



**An Garda Síochána**

**Monthly Report for March 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  
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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 March 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**

**25<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

## Message from the Commissioner

I'd like to take this opportunity to firstly acknowledge the establishment of the Policing and Community Safety Authority, and to welcome its executive led by Chairperson Elaine Byrne and Chief Executive Officer Helen Hall. I look forward to working with the Policing and Community Safety Authority following the commencement of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 on 2 April 2025.

During the month of March 2025, An Garda Síochána had a number of significant operational policing demands and policing successes to report upon. Of particular note was the sentencing of an individual in respect of organised prostitution offences and the arrest of individuals involved in serious criminal activity in the West Dublin area.

A large scale policing operation was put in place for the St. Patrick's Day festival in Dublin, with approximately 1,000 members of An Garda Síochána out on the beat during the long weekend ensuring that everyone had a safe and enjoyable time. There was Garda support at many of our parade events right across the country.

We welcomed 149 new Gardaí following a passing out ceremony on 7 March 2025 and later that week 201 Garda Trainees began their training at the Garda College; the largest cohort since 2019.

We continued to place a focus on road safety and An Garda Síochána, in conjunction with the Road Safety Authority, held a Bank Holiday Road Safety Enforcement initiative over the long weekend. During this initiative, An Garda Síochána carried out more than 1,000 mandatory intoxicant testing checkpoints. This resulted in 214 arrests for driving under the influence of an intoxicant, while more than 2,650 drivers were detected for speeding offences. Unfortunately, there were two fatalities and seven serious collisions on our roads during that weekend.

We continue our efforts in the area of roads policing, and encourage all motorists to slow down and adopt good driver behaviour.

**Drew Harris**  
**Commissioner**

## 1. Financial Expenditure and Receipts

	2025 Allocation	Expenditure/Receipts End March 2025	Remaining April - Dec 2025 €'000	Remaining %
	€'000	€'000		
<b>Gross Total</b>	2,480,453	590,870	1,889,583	76
<b>Appropriations in Aids (receipts)</b>	113,500	34,168	79,332	70
<b>Net Total</b>	2,366,953	556,702	1,810,251	

The total gross 2025 allocation is €2.48b and net allocation is €2.37b. At the end of March 2025, total gross expenditure is €590.87m (24% of allocation) and receipts are €34.17m (30% of allocation). 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.

The Garda Senior Leadership Team continues to place a significant focus on cost management, in particular in relation to oversight and management of overtime.

### Estate Management

Works continue at both Bailieboro, Portlaoise and Newcastle Garda Stations, and are the subject of active engagement between the OPW and An Garda Síochána. In addition, other projects at earlier stages of development, such as the upgrading of PEMS in Drogheda, Tallaght and Naas, and the development of new Garda stations at Clonmel and Macroom, continue to be progressed in conjunction with the OPW.

## 2. People and Development

### **Garda Trainee Recruitment**

The first 2025 Garda Trainee recruitment campaign closed for applications on 27 February 2025. At the time of closing, there were 6,784 applications (this figure reflects the total number of applications prior to any eligibility checks being completed). Approximately 2,974 candidates attended stage 1 testing. The first interviews are scheduled to commence on 23 April 2025 with successful candidates being referred to An Garda Síochána as soon as interviews are completed.

149 Garda Trainees were attested on 7 March 2025, with two late attestations occurring subsequently. Three Garda members who re-joined An Garda Síochána were attested on 20 March 2025. The next Garda Trainee Intake is scheduled for 9 June 2025.

### **Garda Personnel Strengths**

As at 31 March 2025, Garda personnel strength stood at 18,243 broken down as follows:

- Members: 14,257
- Staff: 3,670\* (includes 357 professional/technical/industrial/non-industrial roles)
- Reserves: 316

*\* Garda Staff Headcount is exclusive of Temporary Clerical Officers (TCOs). There were 68 TCOs in An Garda Síochána as at 31 March 2025.*

### 3. Corporate Communications

Throughout the month of March 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, we conducted a number of media briefings in support of operational activities across the organisation. This included media interviews with Commissioner Drew Harris and newly attested Gardaí at the Garda College following the graduation of 149 new Gardaí.

The Press Office facilitated a media briefing with Detective Chief Superintendent Colm Noonan of the Garda National Protective Service Bureau at the Criminal Courts of Justice following the sentencing of an individual for a number of organised prostitution offences, brothel keeping, the possession of child pornography, theft, fraud and money laundering. This briefing provided an opportunity to reach out to victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and urge them to come forward.

Other activities this month included the promotion of community engagement and operational duties associated with the St. Patrick's Day parade. While media briefings and associated communications were conducted highlighting road safety over the St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday weekend.

Supporting Gardaí in Kerry, this office assisted in holding a press briefing in respect of an investigation into a missing person public appeal in respect of Mr. Michael Gaine, in Kenmare Co. Kerry.

#### Office of Corporate Communications Activities:

#### Media Briefing: Garda Passing Out and Attestation at the Garda College on 7 March 2025




*Images shared on social media feature interviews conducted by Garda Commissioner Drew Harris and of recent graduates, including Probationer Garda Eeman Fatima (above).*

As An Garda Síochána welcomed 149 new trainee Gardaí, the Office of Corporate Communications was involved in promoting the passing out ceremony. This included the issuing of a press release, conducting a live stream from the ceremony, associated photography and video content, together with a press briefing with Commissioner Drew Harris and newly attested Gardaí at the Garda College in Templemore. These activities served to highlight the current strength of personnel in An Garda Síochána; that being a Garda is a job worth doing; and ongoing efforts in the area of recruitment. The event was also attended by the Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan.

**Media Briefing: Michael (Mike) Gaine Missing Person Media Briefing 27 March 2025, Kenmare Co. Kerry**

# MISSING PERSON

**Michael Gaine**




Age 56 Years Old  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2025  
Kenmare, Co. Kerry

Michael is described as being approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall with a stocky build, brown/grey hair and a bushy beard.

When last seen, Michael was wearing an orange woolly hat, black fleece, blue jeans and black boots.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Killarney Garda Station on 064 667 1160, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any Garda Station.



*Superintendent David Callaghan speaking to media in Kenmare, Co. Kerry on 27 March 2025*

This office facilitated a media briefing in Kenmare, Co. Kerry on 27 March 2025 in support of a missing person's investigation into the disappearance 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. A video of the briefing was also produced and shared on social media. This office continues to highlight this ongoing investigation, responding to media queries and renewing our public appeal for information across available channels.

**Community Engagement: St. Patrick's Day Festival, 17 March 2025**



*Assistant Commissioner DMR Paul Cleary conducting operational briefing for policing St. Patrick's Day parade Dublin*

This office supported operational and community engagement activities for St. Patrick's Day highlighting road closures, and promoting Garda activities both at home and abroad. In support of our public messaging around the festival, media interviews were facilitated by Chief Superintendent McMenamin and social media was used to share public information.

**Garda Press Office Activity:**








The Garda Press Office operates 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 199 press releases, including 68 missing person appeals; 19 in respect of witness appeals; together with those related to successful operations undertaken by the organisation.

**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 measure 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 - @AnGardaSíochána	422,821	1.04%
 Facebook – Missing Persons	25,534	1.18%
 Instagram - @GardaInsta	238,767	2.74%
 X- @GardaInfo	296,914	6.60%
 X - @GardaTraffic	629,255	7.26%
 LinkedIn – An Garda Síochána	72,382	25.26%
 TikTok – @GardaInfo	65,598	4.31%

## Internal Communications

In March 2025, seven comprehensive Newsbeat updates were issued. The average Newsbeat open rate is 66%, 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 a message from Commissioner Harris on the challenge of addressing sexism and misogyny within An Garda Síochána, and an update on the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024.



Newsbeat highlights from March 2025:

- **National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau:** Celebrating 10 years since its establishment, we reflected on its major successes and looked ahead to the future.
- **International Women's Day:** We marked this day by focusing on our 30% Club, wellbeing supports and An Garda Síochána Women's Network
- **Seachtain na Gaeilge:** We provided a roundup of activities across the organisation, including the launch of Club Cúpla Focal and our Irish phrase of the week.
- **Garda Sports Star Awards 2025:** We published a recap and photos of the Coiste Siamsa Sports Star Awards, honouring outstanding sporting achievements of An Garda Síochána personnel.
- **McCabe Fellowship Programme:** Published that the applications opened for the 2025-2026 programme, with all relevant details provided to personnel.
- **National Day of Action for Tyre Safety:** Provided key operational information for the first national day of action for tyre safety in 2025 which took place in March.

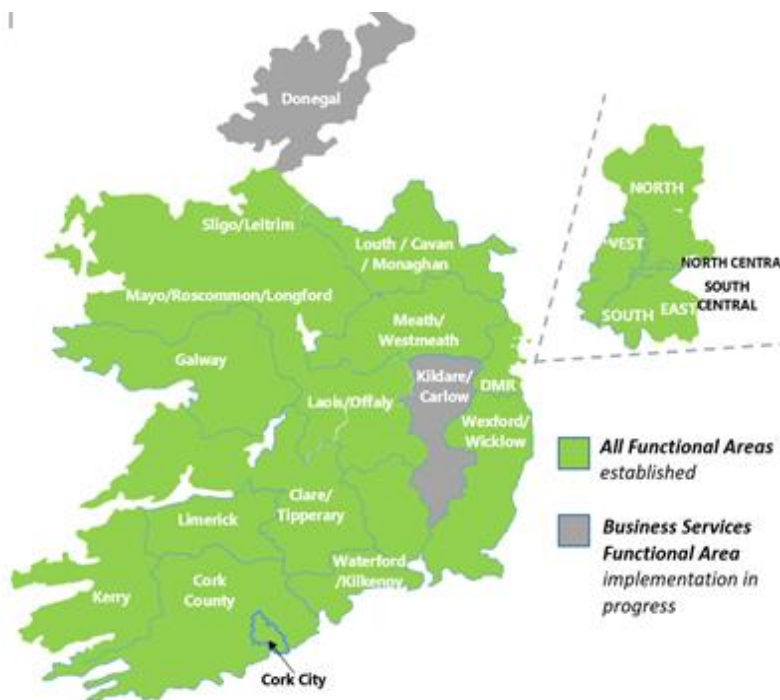
#### 4. Operating Model

Nineteen divisions are operating under the Operating Model four Functional Area structures (Business Services, Performance Assurance, Crime and Community Engagement).

Twenty-one divisions have commenced the implementation of the Business Services Functional Area. They are receiving continual support from the Operating Model Central Implementation Team. Twenty divisions are at various stages of implementing the standardised Performance Assurance Functional Area processes. They have commenced utilising the Performance Assurance standardised processes and are at various stages of implementation within these divisions.

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.

##### Implementation Overview (31 March 2025)



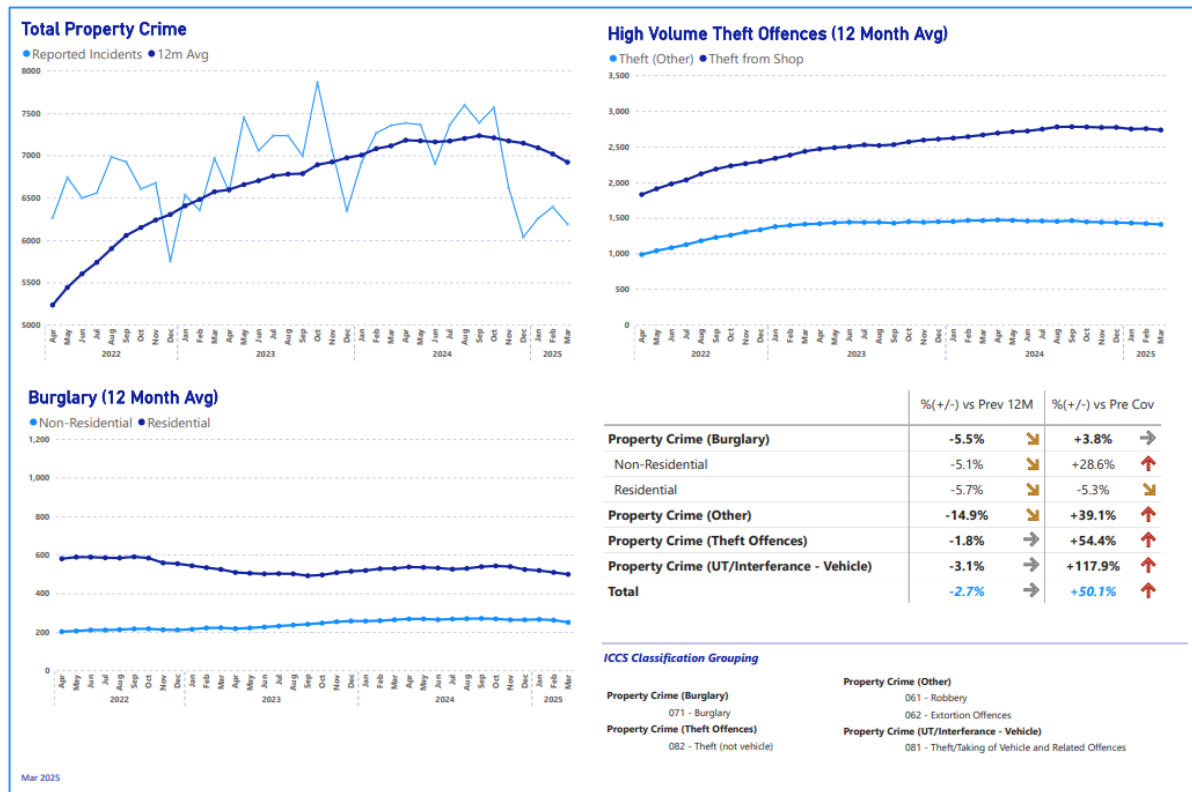
#### Key Dependencies

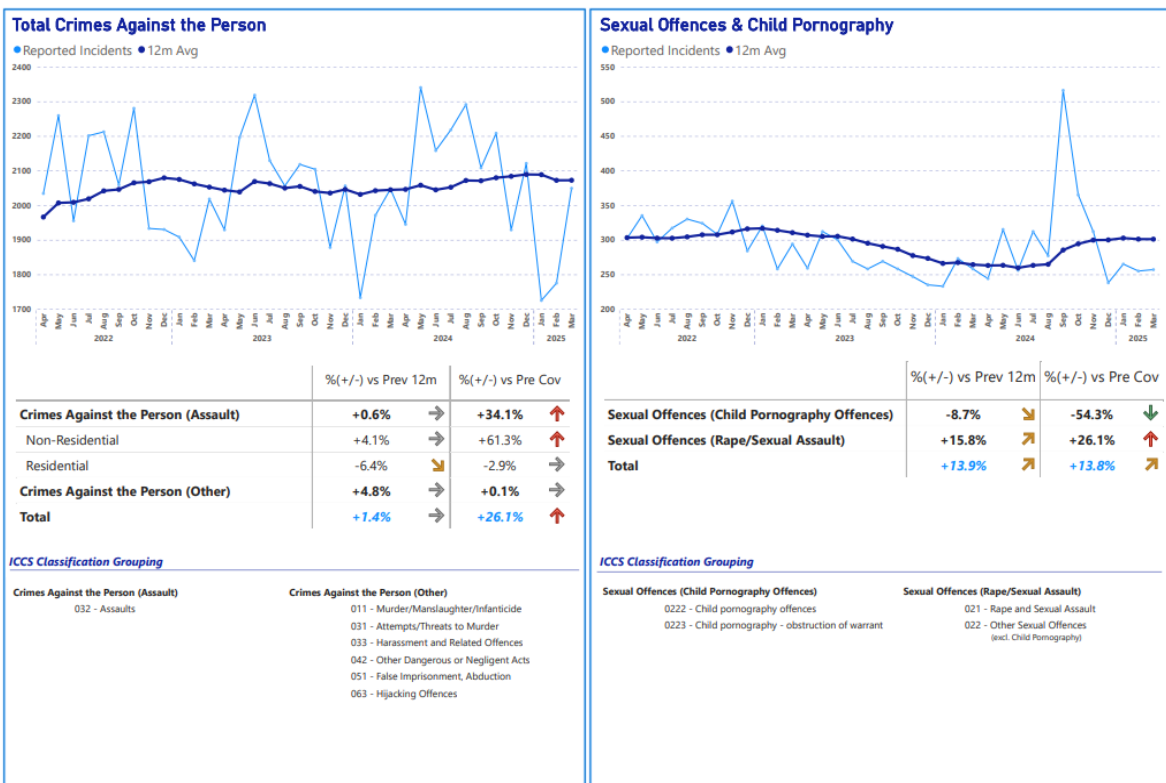
Across all divisions, resourcing continues to be a key dependency for the successful implementation of the Functional Areas. Work is continuing with Garda Estate Management and the OPW to address Operating Model related accommodation dependencies in divisions.

## 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.





### Use of Force March 2025

Category	March 2025
<b>Total UOF for Month</b>	1034
Civilians Injured	28
Garda Members Injured	11
Pepper Spray Deployed	115
Batons	27
Handcuffs	993
Anti-spit guard	0
Unarmed Restraint	196
Taser	4
Less Lethal Firearm	3
Firearm	1
Gender Subject to Force – Male	870
Gender Subject to Force – Female	124
Drugs Involved	287
Alcohol Involved	628
Division with highest level UOF – DMR South Central	190
Percentage of UOF Deployments occurring Friday, Saturday and Sunday	47%

## 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	164
Southern Region	33
Eastern Region	24
North Western Region	23
Total	244

Table 2 - Demonstration (Non Crime) – March 2025

Region	March 2025
Dublin Region	80
Southern Region	9
Eastern Region	7
North Western Region	11
Grand Total	107

### Policing at Events

The planning for, resourcing and policing of major events continues to provide a challenge in terms of policing resources. March was an eventful month for policing, security and traffic management. A number of major events drew people into Dublin City Centre, in particular the St. Patrick's Day festival, where an extensive policing plan deployed over 1,000 Gardaí to manage the thousands of visitors to the city for the weekend of celebrations.

### Roads Policing

An Garda Síochána continues to respond to road safety challenges. In March 2025, 13 people died in fatal collisions. There were 58 serious injury collisions reported in March 2025 and half of all fatalities this year have been drivers.

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 March 2025, there were 5,218 MIT checkpoints conducted. There was an average of approximately nine arrests per day nationally for driving under the influence of drugs, 15 per day for driving under the influence of alcohol and there were over 3,000 vehicles seized under the provisions of Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act in March 2025.

	March 2025
Mobile Phone FCNs	1,982
Seatbelt FCNs	533
Intercept Speed FCNs	3,991
Non-Intercept Speed FCNs	6,890
Total Speed FCNs	10,881

Driving While Intoxicated*	753
Driving While Intoxicated - alcohol as a factor	475
Driving While Intoxicated - drugs as a factor	292

Section 41 Detentions	March 2025
Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA)**	3,086
<i>Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no ins.</i>	<i>1,763</i>
<i>Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no tax</i>	<i>1,172</i>
<i>Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - no NCT</i>	<i>501</i>
<i>Vehicle Detained (Sc. 41 RTA) - unaccompanied learner drivers</i>	<i>685</i>

MIT Checkpoints - Breath/Oral Fluid Tests	March 2025
MIT Checkpoints - Breath Tests performed	19,303
MIT Checkpoints - Oral Fluid Tests performed	759

\* 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 02/04/2025 and is liable to change. Crime counting rules were not applied.

## **7. Community Engagement**

### **Garda National Youth Diversion Bureau attend meeting regarding disengagements from Youth Diversion Projects**

On 21 March 2025, representatives from Garda National Youth Diversion Bureau (GNYDB) attended a meeting organised by the Department of Justice on the subject of disengagements from youth diversion projects. As outlined in the operational requirements for youth diversion projects, there are two forms of disengagements; planned disengagements and unplanned disengagements. Planned disengagements is the result when the young person no longer requires the service, reduction in the risk of offending or where the young person has reached the age for a strategic transitional move to more appropriate services. Unplanned disengagements are where young people who have been included in the project fail to engage/participate with the project. It is this area that requires focus as these are the young people who need youth diversion project interventions and supports, and may continue to offend and present to Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers.

Stemming from the meeting, it has been proposed by the Department of Justice that the Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) Team at the University of Limerick examines disengagements and the current practice within six youth diversion projects, from both urban and rural areas, with representation from Foróige, Youth Work Ireland, Crosscare, Extern and independent community based organisations. GNYDB has commenced liaising with Garda Juvenile Liaison Officers in the six areas to assist in this process.

It is envisaged that following collation of this research, with input from An Garda Síochána, the result will be a proposed set of recommendations and actions to address the area of unplanned disengagements from youth diversion projects.