



# Cross Border Policing Strategy 2016







## Foreword from the Commissioner and Chief Constable

Following the launch of the inaugural Cross Border Policing Strategy in 2010 by our respective predecessors, we are delighted to introduce the second version of this important document.

Follow-ups can often prove challenging after the energy and impetus of an initial launch but we believe this overarching plan has the components and the capacity to continue the positive momentum which was created by the first strategy.

The bedrock of success for joint police activity has been, and will continue to be, the sheer strength and depth of co-operation between An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland. These are not mere words. They are evidenced on a daily basis by conversations, contacts, practical assistance and information sharing. These engagements take place at every level in our respective Services across a range of disciplines and service delivery.

This is an appropriate time to take our first tranche of work to the next stage and co-ordinate future joint activity in critical

areas such as community relations, rural policing, intelligence sharing and emergency planning. Work in these and related areas will contribute towards improving public safety in all parts of this island and play a major part in disrupting criminal activity.

Cross border co-operation has never been higher. This is not a cliché – it is the demonstrable outcome of our collaboration and commitment which results in arrests for armed robberies and burglaries, seizures of drugs and thwarting terrorist attacks.

Over the coming years we will work to implement this strategy’s objective. Our efforts will be enhanced by the support provided by our respective Justice Departments and Ministers and we are grateful for this ongoing commitment.

Our commitment is that we will work in partnership to bring offenders to justice with the objective of making this island a safer, more peaceful and confident society.



Chief Constable, Police Service of Northern Ireland  
**George Hamilton**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner, An Garda Síochána  
**Nóirín O’Sullivan**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





Foreword from the  
**Minister for Justice and Equality  
and Justice Minister**

We are pleased to endorse, and give our support to, this updated Cross Border Strategy. A joint approach to tackling crime gives enormous potential to maximise the service to communities by combining the use of resources and expertise.

Excellent co-operation between the Police Service of Northern Ireland and An Garda Síochána has been built up over recent years and thanks to the consistent efforts of both services the relationship between them has never been stronger. We have already seen the benefits of that in a number of areas and this joint Strategy seeks to cement and further develop opportunities for co-operation.

As Justice Ministers we recognise the huge commitment, dedication and, on occasion, bravery of our police services and other law enforcement agencies. We want to put on record our appreciation and gratitude for that work and the significant successes. Some of these are publicised and seen. Many others, however, involving disruption and

prevention often go unnoticed and unrecorded in public. We want to take this opportunity to highlight the breadth and depth of the achievements of the police services, and indeed other law enforcement agencies, working on behalf of communities.

This updated Strategy is particularly relevant at this moment with a renewed focus on organised crime and paramilitarism and actions arising from the Fresh Start Agreement. While we continue to face many shared challenges in Ireland, North and South, this renewed Cross Border Strategy is another demonstration of our determination to work together in facing those challenges.

Our hope is that this document will enhance and reinforce best practice. It also represents a shared commitment to reach new heights of co-operation in serving communities in both jurisdictions.



**Minister for Justice and Equality  
Frances Fitzgerald T.D.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Justice Minister  
Claire Sugden MLA**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





## 1. Introduction

Further to the advances made and capabilities built under the auspices of the Cross Border Policing Strategy between An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland from 2010, and building on the day-to-day cooperation between operational units both near the border and in specialist sections, this new strategy aims to further improve public safety throughout Ireland and disrupt criminal activity.

The joint strategy covers a range of policing areas including Operations; Rural Policing; Community Relations; Intelligence Sharing; ICT; Service Improvement; and Emergency Planning. These strands featured in the original Cross Border Policing Strategy Document, and each is now updated in order to facilitate further improvements and progress.

Senior management and operational specialists from both An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland have met regularly to progress initiatives advanced in the strategy document and to build on existing partnerships between both police services in achieving the shared objectives of keeping all our communities safe.



## 2. Operations

- 2.1 Task the joint An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland Tasking and Coordination Group, with addressing all types of crime and enhance the effectiveness of police resources.
- 2.2 Utilise the 'twin town' approach to address crime and security issues in both neighbouring border urban areas, and in urban areas of comparable size and with comparable policing issues, including Dublin and Belfast. To include cooperation with local and regional government policing committees, other local NGO's and partners.
- 2.3 Continually review joint operational procedures, including cooperation with other agencies, to further enhance and maximise the An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland response to terrorism, paramilitarism and organised crime in the border region, including through the Joint Agency Task Force established under the Fresh Start Agreement.
- 2.4 Embed currently agreed guidelines relating to maximising the safety of principals and accompanying police officers in border regions, and continue to build on existing practical cooperation to develop and agree further protocols.
- 2.5 Build on existing practical cooperation to support a proactive multi-agency immigration strategy for the policing of the Borders between An Garda Síochána, Police Service of Northern Ireland, United Kingdom Border Force and Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service.
- 2.6 Maximise effectiveness and efficiency in policing operations via use of the Memorandum of Understanding to support the sharing of police equipment between An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.
- 2.7 Prepare joint proposals regarding legislative instruments or amendments which would further enhance the ability of An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland to work together seamlessly to prevent and detect crimes with a cross-border element.



- 2.8 Promote the use of the information-sharing agreement between An Garda Síochána and Police Service of Northern Ireland relating to sex offenders and identify further ways to maximise its effectiveness.
- 2.9 Continue to review the effectiveness of ANPR in the border region and identify further ways to maximise it as an enabler for detections and information sharing.
- 2.10 Involve Roads Policing units in joint operational planning and information sharing exercises.
- 2.11 Finalise the text of the Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the sharing of information relating to Fingerprints, DNA (subject to resolving legal issues) and other biometrics.
- 2.12 Embed and review the effectiveness of the Manual of Guidance in relation to Cross Border investigations.

### 3. Policing with the Community in Rural Areas

- 3.1 Continue to build on existing practical cooperation to develop a joint An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland Crime Prevention Strategy for the border region which will assist the joint An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland Tasking and Coordination group.
- 3.2 To share training and experience in relation to liaison with minority communities, including joint-training of Ethnic Liaison Officers.



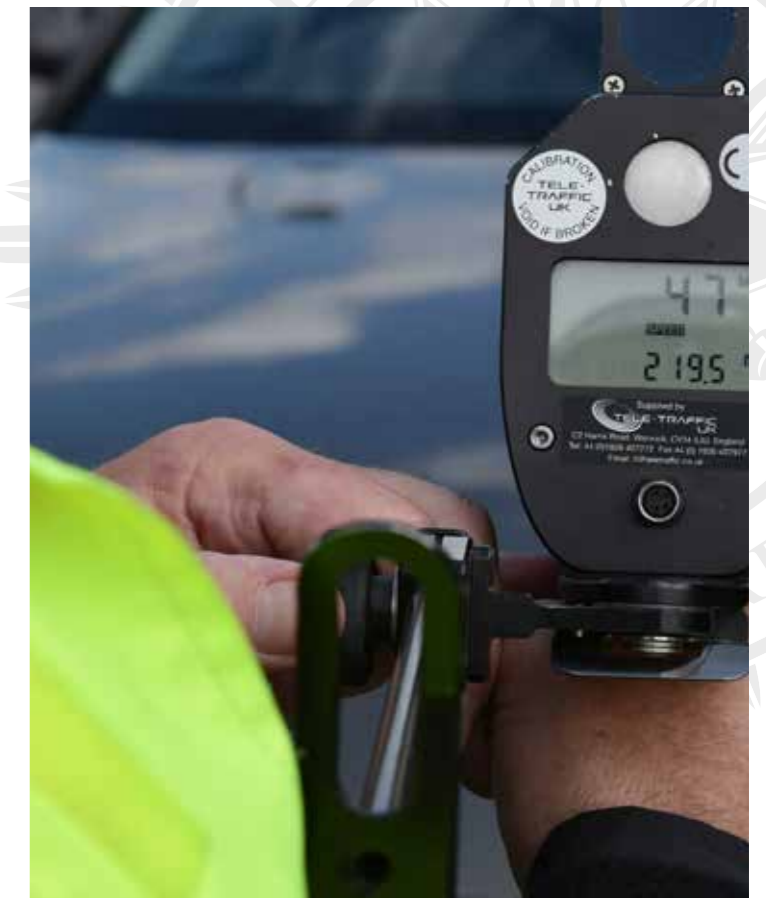
### 4. Intelligence Sharing and Security

- 4.1 Enhance the joint An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland intelligence-led approach to policing operations in border areas, and maximise the effectiveness of intelligence integration, and day-to-day sharing arrangements.
- 4.2 Maintain the prioritisation of the joint An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland strategy to maximise and enhance the safety and security of police officers living and working in the border area.
- 4.3 Pursue partnerships between An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland and other EU police services, academic institutions, and SME's relating to applications for EU Commission funding for projects related to the prevention and detection of serious crime and terrorism.



### 5. Information and Communication Technology

- 5.1 Continue to enhance the effectiveness and security of Cross Border communications and introduce improved interoperability between An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland radio and other communication systems.
- 5.2 Explore further opportunities for data exchange mechanisms between An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland ICT systems, inter alia via continuing formal liaison between ICT specialists.
- 5.3 Review and rationalise ICT strategies and budgets via partnerships in applications for EU Commission funding support for interoperability, information exchange, and mobile solutions.
- 5.4 Share best practice and experience on the uses of local radio information slots, text alert systems, and social media, and increase joint use of these channels.



### 6. Service Improvement – Training and Human Resources

- 6.1 In the context of resource restrictions, continue to build on existing practical co-operation by developing a joint An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland training and best practice strategy to include the following areas:
  - \* *Crime;*
  - \* *Leadership and Management Development;*
  - \* *Personnel Exchanges;*
  - \* *International Operations;*
  - \* *Sex Offenders.*
- 6.2 Continue to maximise the effectiveness of current arrangements relating to personnel exchanges, secondments, etc. and the mutual sharing of experience and best practice in areas pertaining to Human Resources.
- 6.3 Develop joint strategies on diversity and equality among An Garda Síochána / Police Service of Northern Ireland staff.



## 7. Emergency Planning

7.1 Continue to build on existing practical co-operation and partnerships to implement the Cross Border Joint Disaster Planning Protocol 2011 between An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Maximize the effectiveness of the response to Cross Border emergencies with the following enhanced arrangements:

7.1.1 Liaison on overlapping emergency management issues between An Garda Síochána National Major Emergency Management Office and the Police Service of Northern Ireland Operational Support and Emergency Planning Office.

7.1.2 Enhanced links and engagement between regional representatives of An Garda Síochána and Police Service of Northern Ireland throughout the border region with a view to continuing readiness for response to a major emergency, within the following areas;

- \* *Command & Control;*
- \* *Media and Public Information;*
- \* *Joint Communications;*
- \* *Joint exercise and training.*

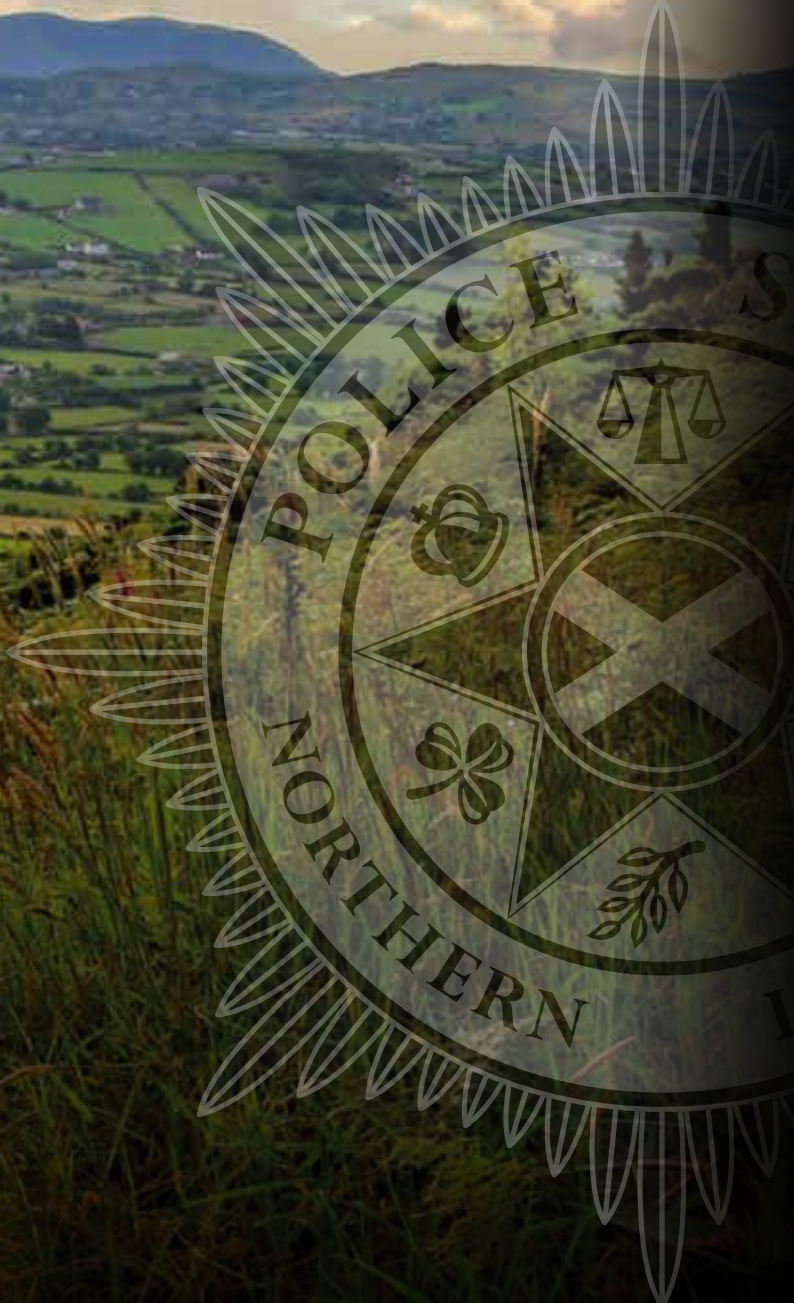


## 8. Report and Review

8.1 Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of each goal of the Cross Border Policing Strategy via periodic and systematic reports, reviews and feedback at each level – operational, tactical, and managerial.







Department of  
**Justice**  
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AN ROINN DE LA GUS CIRT AGUS COMHONANSAIS  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

