

**Dublin City Joint Policing Committee – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019**  
**Report of Assistant Commissioner, Dublin Metropolitan Region**

At this the Third meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2019. I will provide updates in the following areas:-

- Volume Crime 2019
- Serious Crime
- Assaults in Public Reduction Strategy 2019-2021
- Roads Policing
- Resources
- Strategic Partnership

**1. Volume Crime**

Up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019, Property Crime in the Dublin Region is up +4%. Violent Property crime has seen a decrease of -14%. Burglaries remain static with no change in the Dublin Region on the same period last year. This is coming on the back of a -7% reduction in burglaries in 2018 and a 37% decrease since 2014. There have been 49 days of action in the DMR to-date in 2019. There have been 138 days of action in the DMR in 2018 under the auspice of Operation Thor. An Garda Síochána will continue to focus further days of action planned under Operation Thor in 2019. In addition, year to date proactive policing figures indicate 997 detections for handling/ possession of stolen property (+3%) and 226 detections of persons in possession of article with intent to burgle/ steal (+2%).

Public Order shows an increase at +13% and Begging offences are at -35% in the Dublin Region. An Garda Síochána will continue to focus hi-visibility patrols to target key hotspot areas. Efforts will continue in key areas particularly at the weekends to address matters of a public order nature. Criminal Damage incidents are up slightly at +7% in the Dublin Region.

Crimes against the Person is at +11% on same period in 2018 within the Dublin Region. Minor Assaults are at +14%. Assaults causing harm are at +4% in the Dublin Region. Hi-visibility strategies will remain in place to address this problem. Operation Spire (high visibility policing operation tackling increased levels of on-street drug dealing and the associated anti-social and criminal behaviour in Store Street District) and Operation Pier (high visibility policing operations targeting incidents of public disorder & anti-social behaviour within the Pearse Street District); remain in place in the City Centre to tackle these crime categories in the city.

Policing Plans for 2019 have identified a National Strategy to reduce Assaults as a priority. This strategy will target actions under key pillars, such as Prevention, Partnership and Education. This initiative will be outlined further hereunder.

Trends for firearms offences in the Dublin Region are up with 19 (+15%) more incidents than in 2018.

Overall drug offences indicate an increase +21% in the Dublin Region. Drug offences include Possession for sale or supply (+16%) and Possession for personal use (+20%). Garda activity in this area indicates 31,923 (+12%) incidents of searches in the Dublin Region in 2019.

Some recent significant seizures include: -

- In a joint operation on 1st September 2019, involving members of the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau and the United Kingdom National Crime Agency a number of searches were carried in Dublin and Meath. A seizure of 7 kgs of heroin with an estimate value €1 million euro was seized and three men were arrested.
- On the 2nd October 2019, Gardai conducted a search of a premises in the Drumcondra area and seized drugs (Cannabis) with an estimated street value €390,000. One person was arrested.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019, Gardai seized drugs (Cocaine) with an estimated street value of €100,000 following the search of a house in the Lucan area. One person was arrested.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Gardai seized drugs (Cannabis herb, Cocaine and Diamorphine) with an estimated street value of €400,000, after stopping a car, and searching a house in the Ballymun area. Five persons were arrested.

## 2. Serious Crime

Overall 18 murders occurred in the Dublin Metropolitan Region in 2019 to-date. This compares with 15 in the corresponding period in 2018.

While I am constrained in discussing particulars of the cases for operational reasons, I wish to assure this committee that all investigations are fully resourced and are making progress. Each of which is being overseen by a dedicated Senior Investigating Officer.

Progress is being made in all murder investigations in 2018 and 2019:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Arrests</b>	<b>Searches</b>	<b>Charges</b>	<b>Firearms Seized</b>	<b>Investigative tasks</b>
<b>2018</b>	17	68	11	4	4,683
<b>2019</b>	14	55	9	4	3,544

Operation Hybrid continues to provide an armed response to organised crime in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This operation is reviewed on a weekly basis. The operation incorporates a number of hi-visibility armed checkpoints and patrols throughout the Region. Since February 2016, to November 19 there have been 82,669 checkpoints, 19,535 patrols and 23,082 searches conducted under the auspice of Operation Hybrid.

The DMR Armed Support Unit continue to provide a hi-visibility armed support throughout the Region and will provide a further support to front-line policing in our ongoing commitment to tackling serious crime in 2019.

## 3. Assaults in Public Reduction Strategy 2019-2021

An Garda Síochána is committed towards the reduction of assaults in public from 2019 to 2021. It has been designated as a key deliverable of the Policing Plan 2019 and is an important element of An Garda Síochána's mission of 'Keeping People Safe'. This strategy is informed by our organisational objectives and will involve a number of operations and initiatives under the following principles: -

- ✓ Principle 1 – Commitment to Projecting people and Communities
- ✓ Principle 2 – Awareness and Education as a crime prevention technique
- ✓ Principle 3 – Policing Operational Efficiency
- ✓ Principle 4 – Location Management by working in Partnership

✓ Principle 5 – Offender Management

This strategy also builds on our ongoing crime prevention initiatives such as the Summertime Safety Campaign and the “Use Your Brain, Not Your Fists” information campaign.

#### 4. Roads Policing

Up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 there has been a decrease in fatal traffic collision, with a slight increase across serious injury collisions. Fatal collisions have decreased by 1 incident, Serious Injury Collisions have increased by 3 incidents. Non Serious Injury Collisions have risen by 89 incidents and Material Damage Only Collisions increased by 10% (966 incidents).

There have been a total of 1,426 Driving While Intoxicated offences to date this year. This is +16% with figures this time last year.

There have been 10,645 vehicles detained under Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act this 2019 to date, 6% increase on the previous year.

Operation Open City will take place between Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019 to Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2019, inclusive. The operation has been developed in consultation with our external partners including National Transport Agencies, Local Authorities and Transport Providers. The aim is ‘**To facilitate the movement of Public Transport and minimise traffic disruption to the general public, through hi-visibility and enforcement activities**’. The operation will include the dedicated deployment of 90 newly allocated Probationer Gardai to the DMR on the operation supported by the DMR Roads Policing Unit.

The Roads Policing priorities for the Dublin Metropolitan Region are set out in the DMR Roads Policing Operations Plan for 2019, which includes working in partnership with other agencies, including the Road Safety Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Road Safety Officers in local authorities to reduce road deaths and serious injuries. Furthermore, it involves the tackling of all forms of criminality on our Road Networks.

#### 5. Resources

The JPC has requested to report on Personnel levels.

The moratorium on recruitment which commenced in 2009 impacted on the overall Garda numbers throughout the organisation. The Government decision agreed a five-year reform and high level workforce plan for An Garda Síochána. The overall vision for the Garda workforce is of 21,000 personnel by 2021 comprising 15,000 Garda members, 2,000 Garda Reserve members and 4,000 Civilian staff.

Hereunder are the total figures allocated to the DMR in January 2018, and currently October 19: -

Date	Inspectors	Sergeants	Gardai	Total
January 2018	76	410	3133	3619
October 2019	98	486	3344	3928

The next allocation of Probationer Gardai are due on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019. The number to be allocated to the DMR from this deployment is 90 new Probationer Gardai.

#### 6. Strategic Partnership

Partnerships continue to form a very important part of our policing strategy in 2018 through a variety of community and interagency initiatives.

Both the Teenagers and Gardai (TAG) Programme; and the Late Night Leagues; which is aimed at promoting positive engagement among Gardaí and Teenagers in the community, is delivered by Juvenile Liaison Officers and Community Gardai continue to be key initiatives for An Garda Síochána.

The Late Night Leagues are currently ongoing having been extended for a further period of 4 weeks commencing the 4<sup>th</sup> November. The Regional Finals will take place at Irishtown Stadium on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

The Inaugural Garda National Youth Awards were held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019, in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise. The Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan TD, was in attendance, and in total, 22 awards were presented to over 100 young people aged 13 to 21 years old in recognition of their contribution to making their communities better places to live.

An Garda Síochána continue to work with the following initiatives: -

- Cold Weather Initiative
- Dublin City Centre Business Forum.
- Assertive Case Management Team (ACMT)

## **7. Community Policing**

The National Framework for Community Policing has been signed off by the Executive of An Garda Síochána and therefore in 2020, implementation will commence across the DMR with each District and Division being mapped into Community Policing areas followed by the appointment of dedicated Community Gardaí supported by Community Policing teams. This has already commenced in some areas across the city.

## **Conclusion**

I have outlined above the position in respect of policing in 2019 to-date. I wish to thank this committee and other strategic partners for their input to our planning cycle. Our initiatives are primarily focused on addressing policing issues in a collaborative manner involving our strategic partners and I look forward to continuing to develop these initiatives throughout 2019.

**Thank You**