



**To the Chairperson and Members of the
Dublin City Joint Policing Committee**

December 3rd 2019

Halloween 2019

2019 is considered to have continued to build on the overall success of the approach to managing the Halloween period in recent years, in terms of the reduction in numbers of bonfires and associated anti-social experienced in the city.

Positive media coverage was widely obtained both in print, radio and online sources focusing on and advertising the wide variety of City Council-supported and organised events taking place throughout the city, and the City Council's drive to remove bonfire materials. Coverage was obtained on RTE television news promoting the positive impact of these events on incidences of Halloween-related anti-social behaviour. A Social Media campaign was also undertaken to promote these events.

Organised throughout the city the Halloween programme of events was extremely well-attended and the successes of 2018 were built upon by adding to the overall schedule of Dublin City Council events taking place in the city with notable new additions in the South East and South Central areas of the city. It is the presence and success of these events that is widely attributed to minimising the negative impacts traditionally associated with Halloween. Successful initiatives included holding community events in spaces that would previously have been the site of bonfires and the presence of these events avoided the fires occurring. Similarly, there were additional locations that have traditionally experienced the negative impact of bonfires annually where none took place this year.

While there were a small number of fires that were widely publicised due to their size or the presence of antisocial behaviour these were limited and the reports received back from the administrative areas indicate that there was an overall reduction in the number and scale of bonfire incidents.

In the lead up to Halloween, on-call services were again provided by all of the Administrative areas, Housing, Parks and Landscape Services, Waste Management and Enforcement departments to remove and dispose of potential bonfire material and to locate and remove stockpiles. The estimated tonnage of material removed in the immediate period prior to Halloween 2019 was 410 tonnes of material. This is a reduction on 2018 where in excess 600 tonnes of material was collected. The total tonnage of tyres recovered was also lower than in previous years, which seems

to indicate that waste tyre regulations are proving successful in reducing the numbers of waste tyres available.

Calls to the Customer Service Centre similarly decreased with just over 400 reports received in comparison to in excess of 600 reports of bonfire material stockpiling logged on Dublin City Councils CRM system in 2018.

The integral role of Dublin Fire Brigade in promoting a safe and friendly Halloween to schools through the Halloween Safety campaign and Fire Safety Week must be recognised for its positive impact in the lead-up to Halloween along with the significant efforts put into responding to the annual peak number of calls received by the service on Halloween night itself.

The success of the City Council responses to Halloween is directly attributed to the cooperation received from An Garda Síochána throughout the city in assisting in both the removal of stockpiling and supporting events while also carrying out the significant policing efforts required on Halloween night itself.

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