

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee - Tuesday 12th September 2017
Report of Assistant Commissioner, Dublin Metropolitan Region

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

- Volume Crime
- Serious Crime
- Operation Tombola - Halloween 2017
- Roads Policing
- Strategic Partnership

1. Volume Crime

Up to the 31st August 2017, Property Crime in Dublin City Council (DCC) area is up 11%. This is on the back of a reduction in 2016 of -15%. Violent Property Crime is also up at 7%. Burglaries in 2017 are currently at +1% in the DCC area and -6% in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This is coming on the back of a 24% reduction in burglaries in 2016. There have been 67 days of action in the DMR up to 31/8/17 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 August 2017 indicate 596 detections for handling/possession of stolen property and 240 detections of persons in possession of article with intent to burgle/ steal.

Public Order is at +19% and Begging offences are at +17% in the DCC area. Public Order activity is up across the Dublin Region at +14%. Such offences are detection based and are impacted upon by increase Garda activity in these areas. 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 at +5 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 -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 up slightly with seven more incidents than in 2016. There was a decrease in possession of firearm at -10%.

Overall drug detections indicate a -7% decrease in the DCC area. Drug offences include Possession for sale or supply (+4%) and Possession for personal use (-13%). Garda activity in this area indicates 13,859 incidents of searches in 2017 to-date, this is down slightly on 2016 by 5%. Some recent significant seizures include:-

- On 28/8/17 during a joint operation between An Garda Síochána and the Revenue Commissioners a quantity of drugs valued at €180,000 was seized in the Blanchardstown Area – two males were arrested.

- On the 21/8/17, during a Garda operation two vehicles were stopped in West Dublin, resulting in the seizure of drugs to the value of €800,000 and cash to the value of €5,000. Two males were also arrested.
- On the 28/7/17, as part of an ongoing joint investigation into the importation of drugs, by An Garda Síochána and the Revenue Commissioner, a package containing drugs values at €580,000 was seized. Investigations are ongoing.

2. Serious Crime

There have been five murders within the DCC area in 2017. Overall there have been 13 murders in the Dublin Metropolitan Region in 2017. This compares with 12 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:-

Year	Arrests	Searches	Charges	Firearms Seized	Investigative tasks
2016	75	236	15	23	11160
2017	12	37	7	5	2283

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

- On 6/9/17 an Organised Crime Operation in Inchicore, resulted in the seizure of a loaded handgun and the arrest of one individual.
- On the 7/8/17, as a result of an intelligence led Garda operation, a van was intercepted by Gardai on the Kylemore Road, wherein a loaded firearm was recovered. Two males were arrested as part of the operation.
- On the 17/7/17, as part of ongoing investigations targeting serious an organised crime An Garda Síochána seized drugs valued 4 million, together with two firearms. Three males were subsequently arrested.

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 40,232 checkpoints, 4,717 patrols and 12,545 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.

3. Halloween 2017 (Operation Tombola)

An Garda Síochána have commenced plans to put in place an operation (Operation Tombola) to police the Halloween period. The objectives of this plan are as follows:-

- Deployment of Hi-visibility patrols throughout the DMR to tackle any anti-social behaviour, or other criminal behaviour;
- Deployment of an overt Public Order Unit capability on the night, in support of local policing plans;
- Establish liaison with each Area Managers and other relevant agencies to ensure a coordinated approach, and liaise with garages and or other outlets to reduce the availability / prevent the use of tyres as combustible material;
- Intelligence led operations to prevent and detect the organised importation for sale of fireworks, in the lead up to Halloween;
- Audit areas within the DMR for skips and ensure that all skips, (in particular those containing combustible material), located in such areas are removed and/or properly secured to prevent the contents being set alight.

The plans are designed to ensure public safety and an environment conducive to the public's enjoyment of this holiday period. I will report further on the outcome of this operation at a future, JPC.

4. Roads Policing

As of 31st August 2017, there have been eighteen fatal collisions in the DMR since January 2017 to date, inclusive of which are the death of vulnerable road users (seven pedestrians, 3 cyclists). There were nine fatal collisions in the same period last year.

There have been a total of 1089 Driving While Intoxicated offences to date this year. This is an increase of 14.99% on the figure this time last year.

There have been 9141 vehicles detained under Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act this year to date, a 35.6% increase on the previous year.

In addition, this year a new Operation classed as 'Operation Enable' was established under the auspice of DMR Traffic. The Operation targets those who fraudulently use Disabled Parking Permits in addition to those who park illegally in Disabled Parking Bays. There are currently 33 incidents of this nature, some of which refer to the seizure of multiple copies of the same permit.

The Traffic Corps structure with the Dublin Metropolitan Region is unique in having a dedicated Traffic Division in addition to a traffic unit within each of the 6 divisions. This delivers a co-ordinated and uniform approach to traffic management through enforcement in the Dublin Metropolitan Region, ensuring the aims and objectives of traffic corps units are consistent and that all personnel are fully aware of their roles and responsibility and the level of priority to be afforded to Roads Policing in the Region.

The Roads Policing priorities for the Dublin Metropolitan Region are set out in the DMR Roads Policing Operations Plan for 2017, which includes working in partnership with other agencies, including the Road Safety Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Road Safety Officers in local authorities to reduce road deaths and serious injuries. Furthermore, it involves the tackling of all forms of criminality on our Road Networks.

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.

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, is 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 October.

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