**Reply from Minister McEntee to M68311 (January ’21)**

**Minister’s Reference: DJE-MO-00646-2021**

Dear Mr. McAdam,

Thank you for your email to the Minister for Justice, Ms Helen McEntee TD, regarding antisocial behaviour and drug dealing. Minister McEntee has requested that I respond to you on her behalf.

I note that you have also written to the Local Superintendent, who is best placed to deal with the issues you raise regarding specific local policing initiatives.

A new Youth Justice Strategy will be published shortly, which is to cover the period from now until 2026. A key priority for this new Strategy will be to strengthen and expand the role of the Garda Youth Diversion projects and other community-based initiatives, including those working with the Probation Service.

Bringing the full range of relevant interventions together in a coherent and holistic response to youth crime will support the objective of diverting young people from crime and anti-social behaviour. A key focus the Youth Justice Strategy is considering how youth justice policy might be more closely aligned to other child and youth polices, and to the promotion of community and local development.

In this regard, prevention and early intervention is a key priority. The Minister would like to highlight the importance of bringing all the relevant agencies and programmes together, including schools, to ensure that we provide a holistic, ‘wrap around’ response to the needs of children and young people at risk in the specific family and community context.

A new Forum on Anti-Social Behaviour was established in October 2020 in line with Programme for Government Commitment, chaired by Minister of State James Browne. The Forum provides an additional mechanism to distil stakeholder views on the factors giving rise to anti-social behaviour and potential solutions.

As well as allowing for an overview of opinions and approaches, the Forum can also act as an initial network to facilitate more detailed examination of specific issues. In this regard Minister of State Browne is convening a small group to examine approaches to community interventions to address the misuse of scramblers and other vehicles. This will complement and support work (led by the Department of Transport) to strengthen Road Traffic Legislation, as well as Garda operational strategies.

It is anticipated that the Forum will produce recommendations for broad actions to address anti-social behaviour, which may help to inform the development of new community-based structures, following the enactment of new Community Safety legislation, and in the context of the development of a new Community Safety Strategy.

The recently announced legislation outlawing the coercion of children into a life of crime is another important tool in the fight against crime networks using children as a resource to carry out criminal activity on their behalf.

An Garda Síochána conducted a search of the PULSE database on 2nd February 2021 for incidents matching the below types for the period 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2020 and for the Garda Stations of Clondalkin, Rathcoole, Lucan and Ronanstown:

Behaviour Orders (Children)

Behaviour Warnings (Adult)

Behaviour Warnings (Children)

Based on the numbers returned, a total was aggregated for the four Garda Stations for each year (2019 and 2020) as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Behaviour Warnings/Orders Issued | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Area | 2019 | 2020 |  |
| Dublin Mid-West\* | < 10 | 29 |  |

\* Garda Stations of Clondalkin, Rathcoole, Lucan and Ronanstown combined

Please be aware that these figures are based on incidents recorded on PULSE as of 2nd February, 2021; they are operational and may be liable to change.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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**Patrick McCabe**Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice

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**An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt**

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