

GARDA DMR CONTROL CENTRE RELOCATES TO HEUSTON STATION

The Garda Síochána's new Control Centre for the Dublin Metropolitan Region, which has been relocated to the newly opened National Train Control Centre at Heuston Station in Dublin, represents another step forward in modernising the force and strengthening links with public transport operators.

The new state-of-the-art premises, whose doors were officially opened in May by Minister Simon Harris during his tenure as Justice Minister, is now the operations base of call takers and dispatchers.

The nerve centre to Garda operations in the Dublin Metropolitan Region, personnel working there are the people at the frontline who sometimes have to take the most challenging and time-sensitive calls. Iarnród Éireann and Dublin City Council are also expected to locate their control rooms there in the not-to-distant future.

The location of An Garda Síochána, Iarnród Éireann and Dublin City Council control centres in the same building will help Gardaí to build upon the relationships in place with public transport providers, particularly in the event of serious emergencies requiring co-ordinated responses.



The DMR Control Centre – located on the third floor of the new six-storey NTCC building complex on Military Road, Kilmainham – can accommodate up to 890 Garda personnel. (Pic: Gareth Chaney/ Collins Photos)



Irish Rail Chief Executive Jim Meade, Garda Commissioner Drew Harris, Minister Simon Harris, and OPW Chairperson Maurice Buckley pictured at the opening of the new Garda Control Centre at the National Train Control Centre in Heuston Station, Dublin in May. (Pic: Gareth Chaney/ Collins Photos)

Minister Simon Harris said: “We’re committed to building stronger, safer communities by ensuring An Garda Síochána have state-of-the-art premises and allowing for greater co-operation with Iarnród Éireann and Dublin City Council.

“It is crucial that anyone who finds themselves in an emergency situation has the confidence to call 999 and to know that their call will be responded to promptly and professionally.”

Thanking the call and dispatch staff for affording callers that confidence, the Minister said he looks forward to this facility being used by An Garda Síochána, Iarnród Éireann and Dublin City Council to improve public safety.

The new €40 million building, funded by the National Transport Authority under the National Development Plan, is designed to Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standards.

CO-LOCATING VITAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

Operations from Iarnród Éireann and Dublin City Council will be co-located in the building along with the Garda Síochána DMR Control Centre. The Office of Public Works (OPW) oversaw the planning and fit-out for the 999-call taking and dispatch centre.

Patrick O'Donovan, Minister of State with

responsibility for the Office of Public Works, said he was pleased to see that the DMR Control Centre has settled into the modern, purpose-built new home smoothly thanks to the rigorous testing and planning that preceded their move.

He commended the OPW's in-house teams who worked in collaboration with Irish Rail throughout the design and construction process of the National Train Control Centre (NTCC) to ensure the new premises achieve the highest standards.

"This is a building of the future, from co-locating important emergency services in the capital to showcasing the very best in sustainable design, energy optimisation, smart technology in use throughout and even green energy generation on site," he added.

Jim Meade, CEO of Iarnród Éireann welcomed Garda colleagues to the National Train Control Centre. "Having An Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council co-located with ourselves in this state-of-the-art building will further enhance our existing close relationship and ensure that we can all provide the best possible service to the communities we serve."

RELOCATION FROM HARCOURT SQUARE

The Control Centre, responsible for all 999-call taking and dispatching in the DMR, was previously located in Harcourt Square.

Due to the need to vacate premises, An Garda Síochána (AGS) required alternative accommodation for the units housed there. Walter Scott House, which opened in 2022, provided the majority of units in Harcourt Square with new premises.

However, a small number of units and bureaus could not be housed in Walter Scott House due to space limitations. Therefore, AGS and OPW sourced space in the National Train Control Centre at Heuston Station and agreed with Irish Rail for the use of this space for the DMR Control Centre, which now occupies the third floor of the NTCC building.



Garda Supt Lorraine Dobson from the Garda Control Centre with Assistant Commissioner Angela Willis in the DMR Garda Control Centre. (Pic: Gareth Chaney/Photos)

CHUBB AWARDED SECURITY CONTRACT

Chubb, a leading provider of security and fire safety solutions, was awarded the security contract for the new Garda Control Centre in January 2022, as part of the OPW project to build the new National Train Control Centre at Heuston Station in Dublin.

The new six-storey building complex, located in Military Road, Kilmainham near Heuston Station can accommodate up to 890 Garda personnel.

The contract requires Chubb to deliver a robust and scalable security solution that will include access control, intruder alarm and CCTV surveillance. The specification consists of a new IPCCTV system able to house 178 cameras, a door access system to support 140 access points, an intruder alarm system and an IP video intercom system connected at 30+ different locations.

In July 2021, Chubb was given an outline of where all the panic buttons, door access points and CCTV camera coverage must be placed throughout the entire building, based on the OPW quantities and requirements.

Chubb was awarded the security contract in January 2022 by CJK Engineering – the OPW's chosen electrical engineering contractor. The project got underway in



March, and the complex was completed towards the end of 2022.

"As a leading designer and integrator of security systems, our team at Chubb Ireland will leverage its expertise to ensure we deliver a robust and scalable solution should the OPW's requirements increase in the future," noted Alan O'Connor, Managing Director for Chubb Fire & Security in Ireland.