



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

**Assistant Commissioner, Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR)  
Dublin City, Joint Policing Committee (JPC)  
18<sup>th</sup> May, 2021,**



## Executive Summary

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## 1 Volume Crime:

Up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Property Crime in the Dublin Region is down -27%. The greatest volume crime reductions were delivered by Burglary -50% lower. Violent Property crime has seen a decrease of -15% and there has been a decrease of -34% in Aggravated Burglary incidents, (27 incidents YTD compared to 41 in YTD 2020). In respect of the DMR, Burglary figures are -50% on a year on comparison 2020/2021, which may be attributed to when Covid regulations came into effect with aggravated burglary down -34%. Property Crime (-27%). Robbery from Establishment (-10%), Robbery from Person (-30%), Burglary (not aggravated) (-50%), UT of vehicle (-29%), Theft from vehicle (-31%), Theft from person (-71%) and Theft from Shop (-2%).

Burglaries are down by -51%

Division	Trend	2020 (30/4/20)	2021 (30/04/21)
DMR East	-64%	333	120
DMR North Central	-53%	232	108
DMR North	-31%	262	181
DMR South Central	-52%	348	168
DMR South	-51%	350	171
DMR West	-49%	426	217
<b>Total</b>	<b>-51%</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>965</b>

Violent Property crime has seen a decrease -15%

Division	Trend	2020 (30/4/20)	2021 (30/04/21)
DMR East	-7%	29	27
DMR North Central	+21%	68	82
DMR North	-17%	110	91
DMR South Central	-30%	98	69
DMR South	-45%	84	46
DMR West	+1%	87	88
<b>Total</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>403</b>

Aggravated Burglary incidents -34%

Division	Trend	2020 (30/4/20)	2021 (30/04/21)
DMR East	+67%	3	5
DMR North Central	+0%	4	4
DMR North	-80%	15	3
DMR South Central	+33%	3	4
DMR South	-20%	5	4
DMR West	-36%	11	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>-34%</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>27</b>



### Public Order -3%

Division	Trend	2020 (30/4/20)	2021 (30/04/21)
DMR East	+19%	170	203
DMR North Central	-23%	683	528
DMR North	-10%	393	355
DMR South Central	+2%	741	756
DMR South	+11%	310	345
DMR West	+8%	436	469
<b>Total</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>2733</b>	<b>2656</b>

As of 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, the Dublin Region has recorded a 14% decrease in Crimes against the Person. Incidents of Minor Assault were 18% lower while incidents of Assault Causing Harm were 12% lower during the year to date.

### Minor Assaults -18%

Division	Trend	2020 (30/4/20)	2021 (30/04/21)
DMR East	-25%	104	78
DMR North Central	-9%	191	174
DMR North	-8%	266	244
DMR South Central	-49%	241	123
DMR South	-9%	158	143
DMR West	-7%	268	248
<b>Total</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>1228</b>	<b>1010</b>

### Assaults causing harm -12%

Division	Trend	2020 (30/4/20)	2021 (30/04/21)
DMR East	-22%	32	25
DMR North Central	-17%	110	91
DMR North	+2%	125	128
DMR South Central	-39%	83	51
DMR South	+31%	49	64
DMR West	-19%	135	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>468</b>

Trends for weapons and explosive offences in the Dublin Region are down 14% YTD, overall weapons and explosive detections indicate a decrease -1% across the region.



Possession for Sale or Supply -12%

Division	Trend	2020 (30/4/20)	2021 (30/04/21)
DMR East	+89%	37	55
DMR North Central	-7%	240	223
DMR North	+5%	133	140
DMR South Central	-39%	246	151
DMR South	-8%	149	137
DMR West	-9%	238	217
<b>Total</b>	<b>-12%</b>	<b>1043</b>	<b>923</b>

Possession for personal use -5%

Division	Trend	2020 (30/4/20)	2021 (30/04/21)
DMR East	+63%	111	162
DMR North Central	-25%	267	199
DMR North	-27%	464	340
DMR South Central	-6%	191	180
DMR South	-14%	315	272
DMR West	+11%	758	840
<b>Total</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>2106</b>	<b>1993</b>

Assistant Commissioner, DMR is proactively promoting the awareness and effectiveness of the Drug Related Intimidation, reporting programme. A positive frontline response in collaboration with local drug awareness task forces has been developed to provide evidence based strategic response to this community harm.

Hi-visibility strategies have remained in place throughout the city with the ultimate aim to deter crime and increase public safety through high visibility patrols. Operation Spire is an ongoing high visibility policing operation tackling increased levels of on-street drug dealing and the associated anti-social and criminal behaviour in Store Street District. From the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 – 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021, Operation Spire effected over 307 arrests and 864 searches of the person under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Operation Pier is a similar operation conducted within the Pearse Street District Operation Pier for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021 – 28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2021, resulted in the arrest of 372 suspects and 29 drug seizures.

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2021, the DMR has policed and recorded 68 protests / demonstrations. All protests are risk assessed by Garda Management in terms of the risks associated with the protest and commensurate with Covid – 19 restrictions that are in effect at the time. The DPP has directed prosecutions contrary to Section 31A of the Health Act 1947 (Temporary Restrictions) (Covid-19) Regulations, 2020 for a number of these files and proceedings have now commenced.



## 1.1 Incidents of note in Q2, 2021:

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, an operation was conducted in relation to the theft and sale of Catalytic Converters. The investigation commenced at Dublin Port when approx. **€480,000** worth of Catalytic Converters that was intercepted. This led to a search at a premises in which 2150 Catalytic Converts were seized, 14 drums of smelted catalytic converts with combined value of **€2.2 million**. Gardaí arrested and questioned an individual in connection with this seizure and a file is being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

## 2. Serious Crime:

From 1st January to date six (6) murders occurred in the Dublin Metropolitan Region in 2021, five (5) of which are recorded as detected and all are being overseen by a dedicated Senior Investigating Officer.

### 2.1 Operation Faoiseamh:

Operation Faoiseamh is An Garda Síochána's response to Domestic Abuse related incidents. Operation Faoiseamh aims to provide an enhanced level of support, protection and reassurance to victims of domestic abuse. Increased volumes of reported Domestic Abuse incidents were recorded in most DMR Divisions during 2021.

Domestic Abuse Incidents are +14% YTD.

Divison	Trend
DMR East	-14%
DMR North Central	+17%
DMR North	+6%
DMR South Central	+13%
DMR South	-3%
DMR West	+10%
Total	+6%

Domestic Abuse incident call back compliance rates 72% YTD.



## 2.2 Operation Hybrid:

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As part of the overall crime management structure in the DMR, Operation Hybrid continues to have a strategic objective and a focussed, targeted and integrated approach to persons involved in organised crime. This strategy is influenced by the identification of offenders, timely analysis of information and utilisation of a range of interventions to target various facets of the organised crime groupings.

The operation encompasses a cohesive approach by uniform and plain clothes members from local and national units. This operation incorporates high visibility Divisional checkpoints across the Region with uniform support from local units, armed units and Regional Traffic.

Further to disrupting organised crime, Operation Hybrid seeks to reduce the impact of organised Crime Groups in Communities to enhance public safety and to enhance and develop intelligence relating to existing and emerging organised crime groups in the DMR. In respect of the DMR, possession of drugs for sale and supply – 12% on a year on comparison 2020/2021, possession of drugs for personal use - 5%, possession of firearm – 23% and possession of offensive weapon - 14%. We have seen an increase of 175% in Cultivation or Manufacture of Drugs detections, which is up 7 incidents on last year.

## 2.3 Operation Soteria:

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Operation Soteria is a National strategy which promotes a pro-arrest, early-investigation, proactive high-visibility approach to assault reduction in each Garda division with emphasis on prevention, education and awareness. This strategy promotes early prosecution of offenders where appropriate. The strategy has an accompanying operational order, which outlines roles and responsibilities, governance mechanisms at both national and local level, key principles and guidelines for implementation of the strategy.

This strategy focusses on five (5) key strategic principles for the reduction of assaults:

1. Protecting People and Communities
2. Awareness and Education As A Crime Prevention Technique
3. Policing Operational Efficiency
4. Location Management by Working In Partnership
5. Offender Management

Each of these principles have specific goals and objectives and ultimately are about how best to protect communities from assaults, raise awareness on the devastating effects this type of crime has through education and the media, increasing policing operational efficiency and the use of location and offender management. Assault Causing Harm incidents in the DMR are - 12% compared to this time last year, while Assault minor is - 18%.



## 2.4 Operation Realistic:

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In 2021, Operation Realistic was established regionally by Assistant Commissioner, DMR to combat Human Trafficking within the DMR. The focus of this operation is to identify victims of Human Trafficking and prosecute any individuals involved in the organising or facilitating of Human Trafficking. The operational objective is to have a targeted victim centred approach to all areas of activity susceptible to Human Trafficking in the DMR Region. It is designed to set out the Regional strategic approach to monitoring Human Trafficking assisting Irelands tier placement on the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

## 3. Public Order & Anti-Social behaviour:

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Since the start of 2021 the Garda National Public Order Unit [GNPOU] has been deployed every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at optimum times commensurate when anti-social behaviour and reports of public disorder is at its peak. In addition, the GNPOU has been deployed when and where risk assessments have necessitated their deployment in response to various protests and policing operations. Public Order Offences has for the year to date seen a decrease of -3% in the DMR,

## 4. Drug Related Intimidation:

### 4.1 Operation Fóggra

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Operation Fóggra is An Garda Síochána's response in the DMR to Drug Related Intimidation (DRI) which has been identified as a major source of community harm and fear in the DMR and is a sinister motive for various forms of criminality. The operation has two (2) underpinning pillars, namely a harm reduction victim centred approach and Information enabled policing informing operational responses.

The objectives of Operation Fóggra are to increased frontline awareness of DRI, enhance collaboration with community supports, improve effectiveness of the DRI Reporting Programme and provide a greater analytical understanding of DRI, driving appropriate proactive interventions.

Operation Fóggra is delivering enhanced focus and a collaborative and consistent approach to identifying incidents of DRI, highlighting areas of commonality within the DMR, victims are receiving the necessary supports and criminals involved in DRI incidents are identified. Local Garda management have been instructed on this operation and to ensure that all incidents are thoroughly investigated. Through the implementation of Operation Fóggra our operational outcomes are:

- Increased community confidence in the policing response
- Reduction in community harm/fear from DRI
- Meeting our whole of policing objectives with the community
- More evidence based approach to operational interventions
- Enhanced victim centred approach
- Keeping people safe





## 5 Overview of CCTV Issues DMR:

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An application under Section 38 of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005, has been submitted to correct a deficit of CCTV capacity exists in Hardwicke Street Flats, Dermot O'Dwyer House, Dorset St Upper, Rutland Street and Ballybough/Summerhill. There is a requirement for CCTV cameras to be placed in strategic locations along the Grand Canal that runs through the Kevin Street CE Area. This has been highlighted in a recent security survey report of the Grand Canal from Kylemore to Dolphins Barn. Consultations are to be arranged with the relevant authorities, namely Dublin City Council and Waterways Ireland.

## 6 Underage drinking (Alcohol) & Drinking (alcohol) in Public Places:

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For the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, the DMR North Central issued 13 adult behavioural warnings. Local Garda management ensure a measured and focused policing response to areas known to facilitate underage drinking and the consumption of alcohol in public places. As part of Operation Fanacht there is a focus on public outdoor areas in an effort to prevent outdoor drinking.

COVID-19 has impacted Schools programme and members on patrol are policing both Underage Drinking (Alcohol) & Drinking (alcohol) in a Public Place which with the arrival of better weather, 'take away' pints and outdoor dining has proved more challenging in recent times.

## 7 Youth Diversion:

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The Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) is a strategic offender management initiative led by An Garda Síochána (AGS), the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service (IPS), with the active support and engagement of the Department of Justice (DOJ). The key objectives of JARC are to:

- Develop and strengthen a multi-agency approach to the management of prolific offenders;
- Prioritise such offenders for targeted interventions and supports to address their behaviour; and
- Reduce crime and victimisation in local communities.

Under JARC, offenders causing most harm in certain communities are identified and selected as 'clients' under one of several offender management programme's. Each programme is delivered on the ground by an operational team of frontline Gardaí, probation officers and prison officers who work closely with each client to address the factors behind their offending and to direct them away from criminality. JARC offers its clients tailored supports and practical help with addiction, educational, training or other needs. It is thus implemented in partnership with various community-based organisations and with the support of other Government Departments and State agencies. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that Chief Superintendent, Garda National Community Relations Bureau will deliver a presentation on youth referrals in the DMR to JPC.



## 8 Traffic Management in the DMR:

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There are no significant issues to report, and the situation is unlikely to change until such time as traffic volumes return to pre Pandemic rates. Operation Surround occurred over the May Bank Holiday on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, with the objective of minimising fatal and serious injury collisions, promote good driver behaviour and to target criminals using the roads thus giving credence to the ethos of 'Denying Criminals the use of the Roads'. The Operation involved a number of high visibility checkpoints at locations including, but not limited to Dublin Airport, M11 Outbound at Junction 6, and the N81 Outbound at the Blue Gardinia. The Operation enjoyed a number of successes and detections.

## 9. Planning of Major Events in the DMR:

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A significant and co-ordinated Garda operation across all internal and specialist sections within An Garda Síochána was implemented in the DMR on St Patrick's Day. The primary objective of the operation was to minimise the risk to public health; to maximise public safety; to maintain core policing functions; to detect crime and preserve the peace and to promote confidence in An Garda Síochána.

Frontline high visibility members in the DMR were supported by specialist sections including the Garda Air Support Unit [GASU], Garda Dog Unit [GDU], Garda National Public Order Unit [GNPOU], Security & Intelligence, Garda Digital Intelligence Unit [DIU], DMR Co-ordination & Tasking Unit [CTU], Garda Water Unit [GWU], Garda Mounted Unit [GMU], Armed Support Unit [ASU], Emergency Response Unit [ERU], Roads Policing, plain clothes and Detective Units.

Assistance was also provided to the DMR operation through local interventions and operation targeting certain individuals and transport systems. In excess of **2, 068 Garda personnel** across all ranks were deployed on St Patricks Day / Night in the DMR.

Gardaí arrested 21 individuals [14 male & 7 females] on suspicion of various offences under the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994 and the Health Act, 1947 as amended arising from various protests arising from protests in the DMR on St. Patricks Day. All 21 were charged, while 14 were brought before the evening sitting of District Court 2 at 4.30pm where they were granted District Court bail with certain bail conditions.



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## 10. Policing of Public Transport:

Each Chief Superintendent, DMR has implemented policing plans in respect of their Division specifically targeting public transport including Luas, Buses, Dart, Trains and recreational areas with both overt and covert resources being deployed. Gardaí are conducting both overt and covert patrols of various public transport to address incidents of non-compliance under the Health Act, 1947 as amended, incidences of anti-social behaviour or any other criminal offences.

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## 11. Operation Fanacht:

For the period January, February, March and April, 2021, Gardaí in the DMR conducted a significant number of checkpoints to ensure compliance with the applicable Covid Regulations.

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## 12. Operation Navigation:

For the period January, February, March and April, 2021, Gardaí in the DMR conducted a significant number of visits to licensed premises engaged in the sale of alcohol to ensure compliance with the relevant Covid Regulations.

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## 13. Operation Treoraím:

For the period January, February, March and April, 2021, Gardaí in the DMR conducted a significant number of visits to retail premises to ensure all current trading was in compliance with the relevant Covid Regulations.

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## 14. Casual Trading in the DMR:

The 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, saw the first return to the sale of non-essential items in 2021, there are no incidences regarding casual trading in the Region to report. Trading is reviewed on an ongoing basis during Q1 2021 and in line with Covid 19 Regulations. The usual targeting of Casual Trading from the point of view of Operation Tombola or targeting tobacco sales will continue.

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## 15. Litter Issues in the DMR:

Garda management in the DMR North Central report that there is a litter issue in and around the area of Lucky Lane. Community Policing in the Bridewell have engaged with DCC in this regard. Anecdotal evidence indicates an increase in litter due to an increase in traffic in public spaces and with the easing of restrictions. The issue of sufficient public toilets is also an issue where significant complaints have been made with regard to persons using streets as toilets, perhaps consideration may be given to this matter by local authorities.



## 16. Community Based Crime Prevention Initiatives:

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A significant number of Community engagement initiatives are ongoing in the DMR, which include meetings with a number of community groups over the last number of weeks to emphasise the work that has been conducted and to reassure member of the community and stakeholders that An Garda Síochána are taking a full policing response and are taking effective action in response to any instances involving public order, knife related crime and drug crime.

The number of schools visits in the DMR North Central Division since September, 2020, to date, number 28, during which topics discussed with students include an awareness regarding the abuse of substances, knife crime and money muelling and internet safety.

The services of the Divisional CPO for specific crime prevention advice are utilised continuously across the Region. In the DMR South Central Divison issue a quarterly newsletter to all Neighbourhood Watch Groups through a dedicated email facility, this includes specific crime prevention advice re security of homes, vehicles etc.

### 16.1 Operation Spoke:

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Operation Spoke is a community engagement initiative in the Bridewell Garda District focusing on bike safety with the objective of reducing the incidents of bike theft. The operation was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 in the Smithfield, Capel Street and Little Britain street area. The operation was in place for a total of 18 hours and employed Garda members from Unit A, NPU and CPU. Operation Cascade was carried out during April, 2021 and involved individual engagement with residents of Montpellier Hill community reassurance and development of neighbourhood watch - 125 houses visited. There was also a specific covert operation in Dorset Street from 30<sup>th</sup> April to the 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 in relation to drug dealing.

### 16.2 Operation Canter:

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In the Mountjoy District in response to an increase of public order and drug related offences in the area an operation is in place for the areas of Summerhill, Rutland Street and Ballybough. There is a dedicated team who patrol this area and have a number of results in relation to drug and theft offences. The members are also addressing the issue of public order offences in these areas. Dedicated beats are in place along the canal to deal with members of the public drinking in public.



### **16.3 Introducing STORY SEEDS: Springtime in the North Inner City:**

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This spring, the Community Engagement Unit at Mountjoy and Store Street Garda Stations with Fighting Words are working with primary schools to create new stories about the area where students live. Bringing together 24 schools, teams of Fighting Words mentors are creating six (6) new stories of four (4) chapters each at online workshops, with the support of North East Inner City (NEIC) and the Irish Youth Foundation (IYF). The stories will be published together in a book in May, 2021, and available online.

All secondary schools in the U District have been visited and the all the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students were introduced to the Community Engagement members. The members spoke to the students in relation to public order and related offences. The Unit have also met with various youth groups over the past few weeks in a “Meet the Team” format. This includes Youth Diversion projects and youth groups, more are planned in the coming weeks. The unit were invited to add a section to the Ballybough Youth Newsletter. This was done in March. In order to address issues in Ballybough house a policing plan was drawn up and an UKR number attached for patrols. The Community Engagement Team have also liaised with DCC in respect of fixing doors within the complex. This area seems to have quietened down with less complaints being received.

### **16.4 Business Watch Scheme:**

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In the Store Street District, a Business Watch Scheme is in place at the IFSC and four (4) zones have been identified and estate managers for each zone have been nominated. Local Garda management are developing a bicycle owners register in conjunction with the pilot Community Safety Partnership. The register will be held at Store Street and its primary function is to assist in the return of stolen bicycles to their rightful owners. The initiative has been examined by the Garda GDPR Office and they have approved the project on the basis that the data held will be used in a policing function.

### **16.5 Schools Programme function:**

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As a result of Covid restrictions, the Community Policing team at Store Street Garda Station have produced a personalised video for use in the Schools Programme function. The video actually features the members of the Community Policing team here at Store Street and a huge amount of effort was put into the production of it.

### **16.6 Late Night Leagues:**

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When Covid restrictions are lifted, a late night league will be re-established including An Garda Síochána, Dublin Fire Brigade, the local community and the Brazilian community.



### **16.7 The Garda Youth Awards:**

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The Garda Youth Awards are currently underway and those awards are set to be announced shortly.

### **16.8 Minority Communities:**

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Local Garda management across the Region continue to ensure that minority communities are fully engaged with. In conjunction with Garda Community relations and Diversity, Superintendent, Garda National Community Relations Bureau and Superintendent Store Street have collaborated with the various contacts that have been established. The feedback from the various representatives has been positive and have expressed their gratitude and complimented the standard of the Garda engagement and investigations in respect of criminal complaints received by Gardaí.

***Anne Marie Cagney,***  
***Assistant Commissioner, DMR***