%	15	33%
(Overseas etc.)					
Maternity Leave	56			56	100.0%
Unpaid Maternity Leave	26			26	100.0%
Paternity Leave	15	15	100.0%		

Available Strength 14248.5	10242.5	71.9%	4006	28.1%	
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Garda	Total	Male	%	Female	%
Reserves Strength	308	237	77%	71	23%
30/11/2025					

# Suspensions as of 1 December 2025

Total members suspended: 104

Male: 95 Female: 9

CURRENT MEMBERS ON SUSPENSION BY RANK						
Region	(AII)					
Suspension (Ended / Ongoing)	Ongoing					
Rank	Total					
Inspector rank and above	3					
Sergeant	10					
Detective Garda	12					
Garda	66					
Probationer Garda	12					
Reserve Garda	1					
Grand Total	104					

CURRENT SUSPENSIONS & CORE ISSUES INVESTIGATED BY AGS & GSOC	
Suspension (Ended / Ongoing)	Ongoing
Main Reason	Total
Driving under Influence of Intoxicant	16
Fixed Charge Notice (FCN) Interference	9
Other	11
Corruption/Criminal Association	9
Assault/Assault Causing Harm	9
Domestic Violence/Coercive Control	11
Theft/Forgery/Fraud/Dishonesty	12
Sexual Assault/Sexual Misconduct	14
Drugs/Drug Related	4
Disclosure of Information/Data	9
Protection/Abuse of PULSE	
Grand Total	104

	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	35	11	12	1	24				
	* Section 17(4)B Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act 2018 – Court Ordered								

# Garda Staff Strengths by gender as at 30 November 2025

Grade	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%
ССО	1	1.0			1	100.0%
Executive Director	4	4.0	1	25.0%	3	75.0%
Chief Medical Officer	1	1	1	100.0%		
Director	2	2.0	1	50.0%	1	50.0%
РО	33	33.0	19	57.6%	14	42.4%
AP	119	119.0	59	49.6%	60	50.4%
HEO	249	248.0	97	39.0%	152	61.0%
AO	23	23.0	9	39.1%	14	60.9%
EO	878	868.6	299	34.1%	579	65.9%
со	1994	1928.5	533	26.7%	1461	73.3%
Total	3304	3228.1	1019	30.8%	2285	69.2%
	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%
Professional/Technical (including Chief Medical Officer)	70	69.8	35	50.0%	35	50.0%
Administrative ***	3303	3227.1	1018	30.8%	2285	69.2%
Industrial/Non Industrial	281	189.0	92	32.7%	189	67.3%
Total	3654	3486.0	1145	31.3%	2509	68.7%
Of which	Total	WTE*	Male	%	Female	%
Maternity Leave	17	17			17	100.0%
Unpaid Maternity Leave	11	11			11	100.0%
Paternity Leave						
Available Total	3626	3458.0	1145	31.6%	2481	68.4%

<sup>\*</sup> WTE = Whole time equivalent – Garda Staff work on a number of different work-sharing patterns.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Civil Service grades and other administrative posts.

Work Sharing	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%
work Snaring	270	76.1	17	6%	253	94%

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

Caroor Proaks****	Total	WTE	Male	%	Female	%
Career Breaks****	22	22	7	32%	15	68%

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> Staff on career breaks are not included in total garda strengths above.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Garda Staff Headcount is exclusive of Temporary Clerical Officers.

# **Garda Staff Suspension figures as at 30 November 2025**

Total*	Male	%	Female	%
8	5	63	3	37

# 4. Corporate Communications

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

# Media briefings with Commissioner Justin Kelly and newly attested Gardaí at the Garda College on 14 November 2025





Left: Garda Commisoner Justin Kelly conducts media briefing at the Garda College on 14 November 2025. Right: Taoiseach Micháel Martin congratulates newly graduated Gardaí with Commissioner Kelly, and Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan TD.

This office facilitated a press briefing and associated communications activities to promote the attestation of 194 Gardaí and 17 Garda Reserves as sworn members of An Garda Síochána on 14 November 2025 at the Garda College, Templemore. This graduation was also attended by the Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. Communications activities served to highlight the increasing strength of An Garda Síochána, which now stands at 14,462 sworn Garda members, 308 Garda Reserves and 3,654 Garda Staff. This office also promoted the attestation of 17 Garda Reserves, the first reserve attestation to take place since 2020. This follows a competition for Garda Reserves launched in 2024 which received over 1,800 applicants.

# **Garda National Youth Awards, 22 November 2025**





Assistant Commissioner for Roads Policing and Community Engagement, Catharina Gunne speaking at the Garda National Youth Awards on 22 November 2025. AC Gunne presenting national youth award recipient Cormac Downey with his award.

Communications awareness training and seminars were also conducted to upskill personnel on media strategies. This included Superintendents and Inspectors in the Dublin Metropolitan Region, and Crime Prevention Sergeants and Peer Review Officers. The Press Officer also provided a presentation at the National Roads Policing Conference this month.

#### Opening of the Garda Water Unit Garrycastle, Athlone 7 November, 2025





Left: Commissioner Justin Kelly speaks to media at the opening of the Garda Water Unit in Athlone on 7 November 2025.

Right: Commissioner Kelly is pictured with Assistant Commissioner Angela Willis, Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O'Callaghan TD, Minister of State for the Office of Public Works, Kevin Moran TD and Detective Chief Superintendent Barry Walsh.

On 7 November 2025, An Garda Síochána officially opened new facilities for the Garda Water Unit in Athlone. This office supported the promotion of the event through the issuing of a media invite and press release, and facilitated a media briefing with Commissioner Kelly at the event. The opening was attended by Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan TD, the Minister of State Kevin Moran and members of the Garda Water Unit. The event served to highlight the available resources and capabilities of the Garda Water Unit, who serve communities from this new facility.

Other activities supported by the Office of Corporate Communications included the promotion of Hospital Watch in Cork City, which was launched on 22 November 2025 and the launch of Limerick's Christmas Policing Operation on 28 November 2025.

# **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 219 press releases, including 76 missing person appeals in respect of 44 individuals; 17 witness appeals; together with those related to successful operations undertaken by the organisation, during the month of November 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 2.5 million 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.

Social Media Channel	Number of	Impressions	Engagement	Industry
	Followers		Rate	Benchmark
Facebook -	438,541	14,494,439	1.1%	1.5%
@AnGardaSíochána				
Facebook – Missing	34,747	1,465,110	0.9%	1.5%
Persons				
Instagram -	259,378	6,350,196	1.9%	2.6%
@GardaInsta				
X- @GardaInfo	299,651	1,105,749	5.01%	1.7%
X - @GardaTraffic	631,264	601,491	7.07%	1.7%
in LinkedIn – An Garda	83,690	944,627	17%	2.7%
Síochána				
TikTok – @GardaInfo	79,652	497,380	2.9%	1.6%

#### **Internal Communications**

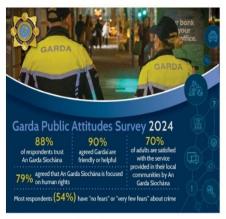
In November 2025, An Garda Síochána Internal Communications Team delivered eight comprehensive issues of Newsbeat. The average Newsbeat open rate is 66%. This is higher than the industry standard open rate of 57.17% for internal newsletters, and the 52.26% average within Government and Public Service organisations.





18 November 2025

Communities continue to maintain trust in An Garda Síochána - Garda Public Attitudes Survey 2024



Close to 90% of the public trust An Garda Síochána, over 70% agree that we are community-focused, and nearly 80% say we are human-right centred, according to the





11 November 2025

#### Rebooting our operational footwear



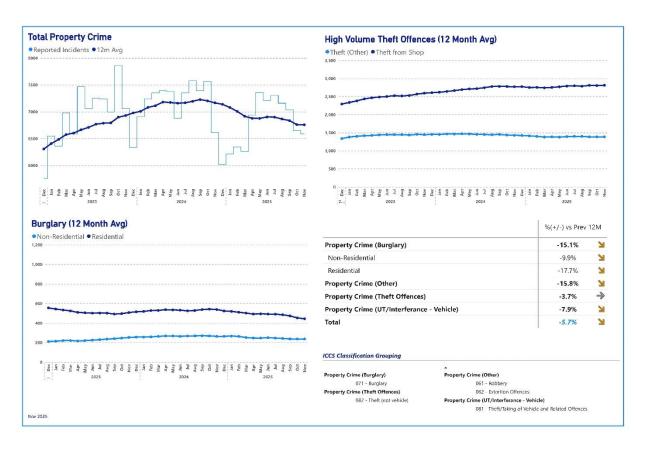
A new operational boot for all Gardaí has been launched by Commissioner Justin Kelly

The new operational boot is more modern in appearance than the current boot and is much more complimentary to the new operational uniform, whilst providing a high level of protection with a composite toe-box and foot plate (as opposed to any metal).

# 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.

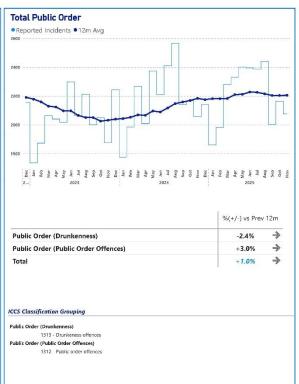




063 - Hijacking Offences







Use of Force Comparison – October 2025 / November 2025				
Category	Oct-25	Nov-25	Increase/ Decrease	% Change
Total UOF for Month	1,261	1,174	-87	-7%
Civilians Injured	25	19	-6	-24%
Garda Members Injured	17	9	-8	-47%
Pepper Spray Deployed	115	116	1	0%
Batons	44	33	-11	-25%
Handcuffs	1,091	1,033	-58	-5%
Anti-spit guard	0	0	0	0%
Unarmed Restraint	181	163	-18	-10%
Taser	2	2	0	0%
Less Lethal Firearm	0	0	0	0%
Firearm	0	0	0	0%
Gender Subject to Force - Male	918	872	-46	-5%
Gender Subject to Force - Female	154	130	-24	-16%
Drugs Involved	295	304	9	+3%
Alcohol Involved	639	639	0	0%
Division with highest level UOF DMR South Central	221	224	3	+1%
Percentage of UOF Deployments occurring Friday, Saturday & Sunday	46.7%	52.2%	5.5%	

#### 6. Demonstrations and Events

#### **Demonstrations**

An Garda Síochána provided a policing response, including traffic management at a number of protests and demonstrations, which continued to focus on themes including anti-immigration, associated accommodation, international conflict and taxi driver disputes.

Table 1 - Demonstration (Non Crime) - 2025YTD

Region	2025 YTD
Dublin Region	856
Eastern Region	119
North Western Region	77
Southern Region	184
Total	1,236

Table 2 - Demonstration (Non Crime) - Nov 2025

Region	Nov 2025
Dublin Region	94
Eastern Region	4
North Western Region	5
Southern Region	16
<b>Grand Total</b>	119

Data as was present on the PULSE database on the morning of 02/12/2025 was drawn down, tallying all incidents of Type Demonstrations (Non Crime), barring invalid incidents between 01/01/2025 and 30/11/2025. The data contained herein is operational and subject to change.

#### Challenges

An Garda Síochána continues to provide policing support to multi-agency operations with the accommodating of international protection applicants to relevant IPAS centres. This additional policing need continues to prove challenging on available resources. Incidents in the Dublin Metropolitan Region, which led to rioting and attacks on An Garda Síochána, highlight the continuing tensions around immigration and housing at IPAS centres.

# 7. Roads Policing

An Garda Síochána continues to respond to road safety challenges. In November 2025, 20 people died in fatal collisions and 77 were seriously injured in collisions. 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 November 2025, there were 3,713 MIT checkpoints conducted. There was an average of approximately 10 arrests per day nationally for driving under the influence of drugs, 15 per day for driving under the influence of alcohol and there were more than 2,500 vehicles seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act in November 2025.

	November 2025
Mobile Phone FCNs	1,819
Seatbelt FCNs	463
Intercept Speed FCNs	2,282
Non-Intercept Speed FCNs	10,287
Total Speed FCNs	12,569
E-scooter FCNs	64
Driving While Intoxicated*	716
Driving While Intoxicated - alcohol as a factor	421
Driving While Intoxicated - drugs as a factor	268
Driving While Intoxicated — alcohol & drugs as a factor	27

Section 41 Detentions	November 2025
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)**	2,513
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no insurance	1,486
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax	888
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT	469
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers	558

MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests	November 2025
MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed	12,778
MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed	712

<sup>\*</sup> Driving While Intoxicated excludes incidents of type 'Driver Under the Limit (No Offence Disclosed)' and 'In Charge Under The Limit (No Offence Disclosed)'.

<sup>\*\*</sup> 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 03/12/2025 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.

# 8. Prevention and Disruption of Crime

#### **Europol Cybercrime Prevention Forum**

On 11 and 12 November 2025, the Garda National Youth Diversion Bureau participated in the Europol Cybercrime Prevention Forum in Europol HQ, The Hague, Netherlands. The forum included experts from law enforcement, academia and online industry, to examine how to better understand, prevent and respond to cybercrime. The discussions focused on identifying the signs of emerging cyber threats and fostering collaboration across sectors to build a more resilient digital society. The event was held with the aim of allowing stakeholders to give their views on early intervention to stop young cyber offenders from becoming more serious offenders in the future. While this conference focused on online 'hacking,' the tools being used to tackle this area are transferable to other categories of online crimes.

#### **Annual Hate Crime National Point of Contract Meeting**

On 17 and 18 November 2025, the Garda National Diversity Unit attended the Annual Hate Crime National Point of Contract (NPC) meeting hosted by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw. The two-day event commenced with the launch and demonstration of ODIHR's Hate Crime Report for 2024. The event assisted OSCE participating States to implement their commitments in the area of Hate Crime, including addressing Hate Crime through robust data collection and monitoring, an effective criminal justice response, co-operation with civil society and comprehensive support to Hate Crime victims.

# 9. Community Engagement

#### Sixteenth year of the Leading Light award

Now in its sixteenth year, the Leading Light award recognises individuals, groups and communities from all over Ireland who have helped to make our roads safer. Entrants will be honoured for their contribution towards Vision Zero – zero road deaths and serious injuries by 2050. On 14 November 2025, the Garda National Community Policing Unit attended the judging process which is the first of two stages. First, an internal Road Safety Authority judging panel reviewed all entries and narrowed them down into a shortlist of three finalists in each category. The shortlisted entries will be judged by a panel of high profile individuals, with the final awards ceremony taking place on 10 December 2025.

#### Little Blue Heroes initiative Sarah's Gift

On 17 November 2025, Sarah's Gift, a heartfelt initiative by Little Blue Heroes, was launched at Wells House in Gorey, in memory of Sarah Robinson. Sarah's Gift helps ensure that families supported by Little Blue Heroes receive practical support, kindness and recognition. All Little Blue Heroes and families were also presented with their Christmas gifts. Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O'Callaghan TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage of Ireland James Brown TD and Mr. Karl Heller, Chair of Little Blue Heroes attended. Also in attendance were Chief Superintendent Derek Hughes, Superintendent Jarlath Duffy and Superintendent David O'Sullivan.



Left to Right: Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O'Callaghan TD, Superintendent Jarlath Duffy,
Superintendent David O'Sullivan and Mr. Karl Heller.

# **Garda National Crime Prevention Unit Safety Briefing**

On 17 November 2025, members of the Garda National Crime Prevention Unit provided a safety briefing presentation to The Journal. The Garda National Crime Prevention Unit provided crime prevention and safety advice, as well as separate information regarding online abuse experienced by the press. The information seminar was followed by a question and answer session. The reporting process for the Media Engagement Group was further discussed and all those present were reminded that An Garda Síochána encourage the reporting of crimes. This work is undertaken as part of the Media Engagement Group co-chaired by Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing and Community Engagement, and the Director of Corporate Communications.

#### Major Emergency Exercise at the University Hospital Kerry

On 18 November 2025, Gardaí attended University Hospital Kerry (UHK) for a planned major emergency exercise, to test the readiness of UHK staff in the event of a hostage/barricade/suicide incident (HBS incident). A member of Superintendent rank attended as an Operational Commander during the exercise.



Left to Right: Garda Mary Gardiner, Breda Doyle, Quality and Risk Manager Bon Secours Hospital Tralee, Maria Carmody,
Fire Health and Safety Officer Bon Secours Hospital Tralee, and Garda Patricia Fitzpatrick.

### Garda National Diversity Unit provide advice and support on identifying/reporting Hate Crime

On 25 November 2025, the Garda National Diversity Unit visited an IPAS Centre in the Dublin Metropolitan Region to brief staff members and provide advice to residents in relation to the role of An Garda Síochána, policing by consent, access to Garda Services. Other topics included personal safety, the role of the National Diversity Unit, the role of Garda Diversity Officers, what constitutes hate crime in Ireland, and identifying hate crimes and hate incidents.

#### 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

As part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, the Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) hosted a conference on 26 November 2025 in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone. GNPSB collaborates daily with Non-Governmental Organisations in relation to joint enterprises, policy, victim response and education. GNPSB hosted this conference to highlight and continue their standing commitment with their partners, to show developments within the Bureau and An Garda Síochána, and to consolidate new and established relationships through transparency and the sharing of information. The conference was also part of a commitment to incorporate recommendations made by the Garda Inspectorate Report on Domestic Abuse in October 2024, for An Garda Síochána to create formal structures to facilitate multi-agency approaches. The conference was attended by approximately 135 delegates from over 60 Non-Governmental Organisations.