

SUMMER 2022

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NEWS UPDATE

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CYBER SECURITY

The world is facing an unprecedented level of cyber risk, and the reality of today's cyber threat landscape is a sophisticated underground economy worth more than \$6bn and it has surpassed drug trafficking as the number one crime of choice by organised criminal groups.

23

FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety awareness topped the 6th International Safety Education seminar agenda in Dublin recently, which also included the presentation of the European Fire Safety Award to Leitrim County Council Fire Service, as the lead partner for the BFireSafe@School project.

25

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

GOAL's Emergency Response Team has established an operational base in Lviv, to scale up its programmes in Eastern Ukraine, where thousands of internally displaced people, mostly women, children and elderly people, are caught on the frontline of the conflict.

27

POLICING AUTHORITY

The Policing Authority has published its latest list of priorities for An Garda Síochána over the next three years, which incorporates feedback from the public consultation process and ongoing stakeholder engagement.

28

GARDA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



An Garda Síochána | 1922-2022

100 Years of Keeping People Safe

#Garda100

Several initiatives and events are taking place throughout the year to mark the centenary of the establishment of An Garda Síochána in 1922, and the enactment of the Irish Free State Constitution.

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IRISH COAST GUARD

'Coast Guard saving lives in Ireland for 200 years' – a commemorative booklet that traces the organisation's history from its establishment by a British act of parliament in January 1822 – has been compiled by Joe Ryan, retired radio marine officer with the Coast Guard.

41

DEFENCE FORCES



The Commission on the Defence Forces has issued several recommendations in its final report to the Government. These propose increasing the current €1.1bn defence budget by 200%, expanding the Naval Service fleet to 12 ships and equipping the Air Corps with long-range transport aircraft, plus a squadron of up to 24 fighter jets to police Irish skies.

44

IRISH PRISON SERVICE

The appointment of international human rights lawyer Mark Kelly as the new Inspector of Prisons has come at a time with plans in the pipeline to expand the role of the office to include independent monitoring of detention across the criminal justice sector in Ireland.



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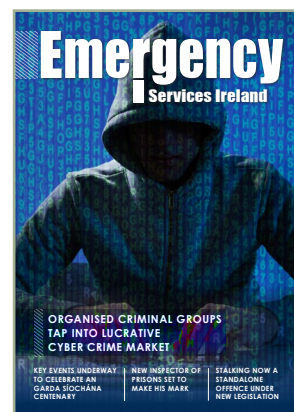
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence and harassment of women has come to the fore more than ever this year, and now for the first time in Ireland, legislation will be put in place to protect against gender-based crimes and to categorise stalking as a standalone criminal offence.

54

WATER SAFETY IRELAND

Clare McGrath's objective as the new Chair of Water Safety Ireland, during her five-year term of office, is to promote the necessary rescue training and skills to help in the prevention of water-related fatalities and accidents in Ireland.



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57 NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

A National Day of Remembrance to mark the efforts of the volunteers, frontline workers and members of the public during the pandemic, and to especially honour those people who tragically lost their lives due to Covid-19, took place in March.



67 LITTLE BLUE HEROES

The Little Blue Heroes Foundation continues to provide practical and financial support to the families of children who have serious illnesses in Ireland, and grants the wishes of those children to become Honorary Gardaí to foster positive engagement with An Garda Síochána.



59 IRISH HEART FOUNDATION

The Irish Heart Foundation has called for action to remove VAT on defibrillators as soon as is allowable under EU law, with the changes in EU legislation to give the Government power to abolish what the charity has condemned for years as "a tax on saving lives".

61 COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARD

An initiative to promote fire, road and water safety awareness nationwide, rolled out by the frontline agencies last year in a bid to help reduce fatalities and injuries during busy bank holiday weekends, took home the silver from this year's Community and Council Awards.

65 MOUNTAIN RESCUE IRELAND



Like all other emergency services, mountain rescue teams had to adapt to the 'new normal' during the height of the pandemic. Kenny Roberts, Secretary of Mountain Rescue Ireland, says that training continued apace as teams responded to those people needing urgent assistance, while rescuers operated on high Covid alert.

71 JADOTVILLE & NIEMBA SIEGES

Between 1960 and 1964 up to 6,000 Irish soldiers served with the UN in the Democratic Republic of Congo. More than 30 recommendations, mostly associated with Jadotville and Niemba, were disregarded for reasons that continue to remain an enigma and no explanation for this neglect has been ever offered to date.



77 CROSS-BORDER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Cross Border Emergency Management Group has developed an operational plan for 2022-2025 to enhance co-operation and resilience in emergency management and civil protection, consistent with the principles underpinned in the framework documents north and south.

81 EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW

The Emergency Services Show returns to Birmingham's NEC on 21 and 22 September and will showcase how technology and innovation are transforming emergency response for all blue light services and first responders.

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