

**Dublin City Joint Policing Committee - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017**  
**Report of Assistant Commissioner, Dublin Metropolitan Region**

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

- Volume Crime
- Operation Thor Retail Days of Action – DMR
- Serious Crime
- Roads Policing
- Strategic Partnership

**1. Volume Crime**

Up to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Property Crime in Dublin City Council (DCC) area is up 9%. This is on the back of a reduction in 2016 of -15%. Violent Property Crime is up slightly at 3% (11 incidents). Burglaries in 2017 are currently at +2% 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 60 days of action in the DMR up to 30/7/17 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 up to June 2017 indicate 442 detections for handling/ possession of stolen property and 169 detections of persons in possession of article with intent to burgle/ steal.

Public Order is at +16% and Begging offences are at +16% in the DCC area. Public Order activity is up across the Dublin Region at +17%. An Garda Síochána will continue to focus hi-visibility patrols 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 +13 in the DCC area.

There has been an increase in Crimes against the Person of +11% within the DCC area. This is driven mainly by an increase in Minor Assaults at +16%. Assaults causing harm are down at -1% 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 two more incidents than in 2016. There was a decrease in possession of firearm at -18%.

Overall drug detections indicate a -6% decrease in the DCC area. Drug offences include Possession for sale or supply (+8%) and Possession for personal use (-12%). Garda activity in this area indicates 9,934 incidents of searches in 2017 to-date. Some recent significant seizures include:-

- Seizure of Cannabis Herb, Cocaine, Ecstasy valued €290,000 in the Dublin 15 area on 4/5/17
- Seizure of €1.5 million Cannabis in the Dublin 12 area on the 11/5/17
- Seizure of €240,000 Cannabis Herb in the Dublin 10 area on 12/5/17.
- Seizure of Cannabis estimated value €680,000 in the Dublin 22 area on 18/5/17.

## 2. Operation Thor Retail Days of Action – DMR

In order to reduce retail crime in line with our policing plan commitments and to promote positive relations with our retail stakeholders, a number of retail days of action are being run throughout the Dublin Metropolitan Region.

The operation has been formulated based on analysis of crime trends and identification of recidivists to ensure intelligent policing based on evidence based analytics is utilised during the course of the operation.

The days of action are scheduled as follows

No	Date	Division	Location
1.	17 <sup>th</sup> June	East	Dundrum Town Centre
2.	23 <sup>rd</sup> June	West	Blanchardstown Shopping Centre
3.	1 <sup>st</sup> July	South	Square Shopping Centre
4.	8 <sup>th</sup> July	North	Pavilions Shopping Centre
5.	8 <sup>th</sup> July	South Central	St Stephens Green Shopping Centre
6.	15 <sup>th</sup> July	North Central	Ilac Centre

The operation will have four core pillars as set out below

1. **Warrant Execution Strategy**
2. **Public Relations Strategy** will endeavour to maximise the opportunities for public engagement prior to during and after the operation in the respective division.
3. **Arrest Strategy** will endeavour to will arrest and detain all active retail and associated crime criminals in the respective area.
4. **Checkpoint Strategy**

One of our key partners in this initiative is the Irish Retail Loss Prevention Forum. The forum is a collaboration of a number of retailers whose main aim is to reduce loss to their businesses across Ireland. The forum models itself on similar loss prevention and risk forums in the UK. Our membership in Ireland consists of retailers such as Brown Thomas, Easons, JD Sports, Life Style Sports, M&S, New Look, Next, Penneys, Shops Direct Group, Smyths Toys, Tesco, TK Maxx to name a few.

The goal of the forum is to work with An Garda Síochána at both an Operational and Strategic level to reduce the threat of criminality in our stores and ultimately losses to our businesses. The forum sits quarterly.

## 3. Serious Crime

There have been two murders within the DCC area in 2017. Overall there have been 8 murders in the Dublin Metropolitan Region in 2017. This compares with 10 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:-

Arrests	Searches	Charges	Firearms Seized	Investigative tasks
85	260	17	25	12,245

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

- On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017, as part of investigation into organised crime groups, two males were arrested in West Dublin. During the course the arrest a quantity of cocaine/ cannabis was discovered valued €1.2 million.
- On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 the Criminal Assets Bureau conducted an operation into organised crime groups operating in the West Dublin area. Cash totalling €18,000 together with two vehicles, jewellery and a bolt action pellet gun were seized.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 as part of investigations into serious criminal activity in the Dublin Region a male was arrested in the Dublin 18 area. During the operation a quantity of cash €300,000 was seized along with cash counting and packaging equipment.

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 35,293 checkpoints, 3,999 patrols and 11,303 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 recent months the DMR-Armed Support Unit has been further bolstered with additional resources.

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.

#### **4. Roads Policing**

This is an area of concern for An Garda Síochána. The number of people killed on the roads of the Capital up to 4/7/17 is 13; compared with 8 for same period in 2016. There have been 75 serious injury collisions, compared to 61 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 4%. All Dangerous driving offences are down -23%. In Dublin in June 2017 there were 121 drunk-driving detections.

Operations planned for July include:-

- Summer Enforcement Campaign – July & August 2017
- Operation Bank Holiday – 4/8/17 to 7/8/17
- Tispol Operation 21-22/8/17
- Operation Speed 6 - 7/8/17; 10-11/8/17
- Operation Mobile Phone 19-20/7/17
- Operation Seatbelt 10-11/7/17; 16-17/8/17

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

## **5. Operation Irene**

Operation Irene has commenced in the DMR for the summer months. This operation is a high-visibility policing plan to address alcohol-related public disorder in public spaces. As we are aware during the summer months there is an increase in these particular type of incidents. To address this trend it is intended to introduce a targeted policing operation in each Division.

A nominated Superintendent from each Division has been appointed to assist in the implementation of the plan.

The focus of the operation includes:-

- locations of public order hotspots per division to include dates and times when a high visibility response is required
- a Garda response through a targeted overt and proactive manner.
- a preventative and detection element concentrating on public parks, beaches, open spaces, laneways and other areas where youths congregate and consume alcohol, involving high visibility proactive patrols.
- measures to prevent the supply of alcohol to juveniles from off-licences and other outlets.
- visits to licensed premises both off licences and on licenses, shops, supermarkets etc. to remind owners / managers of their responsibilities under the liquor licensing legislation.
- collaboration with stakeholders/ agencies to target this type of anti-social behaviour

This operation is currently ongoing.

## **6. Strategic Partnership**

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

Both the Teenagers and Gardai Programme and the Late Night Leagues; which is aimed at promoting positive engagement among Gardaí and Teenagers in the community, and are delivered by Juvenile Liaison Officers and Community Gardai continue to be key initiatives for An Garda Síochána. These initiatives are suspended for the summer period and will recommence in September.

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

- Dublin Region 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**