

Report of Assistant Commissioner, Dublin Metropolitan Region

At this the third meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2017, I will provide updates in the following areas,

- Volume Crime
- Serious Crime
- Roads Policing
- Easter Commemoration and St Patricks Day
- Strategic Partnership

1. Volume Crime

Up to the 30th April 2017, Property Crime in Dublin City Council (DCC) area is up 6%. This is on the back of a reduction in 2016 of -15%. Violent Property Crime is down (-3%). Burglaries in 2017 are currently at +1% in the DCC area and -13% in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This is coming on the back of a 24% reduction in burglaries in 2016. There have been 41 days of action in the DMR to-date in 2017 under the auspice of Operation Thor. An Garda Síochána will continue to focus further days of action planned under Operation Thor for the coming months to target these increases and every effort will be made to reverse this trend. In addition proactive policing figures for 2017 to-date indicate 307 detections for handling/ possession of stolen property and 118 detections of persons in possession of article with intent to burgle/ steal.

Public Order is at +12% and Begging offences are at +7% in the DCC area. Public Order activity is up across the Dublin Region at +13%. An Garda Síochána will increase hi-visibility patrols in place to target key hotspot areas. Special Public Order patrols will continue in key areas particularly at the weekends to address matters of a public order nature. Criminal Damage incidents are up slightly at +1% in the DCC area.

There has been an increase in Crimes against the Person of +4% within the DCC area. Similar increases have been experienced in Minor Assaults at +8% and Assaults causing harm at +3% in the DCC area. Hi-visibility strategies, including dedicated public order patrols, 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.

Trends for firearms offences in the Dublin City Council area remain relatively static with three more incidents than in 2016. There was a decrease in possession of offence weapons at -3%.

Overall drug detections indicate a -1% decrease in the DCC area. Drug offences include Possession for sale or supply and Possession for personal use. Garda activity in this area indicates 6,766 incidents of searches in 2017 to-date. Some recent significant seizures include:-

- Seizure of Cannabis Herb valued €740,000 in the Dublin 2 area on 24th April 2017
- Seizure of €1.4 million Cocaine/ Cannabis Resin in the Artane area on the 31st March 2017
- Seizure of €70,000 cocaine and Firearm in the Finglas Area on 21st March 2017.
- Seizure of Cannabis and Cocaine estimated value €200,000 in the Raheny Area on 16th March 2017.

2. Serious Crime

There has been one murder within the DCC area in 2017. Overall there have been 5 murders in the Dublin Metropolitan Region in 2017. This compares with 6 in the corresponding period in 2016.

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 2016 and 2017 and to date have been

Arrests	Searches	Charges	Firearms Seized	Investigative tasks
77	236	14	24	11,456

In addition to the above, targeted intelligence led operations are ongoing. Some significant recent successes include:-

- Operation Thistle continues to focus on mid-level members of organised crime groupings in a specific area. To-date it has resulted in the seizure of €563,660 controlled substances, €117,740 cash seized as proceeds of crime, €93,850 jewellery/ watches, and a vehicle valued at €14,000.
- On 4th April 2017 as part of investigation into three males were arrested in West Dublin. During the course of one arrest an individual was found in possession of cocaine valued €5,000.
- On 2nd April 2017 the Criminal Assets Bureau conducted twelve searches on the Dublin and Kildare area. A luxury car, quantity of drugs and a large amount of financial documents were seized.

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, there have been 30,525 checkpoints, 3,316 patrols and 10,116 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 2017.

In addition to the above a significant policing operation remains in place at Dublin Port. The operation involves an increased Garda presence at the port working closely with the other stakeholders to disrupt any potential criminal activity. The operation is also focussed on the improvement of immigration and security controls at the port.

3. Roads Policing

This is an area of concern for An Garda Síochána. The number of people killed on the roads of the Capital in 2017 was 10; compared with 6 for 2016. There have been 46 serious injury collisions; compared to 40 for the same period in 2016.

Reduction in Road Deaths and Serious Injury Collisions remains a focus for An Garda Síochána. To-date in 2017, detections for driving while intoxicated are up 8%. All Dangerous driving offences are down -40%. In Dublin in April 2017 there were 152 drunk driving detections.

Operations planned for May include:-

- ‘Safer Roads For Dublin’ initiative – full month of April (ongoing to 30th May 2017)
- Operation Bank Holiday – 28/4 to 1/5 ‘ 2017
- Tispol Operation Trivium 15/5 to 19/5’ 2017
- Operation Speed 4 & 5/5/17
- Operation Mobile Phone 10 & 11/5/17
- Operation Seatbelt 22 & 23/5/17

An Garda Síochána will have an increased focus on such operations in May and June with a view to tackling key offences leading to both fatal and serious injury collisions.

4. Easter Commemoration and St Patricks Day

Significant planning, preparation and logistical support measures were implemented for the Easter Weekend & St Patricks Day. The plans resulted in significant numbers of Garda personnel within the North/ South Inner City Areas of Dublin City. The targeted deployment of hi-visibility uniform personnel proved very effective in the policing events, and in particular the policing of Temple Bar was paramount to ensuring a safe environment for all to enjoy the events.

The operations proved very effective and its success was largely down to the pre-event consultation with all stakeholders, including Dublin City Council and the Business Community I wish to thank all our partners for their assistance in the planning for these events.

5. Strategic Partnership

Partnerships continue to form a very important part of our policing strategy in 2017 through a variety of community and interagency initiatives.

The Teenagers and Gardai Programme is aimed at promoting positive engagement among Gardaí and Teenagers in the community, is delivered by Juvenile Liaison Officers and Community Gardai in co-operation with the Teacher from the respective schools/ projects.

On 5th May 2017, a Teenagers and Gardaí (TAG) graduation ceremony took place in New Cross College, Cappagh Road, Finglas, Dublin 11. 25 students were presented with TAG certificates by Superintendent William Carolan.

On 24th April 2017 an eight week Teenagers and Gardai (TAG) course commenced in the Finglas Youth Services – Finglas Action Now (FAN) Garda Youth Diversion Project.

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

- Dublin Regional Homeless Executive in support of their Cold Weather Initiative.
- Dublin City Centre Business Forum.
- Assertive Case Management Team (ACMT)

Conclusion

I have outlined above the position in respect of policing to date in 2017. 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 the year.

Thank You