

# THREE-YEAR POLICING PRIORITIES COME INTO FORCE



The Policing Authority has published its latest list of priorities to be addressed by An Garda Síochána over the next three years, incorporating feedback from the public consultation process and ongoing stakeholder engagement which showed that the main themes causing concern included a rise in sexual offences, child sexual abuse and domestic abuse cases.

The Policing Authority's Chief Executive, Helen Hall, said that the determination of policing priorities for the Garda Síochána is an important statutory function of the Authority.

"The fact that they are developed externally to the Garda Síochána provides an opportunity to listen to the community, and to reflect their views and concerns in the policing priorities. Our interactive and accessible public consultation, along with our ongoing programme of stakeholder engagement, meant that the voice of the community was heard during this significant process," she added.

In May 2021, the Policing Authority carried out a large-scale, interactive public consultation on policing priorities, which received almost 3,500 responses from a sample of the population from every county in Ireland, across cities, towns and rural areas.

## RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The results of this public consultation showed that sexual offences and child sexual abuse was the top priority for all genders, age groups, urban/rural background, and Garda regions, with similarly high prioritisation of domestic abuse.

Increased Garda visibility and tackling anti-social behaviour were also common themes across all demographics. These areas, and many others identified by the public consultation process, have been included in the Policing Priorities for 2022-2024.

The public consultation was one step in the process of developing the latest series of policing priorities, which also included research into priorities in other jurisdictions and consultation with the Gardaí. The Policing Authority has set these priorities for the duration of the Garda Strategy Statement period 2022-2024, and they will be subject to annual review.

## FIVE MAIN PRIORITIES

- Protecting and Supporting Victims and the Vulnerable:** To deliver a policing service to victims of sexual crime, domestic abuse, and coercive control that is victim-centred, trauma-informed, effective in preventing and detecting these crimes, vindicates human rights, and trusted by victims.
- Supporting and Ensuring Community Safety:** To understand and respond to anti-social behaviour, crime, and associated quality of life issues for communities. To address these in conjunction with its partners in a way that prevents crime, reduces fear, and results in a better quality of life for communities.
- Tackling Organised and Serious Crime:** To prevent and disrupt the activities of organised criminals, including those of international networks, engaged in national and transnational crime and reduce their impact on communities.

- Rights Based and Ethical Service Delivery:** To deliver a policing service in a manner that ensures that all those who encounter the Garda Síochána are dealt with in a way that: understands, respects and embodies diversity; vindicates and protects their human rights; is consistent with the Code of Ethics; and is centred on the Garda Decision Making Model.
- Development of the Capacity to Strategically Manage Garda Resources:** To ensure that finance, ICT, and capital assets are appropriately managed and strategically managed and deployed to support Garda Members, Garda Staff, and Garda Reserves. To ensure that this workforce is appropriately trained, skilled, managed, and supported to provide a service that responds to the crime environment and needs of the public.

An Garda Síochána has also published its Strategy Statement 2022-2024 setting out its aims in providing a policing service over the next three years, while the Policing Plan 2022 outlines the commitments by the force to the community on an annual basis. The latest Strategy Statement and annual Policing Plan were approved by the Policing Authority, with the consent of the Minister for Justice.

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