

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-06174-2026

Dear Ms. Conroy,

Thank you for your email of 12 May to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan. I am responding to you on behalf of the Minister.

While the Garda Commissioner is responsible by law for the distribution and stationing of Gardaí, the Minister engages regularly with him to ensure that he has the resources that he needs, and a strengthened, well-resourced Garda organisation is central to this policy.

This is reflected in the record allocation of €2.74 billion in the Garda Vote for 2026 which will support the continued recruitment of Gardaí and Garda staff. The Garda budget will fund the recruitment of up to 1,000 new Gardaí, 200 more Garda staff and additional Garda Reserve this year. An additional 392,000 overtime hours will meet the sustained demand for a visible and responsive policing presence.

I am informed that when allocating Garda members to and from any Division or station, consideration is given to commitments and undertakings outlined in the Annual Policing Plan.

I am further informed that the requirements of all Garda Divisions nationwide are also taken into account, which include:

- Local and national crime trends and workloads;
- Policing arrangements and operational strategies;
- Minimum establishment statistics;

- Local population and trends, geographical area and size;
- Transfer applications, including welfare, personnel issues and concerns.

The Operating Model is intended to release more front-line Gardaí, provide a stronger focus on community policing, and transform the delivery of policing services locally. This reflects best international practice and will ensure that each Division has the resources and skills to deliver a wider range of community policing and specialist services based on the demands in their area.

Under the Operating Model, An Garda Síochána police on a divisional basis rather a station one. Gardaí attached to larger stations within a Community Engagement Area, supported by divisional, regional and national units, respond to the policing needs of all communities.

As mentioned in your correspondence, An Garda Síochána introduced a High Visibility Policing (HPV) Plan in Dublin City Centre in March 2025. This initiative has since been rolled out to Cork and Limerick City Centres, as well as areas of South Dublin, including Tallaght and Dún Laoghaire.

The Garda Commissioner is committed to continuing this rollout to other areas of the Dublin Metropolitan Region, and to other areas nationwide, but resourcing is entirely a matter for the Commissioner and this will be subject to operational requirements.

During the period from April 2025 to March 2026, there were nearly 6,500 arrests made, over 13,500 charges/summonses and over 1,000 Adult Cautions/ Juvenile Diversion Referrals. The operation coincided with a 23% drop in theft, a 33% reduction in robbery from the person, and assaults causing harm were down by 18%.

Feedback from business and the public on the High Visibility Policing approach in Dublin and the other cities where it has been introduced, has been very positive and the Minister looks forward to it being rolled out to other areas into the future.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen Byrne

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

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