

# Garda Public Attitudes Survey

2021



**Research conducted by:**

Behaviour and Attitudes

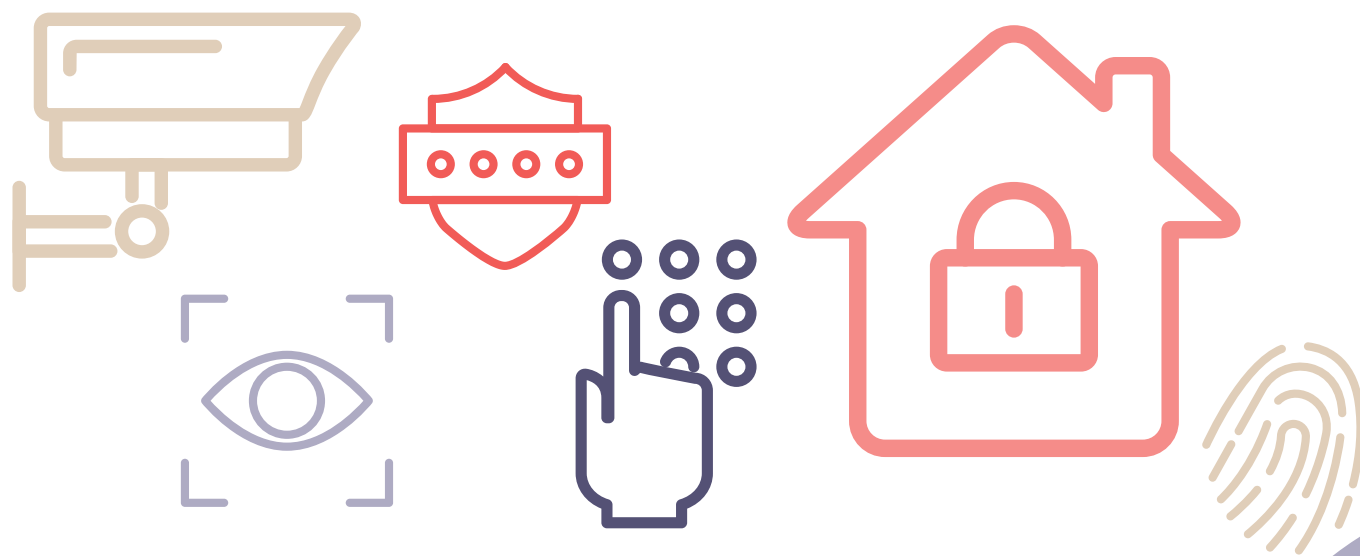
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# Contents

Foreword.....	4
Executive Summary.....	5
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2. Crime and the Irish Public.....</b>	<b>13</b>
• 2.1 Perceptions of Crime and Policing Priorities.....	14
• 2.2 Worry about Victimisation and Fear of Crime.....	17
<b>3. Views towards An Garda Síochána.....</b>	<b>19</b>
• 3.1 Satisfaction and Trust in An Garda Síochána.....	20
• 3.2 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána.....	22
<b>4. Service Delivery Perceptions.....</b>	<b>26</b>
• 4.1 Perceptions of Garda Visibility and Presence.....	27
• 4.2 Treatment by An Garda Síochána.....	30
<b>5. A Demographic Snapshot.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>6. Victims of Crime.....</b>	<b>45</b>
Appendix 1 A Note on Methodology.....	50
Appendix 2 Additional Demographic Tables.....	51
Appendix 3 Victims' Tables.....	56



# Foreword

In 2021, following a break in face-to-face surveying in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, An Garda Síochána resumed its Public Attitudes Survey. This is one of our most valuable tools for measuring public perceptions on a range of topics; including crime and policing priorities, the impact of fear of crime, satisfaction with and trust in Gardaí, as well as perceptions of the Garda organisation and service delivery in our communities.

The survey questions were reviewed in late 2020, some additions and revisions were made whilst endeavouring to maintain comparability with previous sweeps. These new questions are highlighted throughout this report. A representative sample of 7,656 adults, aged 18 years and older, were surveyed in a condensed fieldwork period of 6 months, from July to December 2021. Given this short period, and marking a change from previous years (pre-2020), a young person's sample was not conducted. This important aspect of the Public Attitudes Survey will resume in 2022.

As with previous survey sweeps, the 2021 results provide us with invaluable insights into the views of the Irish public. Emerging from a global pandemic, the threat of which still lingers, these findings are particularly relevant to understand potential impacts caused by the pandemic and allows An Garda Síochána to respond to these in terms of its operational decisions and its strategic direction.

National crime continues to be perceived as more serious than local crime, but these perceptions are improving. Reflecting this, the policing priorities on which we should focus according to survey respondents, are those that cause substantial harm and present a societal risk - sexual offences, domestic abuse and human trafficking.

While satisfaction remains high in the Garda service provided to local communities, we are working to improve perceptions of Garda presence and visibility in these same communities. Equally, while satisfaction among victims of crime in general with the service they received from An Garda Síochána is high, efforts to improve information provision to victims must continue.

Garda-community relations and perceptions of the Garda organisation are largely positive in areas such as friendly and helpful service, community-focus and effectiveness in tackling crime. Respondents also held strong views that they would be treated with fairness and respect in their interactions with Gardaí. Importantly, the Irish public's trust in their police service continues to be very high – a source of pride for An Garda Síochána and a testament to the great work ongoing in communities around the country. Every effort is, and will continue to be made, to maintain this trust.

An Garda Síochána continues the roll-out on a national basis of its Operating Model – which will see more frontline Gardaí, a stronger focus on community policing and wide range of policing services delivered locally. As we move towards the realisation of this new model, we would like to extend our deep appreciation to the public for their continued support and feedback, which contributes so much to shaping our vision for the future of policing in Ireland and Keeping People Safe.



**Sara Parsons**

**Principal Officer, Garda Síochána Analysis Service**



# Executive Summary

Between July and December 2021, Behaviour and Attitudes (B&A), an independent market research company, conducted fieldwork for An Garda Síochána's Public Attitudes Survey (PAS), 2021. This followed a break in series in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, during which time face-to-face interviewing was not possible and an online survey was carried out instead. As the 2020 results are not comparable to the in-person PAS, results from 2021 are compared to the previous three survey sweeps between 2017 and 2019. This report presents the findings from the 2021 survey, during which 7,656 adults, aged 18 years and older, were surveyed on a wide range of crime and policing issues in the context of Ireland.

## Crime and the Irish Public



### Perceptions of Crime

Respondents continue to view national crime as more serious than local crime. However, perceptions of national crime as being 'a serious problem' have decreased each year, from 50 percent in 2017, to 41 percent in 2021. In addition, perceptions of it being 'a very serious problem' have decreased 7 percentage points since 2019 (36% to 29%). In terms of local crime, the proportion of respondents who consider it 'not a problem' has increased from 29 percent in 2017, to 46 percent in 2021.



### Policing Priorities

As in previous survey sweeps, the vast majority of respondents (90%) felt that 'sexual offences' were the crime type that should receive the highest priority from An Garda Síochána. This was followed by 'domestic abuse' (87%), 'human trafficking' 'assaults' and 'illegal weapons' (84%, 82% and 81% respectively). Drugs offences were ranked first for those who considered national crime to be 'a very serious problem'. For respondents who considered local crime to be 'a very serious problem', assaults and drugs offences were prioritised the most, with burglaries ranked third.



### Worry about Victimisation and Fear of Crime

Forty-eight percent of respondents reported that they do not worry about becoming a victim of crime (either themselves, or someone they live with). Twenty-one percent worried about victimisation from all of the stated crime options (personal injury, property theft or damage, and cybercrime). Respondents were more likely to have 'no fears' about crime (38%), than to have 'a lot' (5%) or 'some fears' (29%), a similar trend as seen in other years. For the majority, fear of crime did not impact on their quality of life (61%) – downward trending from 70 percent in 2017. Thirty-four percent of respondents stated they have some worry about victimisation, have some fear of crime, and their fear of crime has some impact on their quality of life. Within this group, there were more females than males (55% versus 45%), and the majority were aged 35 years or older. City and urban dwellers (69%) featured more than rural respondents (32%).

# The Irish Public and their views towards An Garda Síochána



## Satisfaction in An Garda Síochána

Seventy-eight percent of respondents were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with Garda service to local communities, with no notable fluctuation over the last 5-year period. There was an increase in those who were 'very satisfied' with An Garda Síochána in 2021 (19%), from 11 percent in 2019, and 10 percent the two previous years. As seen in previous survey sweeps, as views of national crimes' seriousness increased, satisfaction levels decreased. The same correlation is seen for local crime, with the impact being more pronounced. Equally, fear of crime impacts satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities. As fear of crime levels decrease, satisfaction increases.



## Trust in An Garda Síochána

Examining trust levels in An Garda Síochána over the last five-year period, it can be seen that when mid-trust and high-trust are combined, 2019 and 2021 remain the same at 91 percent, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018 and 2017. There is a correlation between trust levels and satisfaction with Garda service to local communities. Those who were 'very satisfied' with Garda service, had the greatest 'high trust' levels. As *fear of crime* levels decreased, 'high trust' levels increased (32% for those who had 'a lot of fears' about crime, and 56% for those who had 'no fears').



## Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

The majority of respondents agreed with six key statements related to whether Gardaí are friendly and helpful, community-focused and effective in tackling crime; and whether An Garda Síochána is modern and progressive, human-rights-focused and well-managed. The most positive views related to An Garda Síochána being friendly or helpful (89% agreement), human-rights focused (80% agreement), and community-focused (77% agreement). Those who agreed An Garda Síochána is modern and progressive stood at 75 percent. Other aspects have improved over the last number of survey sweeps - effective in tackling crime (72% agreement, from 62% in 2017) and well-managed (69% agreement, from 46% in 2017.)

In 2021, a new statement was added to the survey; 'Do you agree or disagree that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves?' When 'strongly agree' and 'agree' were combined, 54 percent of respondents agreed with this statement, with variation across the provinces (e.g. 62% agreement in Connaught or Ulster, compared to 45% in Dublin).

## Views on Service Delivery



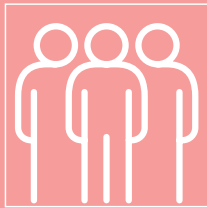
### Awareness of Garda Patrols

While awareness of Garda patrols is slightly under half at 49 percent, this has been increasing each year, from 36 percent in 2017, with an increase of 10 percentage points since 2019. Those respondents in Dublin had the least awareness (41%). Respondents reported greater awareness of Gardaí in patrol cars, than on foot or bicycle, with 59 percent reporting that they never see Gardaí patrolling by foot. Those with 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána reported the greatest awareness of Garda patrols at 63 percent, decreasing to 39 percent for those with 'low trust'.



### Perceptions of Garda Presence

While 53 percent of respondents felt that Garda presence is not enough in their local areas – this figure has been decreasing over the last three survey sweeps. Those respondents who were more likely to report they had 'a lot of fears' of crime, were less likely to be aware of Garda patrols (60%), compared to those who had 'no fears' (43%). Equally, this group were less likely to consider Garda presence as 'about right' (20%), compared to respondents who had 'no fears' (54%).



### Contact with An Garda Síochána

Of the 15 percent of respondents who had *some* contact with An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months (self- or Garda-initiated), 75 percent were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with their most recent contact. In terms of contact type and impact on satisfaction levels with that contact, 80 percent expressed satisfaction with contact when they visited a Garda station, while 72 percent were satisfied when the contact was a phone call to Gardaí (not 999 or 112).



### Treatment by An Garda Síochána

Views on how they would be treated by An Garda Síochána, if they had contact with them for any reason, were positive among respondents; 91 percent agreed they would be treated with respect, while 77 percent agreed they would be treated fairly ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined – excluding 'don't knows'). Views on respectful treatment have remained consistently high over the last five years, although 2021 saw the lowest figure since 2017. While agreement levels are lower for views on *fair* treatment by Gardaí, they are still positive ranging from 77 percent in 2021, to 86 percent in 2019. Agreement levels with other key statements were also positive in 2021 – excluding 'don't knows':

- The Gardaí in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them (77% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed').
- Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (77% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed').
- Community relations with the Gardaí are poor (67% 'strongly disagreed' or 'disagreed').
- Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people (80% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed').

## A Demographic Snapshot

### (Gender/Age/Nationality)

Older age groups viewed national and local crime as more serious than younger groups, with those aged 65 years and older considering it the most serious. Regardless of gender, age or nationality, *sexual offences* received the highest priority by most respondents (those aged 65+ ranked *drugs offences* as their first priority, and *sexual offences* second). Female respondents were more likely to report greater levels of fear of crime, and impact on their quality of life, as were older cohorts.

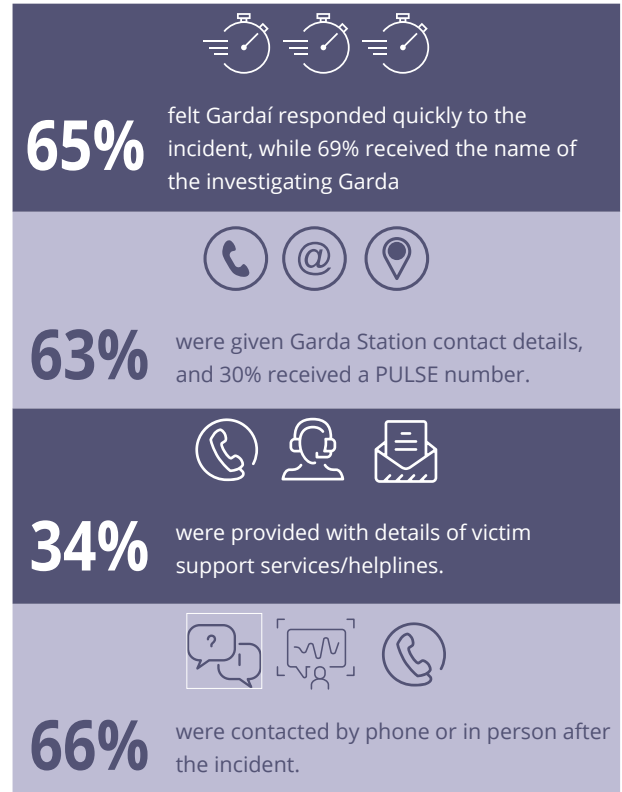
'High trust' in An Garda Síochána was greatest in those aged 65 years and older, and lowest in those aged 18-24 years. However, this latter group reported the highest satisfaction levels (83%), followed closely by those aged 65+ (82%). Across the demographic categories, perceptions of An Garda Síochána were positive. In general, those aged 65 years and older and non-Irish nationals had the most positive views of the organisation, when compared to younger groups and Irish nationals respectively. Males and females, and Irish and non-Irish nationals, held very similar views about whether An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves. Those aged 65 years and older were the most likely to agree with this.

Males, and those aged 18-24 years, displayed the most awareness of Garda patrols in their local areas, when compared to females and other age groups. Males, younger people and non-Irish nationals were more likely to consider Garda presence in local areas as being 'about right.'

Across all categories, agreement levels about Gardaí being respectful, was high. Older age groups had higher agreement levels. Agreement levels about whether Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are were also high, but lower than agreement about respectful treatment by Gardaí. Older age groups and non-Irish nationals had the highest agreement levels with this statement. Views on Garda-community relations were generally positive across the demographic groups. Older respondents held the most positive views about this.

## Victims of Crime

Of the 7,656 respondents to the survey, 6.5 percent had been victims of crime in the preceding 12-month period. Eighty-one percent of these victims reported their most recent crime to the Gardaí, with 59 percent being satisfied with the way the incident was handled - a slight decrease from years 2018 and 2019 (63% and 61% respectively). Fifty-one percent felt the information they received from Gardaí was 'about right', while 28 percent considered it 'too little'. Exploring elements of Garda service and information provision, the survey showed that:



Victims of crime were more likely to view crime as more serious both on a national and local level, and indeed fear of crime was more likely to have an impact on their quality of life.



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

In 2021, An Garda Síochána saw a return to its annual Public Attitudes Survey, following a break in series in 2020, due to the Covid pandemic. In 2020, while an online survey was commissioned and a subsequent report produced - *'Online Garda Survey 2020: An Urbanised Cohort'* - the findings were not directly comparable to results from our usual public attitude surveys, which are conducted face-to-face. This 2021 report presents the findings from the usual face-to face survey - a social survey which gathers the views of the Irish public towards crime and policing in Ireland. In total, 7,656 adults, aged 18 years and older, were surveyed between July and December 2021 (further methodological detail is provided later in this chapter).



## 1.1 The 2021 survey aimed to gather the views of a sample of the Irish public about:

- Crime in Ireland, including fear of crime and worry about victimisation, and what the policing priorities for An Garda Síochána should be.
- The Garda organisation, including satisfaction levels with its service delivery.
- Trust in An Garda Síochána, perceptions of the organisation and treatment that can be expected from Gardaí.

Perceptions of victims of crime about their experiences of the service provided to them by An Garda Síochána, were also examined.

## 1.2 Methodology

Following a public tendering competition, *Behaviour and Attitudes* (B&A) were commissioned to conduct the fieldwork for the 2021 survey. An Garda Síochána, in consultation with B&A, reviewed and updated the 2021 questionnaire. A pilot survey was conducted in May 2021, before finalisation of the questionnaire for the main survey, which commenced in July 2021 and ran until December. While a young person's sample of approximately 600 16 and 17 year olds was a feature in previous years, this was not feasible in 2021.

### 1.2.1 Sample Design

As mentioned, the survey involved face-to-face interviews. These were undertaken using the CAPI methodology – *Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing*.

The sample was quota-controlled by gender, age, social class and region (i.e. geographical region as opposed to Garda region<sup>1</sup>) to ensure it matched national norms. Interviewing was conducted due to Covid restrictions from July – December 2021.

### 1.2.2 The Sample Profile

One interview was harnessed per household. In households where more than one person fit the quota for that Electoral Division, a random method of selecting the interviewee was employed i.e. the 'next birthday method.' Respondents were selected according to quotas based on gender, age and social class, in line with the census profile, to further ensure representativeness (see below). The sample

achieved was 7,656 adults aged 18 years and older.<sup>2</sup>

Quotas were applied on all adults aged 18 years and older (from 2016 Census):

1. **Gender** (Male, Female)
2. **Age** (18-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+)
3. **Social Class** (ABC1, C2DE, F) (See table 1)

As the profile of each of the 19 Garda divisions is different, these demographic quotas were set within each division. The sample was weighted to ensure the 19 Garda divisions were represented in the correct proportions. In addition, weights on gender, age, social class and nationality were also applied at an overall level, to ensure a fully representative dataset of these variables.

Table 1: Definitions of social class groupings

Social Class	Description
A	Higher managerial, professional.
B	Intermediate managerial, professional, accountant.
C1	Supervisory or clerical, junior manager, Nurse, Teacher, sales representative, shop owner, Student
C2	Skilled manual worker (e.g. Skilled Bricklayer, Carpenter, Plumber, Painter, Bus, Ambulance Driver, HGV driver, AA patrolman, publican), Hairdressers, fitter
D	Semi or unskilled manual work (e.g. Manual workers, all apprentices to be skilled trades, Caretaker, Park keeper, non-HGV driver, shop assistant), Postman, Barber, taxi driver, Bartender. Casual worker (not in permanent employment)
E	Housewife/homemaker. Retired and living on state pension. Unemployed or not working due to long term illness. Full-time carer of other household member
F	Farmer

Table 2, later in this section, shows the sample size and characteristics. Respondents were asked whether they had been a victim of crime in the 12 months preceding the online survey – known as the reference period. The victimisation<sup>3</sup> section does not

<sup>1</sup> An Garda Síochána's new Operating Model of policing (as opposed to the Divisional Model traditionally used) is currently being rolled out on a national basis. While its implementation was not complete at the time of surveying, the updated 19-division model (as opposed to the 28-division) was employed for the purposes of sampling to ensure that any subsequent divisional analysis aligned to the future model. 2021 was the baseline collection year of divisional results. Future reports may include analysis at divisional level.

<sup>2</sup> From 2015, when the Public Attitudes Survey was relaunched following a break since 2008, the sample size has been approximately 6,000. This allowed for analysis at provincial level only. For the first time, in 2021 the sample has been increased to approximately 7,600 which will allow for future analysis at divisional level.

<sup>3</sup> This includes being a victim of burglary, theft, robbery, criminal damage and/or assault.

capture data on all crimes: crimes of a sexual nature are excluded from the survey.

While in previous surveys, quarterly sampling was conducted, this was not possible in 2021, because the fieldwork only covered a 6-month period.

B&A utilise the same sampling procedure for all its face-to-face projects - a multi-staged quota-controlled sampling technique, with randomly selected starting points within geographically stratified, primary sampling units. This involved:

- Stratifying the sample by each of the 19 Garda divisions. To ensure that divisional analysis could be conducted, purposive sampling was employed to ensure approximately 400 interviews per division was achieved.
- Within each Garda division the sample was further stratified by areas (i.e. city, 'other urban' and rural). This ensured a representative territorial spread of Primary Sampling Units across the country by Garda divisions.
- Within each cell of this matrix, the appropriate number of primary sampling units i.e. Electoral Divisions (EDs), was chosen using probability sampling procedures (proportionate to the size of the population).

In terms of the sampling of individuals within each of the pre-selected Electoral Divisions, a randomly selected starting point was assigned to each interviewer, who began his/her assignment of interviews starting at this location – thus removing much of the sampling process from the hands of the interviewer. The interviewer needed to conduct 10 interviews within each ED, in accordance with demographic controls for that region drawn from Central Statistics Office estimates.

### 1.2.3 The Pilot Survey

As previously mentioned, a pilot survey (50 interviews of a quota-controlled, demographically balanced sample) took place prior to commencement of the main fieldwork. A full debrief on the pilot was undertaken between An Garda Síochána and B&A. The pilot tested all aspects of the questionnaire including:

- The wording
- Comprehension
- Flow of questions in the CAPI script
- Instructions/manuals
- Understanding and suitability of prompt material
- Availability/willingness of respondents to take part across the 19 divisions

## 1.3 Points to note about the 2021 survey

- The 2021 survey was condensed into a six-month period (July-December).
- Due to the timeframe, no young person's sample was conducted.
- The sample was quota-controlled by gender, age, social class and region and Garda divisional area.
- For ease of reference with previous public attitudes surveys, any changes made to the 2021 questionnaire will be highlighted at the relevant section in this report.<sup>4</sup>

## 1.4 Report Layout

This 2021 Garda Public Attitudes Survey annual report is presented in a different format to previous reports. While the same essential elements are contained within, the layout and combination of chapters differs.

**Chapter two** examines views on crime in Ireland, policing priorities for An Garda Síochána, worry about victimisation and fear of crime.

**Chapter three** explores satisfaction and trust in An Garda Síochána, and perceptions of the organisation.

**Chapter four** looks at elements of service delivery, as well as expected treatment by Gardaí.


**Chapter five** explores these themes by gender, age and nationality.


Finally, the views and experiences of victims of crime are explored in **chapter six**.





<sup>4</sup> More detailed methodological detail is available at appendix 1 which provides detail on the interpretation of tables and figures.


Table 2: Sample Profile 2021


Gender	
Male	49%
Female	51%


Area	
City	19%
Other Urban	46%
Rural	35%


Age	
18 - 24	11%
25 - 34	19%
35 - 44	21%
45 - 54	18%
55 - 64	14%
65+	18%

Nationality	
Irish	87%
UK	2%
Polish	3%
Indian	1%
Romanian	1%
Lithuanian	1%
Other	5%

Social Class	
AB	13%
C1	31%
C2	20%
DE	31%
E	6%

Ethnicity	
White Irish	87%
Other white	9%
African + Other Black	1%
Chinese + Other Asian	2%
Other	2%

Region	
Dublin	28%
Leinster (excluding Dublin)	28%
Munster	29%
Connaught or Ulster	14%

Religion	
Roman Catholic	75%
Church of Ireland	2%
Other Christian	3%
Other	2%
No religion	13%
Refused	6%

# Chapter 2

## Crime and the Irish Public

### 2.1 Perceptions of Crime and Policing Priorities

### 2.2 Worry about Victimization and Fear of Crime



**NATIONAL CRIME** continues to be viewed as **MORE SERIOUS** than local crime.

For the majority of respondents, **FEAR OF CRIME HAD NO IMPACT** on quality of life.



**Sexual Offences** continue to be considered the crime type on which An Garda Síochána should focus -

**90% of respondents held this view in 2021.**

**Domestic Abuse** was the next highest priority at **87%.**



This chapter examines respondents' views of the seriousness of national and local crime, and what they consider the top policing priorities for An Garda Síochána should be. It also explores worry about victimisation and fear of crime, and how fear of crime impacts on quality of life.

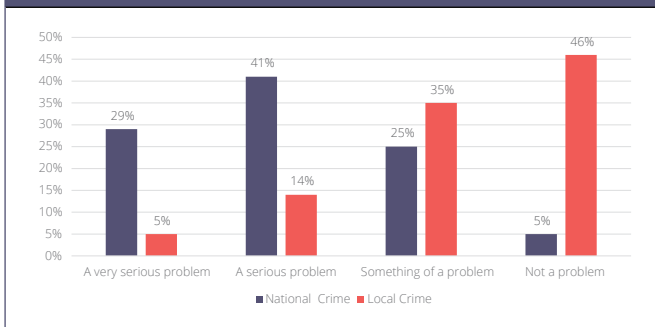
So what does the survey tell us? National crime was viewed as more of a problem than local crime - this is a consistent view of the Irish public across the last number of survey sweeps. However, views on the seriousness of national crime are improving, with a decrease in those viewing it as 'a serious problem' since 2017. Sexual offences and drugs offences should be a 'high priority' for An Garda Síochána, according to respondents who saw national crime as 'a very serious problem'. These priorities became *assaults* and *drugs offences* when local crime was thought to be 'a very serious problem'. Respondents were more likely to report that fear of crime had *no impact* on their quality of life, than it having an impact.

## 2.1 Perception of Crime and Policing Priorities

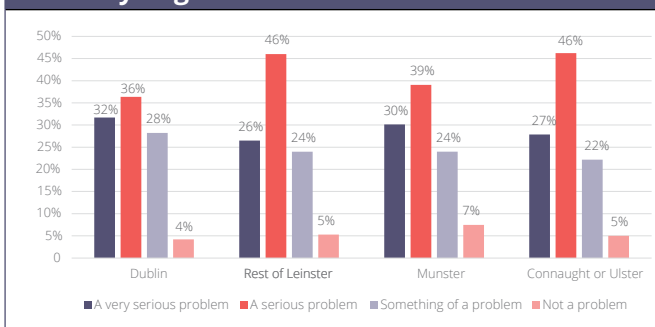
### 2.1.1 What are the Irish publics' perceptions of national and local crime in Ireland in 2021?

Respondents viewed national crime as more serious than local crime – similar to previous years. As figure 1 highlights, 46 percent of respondents considered local crime as 'not a problem,' compared to 5 percent for national crime. Similarly, 5 percent viewed local crime as 'a very serious problem,' compared to 29 percent for national crime. This remains true when we consider respondents' views of national and local crime, broken down by region (figures 2 and 3).

**Figure 1: Perception of the Seriousness of National and Local Crime 2021**



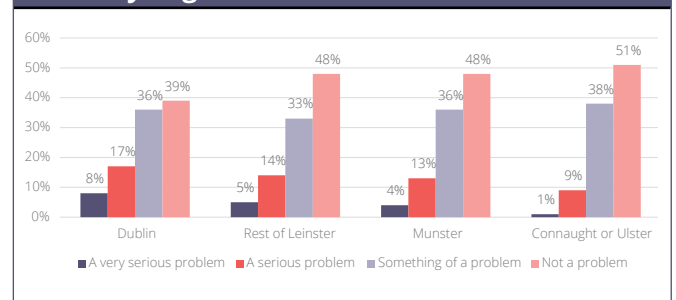
**Figure 2: Perception of Seriousness of National Crime by Region**



When we consider views of national crime broken down by region in 2021, we can see from figure 2 that in all regions, respondents were more likely to view national crime as either 'a very serious problem' or 'a serious problem,' than it being 'something of a problem' or 'not a problem' at all.

However, when local crime was examined, the opposite is true in all regions. Local crime was more likely to be considered 'something of a problem' or 'not a problem,' than 'a very serious/serious problem' (see figure 3). Over half of respondents in Connaught or Ulster considered local crime as 'not a problem', compared to 39 percent in Dublin.

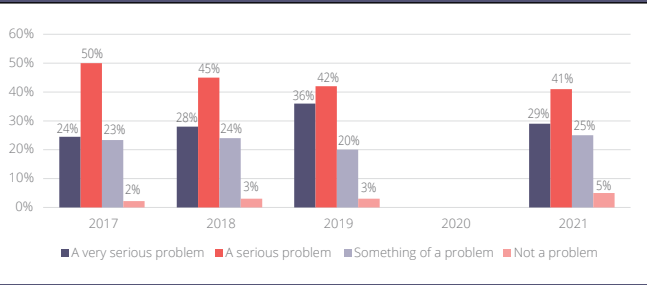
**Figure 3: Perception of Seriousness of Local Crime by Region**



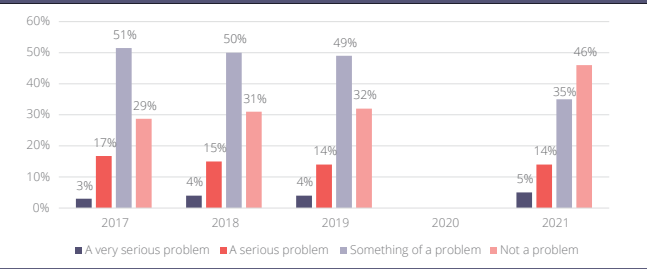
### 2.1.2 How have perceptions of national and local crime changed over the last 5 years?

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate changes in perceptions of crime over the last five years in Ireland (2020 is excluded, as an online survey was conducted during this year due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, which made face-to-face interviews impossible). Perceptions of national crime as being 'a serious problem' have decreased each year, from 50 percent in 2017 to 41 percent in 2021. In addition, perceptions of it being 'a very serious problem' has decreased 7 percentage points since 2019 (36% to 29%). In terms of local crime, the proportion of respondents who consider it 'not a problem' has increased each year since 2017 (29% to 46%) (see figure 5).

**Figure 4: Perceptions of National Crime 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)**



**Figure 5: Perceptions of Local Crime 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)**



## Policing Priorities

### 2.1.3 Respondents' policing priorities for An Garda Síochána in 2021

In 2021, three new crime types/areas of policing were added to the list of potential options from which respondents could choose – Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime and Road Safety. An Garda Síochána's continued focus on vulnerable victims, and the ongoing efforts to introduce hate crime legislation in Ireland, made the addition of the former two options a natural step in order to understand the public's views on these two crime areas. Equally, while traffic offences have been included in previous survey questionnaires, this did not capture the broader area of *road safety* in general – an important aspect of Garda work. Hence, it's inclusion in the 2021 iteration.

'Sexual offences' were the crime type respondents felt should receive the highest priority from An Garda Síochána (90% of respondents), followed by 'domestic abuse' (87%), 'human trafficking' 'assaults' and 'illegal weapons' (84%, 82% and 81% respectively). Traffic offences, public order offences and 'road safety' received the lowest percentage of 'high priority' responses (see table 3). However, it is worth noting that 63 percent did consider that road safety should be a high priority for An Garda Síochána.

**Table 3: Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána 2021**

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Sexual offences	90%	8%	3%
Domestic Abuse	87%	10%	3%
Human trafficking	84%	10%	6%
Assaults	82%	14%	3%
Illegal weapons	81%	14%	5%
Drugs offences	79%	16%	5%
Robberies	77%	21%	2%
Burglaries	77%	21%	3%
Hate Crime	72%	22%	6%
Criminal damage	67%	28%	5%
Fraud	67%	27%	6%
Road Safety	63%	31%	6%
Public order offences	54%	37%	9%
Traffic offences	41%	44%	16%

### 2.1.4 Are policing priorities impacted by perceptions of crime?

The survey explored whether respondents' policing priorities were impacted by their perceptions of national and local crime (see table 4). Sexual offences were prioritised the most, regardless of respondents' perceptions of the seriousness of national crime (drugs were also ranked first for those who considered national crime to be 'a very serious problem'). For respondents who considered *local* crime to be 'a very serious problem', *assaults* and *drugs offences* were prioritised the most. Domestic abuse was ranked highly when both national and local crime were considered, and for some respondents, when local crime was viewed as 'a very serious problem', *burglaries* featured as a third priority.

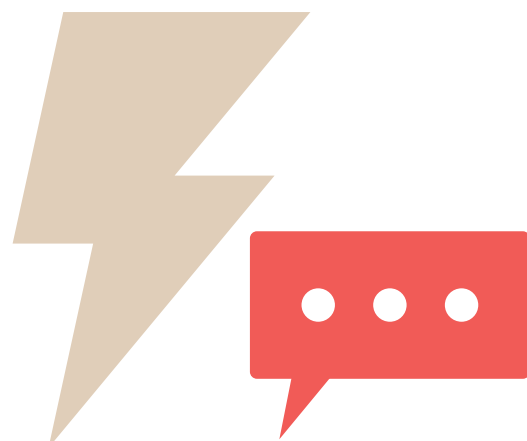














Table 4: Policing Priorities by Perceptions of National and Local Crime 2021

	Policing Priorities	National Crime				Local Crime			
		A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
	Sexual Offences	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1
	Domestic Abuse	3	2	2	2	3	1	2	2
	Human Trafficking	6	3	3	3	8	7	3	2
	Assaults	4	4	5	4	1	3	3	5
	Illegal Weapons	8	5	4	4	8	8	5	4
	Drugs Offences	1	6	8	6	1	4	6	6
	Robberies	6	7	6	7	5	6	7	7
	Burglaries	5	8	6	9	3	5	7	8
	Hate Crime	10	9	8	8	11	9	9	9
	Criminal Damage	9	10	12	11	7	10	10	11
	Fraud	11	11	10	10	12	11	11	10
	Road Safety	12	12	11	11	10	12	12	12
	Public Order offences	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
	Traffic Offences	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14



### 2.1.5 Are policing priorities impacted by fear of crime?

Sexual offences continued to be the crime type prioritised by respondents, regardless of their fear of crime level. Domestic abuse ranked second. For those with 'a lot of fears' or 'some fear', assaults featured in third place (see table 5).

Table 5: Policing Priorities by Fear of Crime

Policing Priorities	Fear of Crime			
	A lot of fear	Some fear	Very few fears	No fears
Sexual Offences	1	1	1	1
Domestic Abuse	2	2	2	2
Human Trafficking	5	4	3	3
Assaults	3	3	4	5
Illegal Weapons	6	6	5	4
Drugs Offences	4	5	6	6
Robberies	8	6	7	7
Burglaries	6	6	7	8
Hate Crime	9	9	9	9
Criminal Damage	11	10	11	11
Fraud	10	11	10	10
Road Safety	12	12	12	12
Public Order Offences	13	13	13	13
Traffic Offences	14	14	14	14

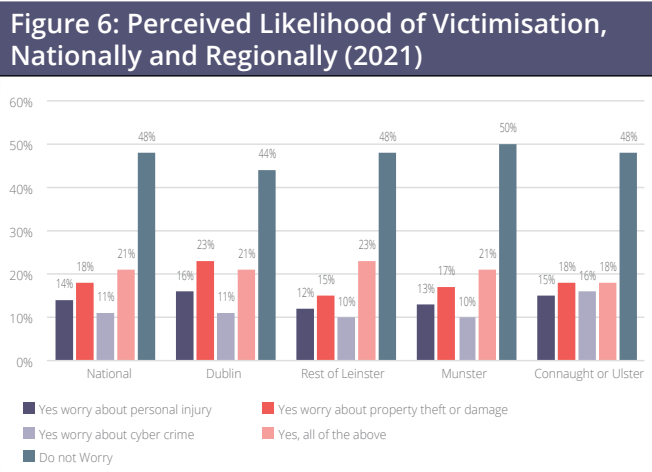
## 2.2 Worry about Victimization and Fear of Crime

Respondents' fear and worry about crime were explored in three ways:

- Perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime
- Fear about levels of crime
- Impact of fear of crime on quality of life.

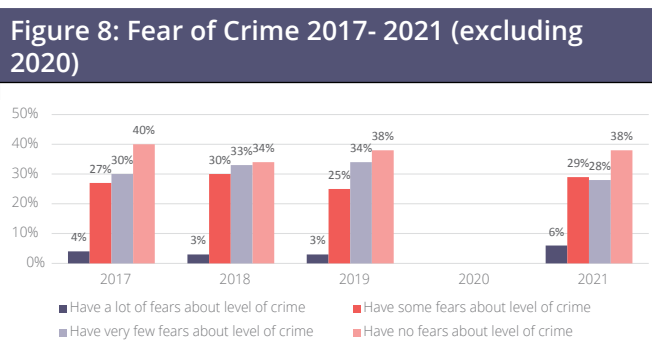
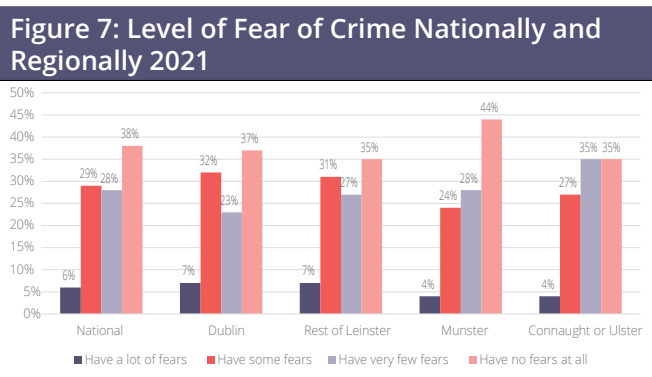
### 2.2.1 Perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime

When respondents' worry about victimisation (for them or someone they live with) was explored on a national level, 48 percent stated they 'do not worry'. This figure was slightly lower in Dublin (44%), and higher in Munster at 50 percent. Dublin respondents were also more likely to worry about property theft and damage, compared to those in other regions (see figure 6).



### 2.2.2 Level of fear of crime

As figure 7 highlights, on a national level, respondents were more likely to have 'no fears' about crime, than to have 'a lot' or 'some fears'. On a regional level, for example in Munster, 72 percent of respondents reported having 'no fears' or 'very few fears', compared to 28 percent who had 'a lot' or 'some fears'. The proportion of those respondents who had 'some fears' ranged from 24 percent in Munster to 32 percent in Dublin. Nationally, this figure was 29 percent. As figure 8 indicates, over the last five-year period, levels of fear of crime have not fluctuated in any notable way.



### 2.2.3 How does fear of crime impact on quality of life?

The survey examined how fear of crime impacts quality of life. As figure 9 illustrates, for the majority of respondents, fear of crime did not impact on their quality of life. Respondents in Dublin were less likely to hold this view, than those in other regions – however, the figure still stood at 57 percent. Respondents in Connaught or Ulster reported the least impact on their quality of life, with 71 percent reporting no impact. Nationally, this figure stood at 61 percent. Those respondents who reported that fear of crime had *no impact* on their quality of life has declined since 2017 (see figure 10), from 70 percent in 2017 to 61 percent in 2021.

Figure 9: The Effect of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life Nationally and Regionally 2021

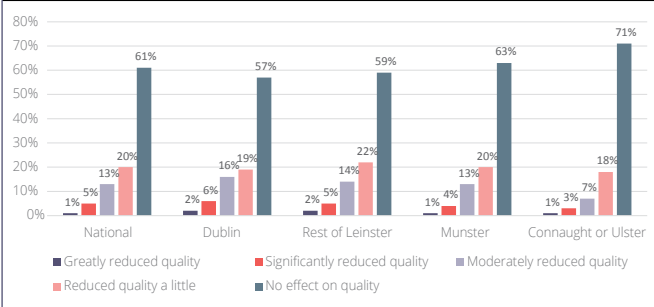
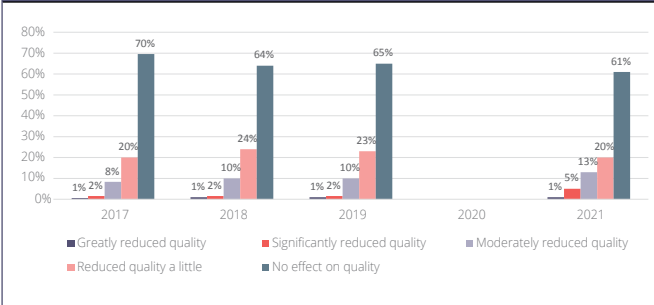


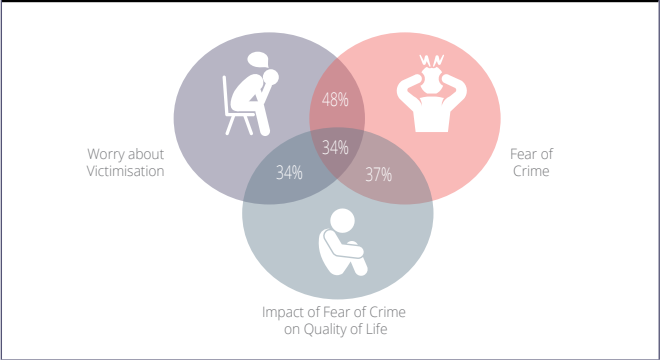
Figure 10: The Effect of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)



### 2.2.4 Interlinking/Intersection of worry about victimisation, fear of crime and effect of fear of crime

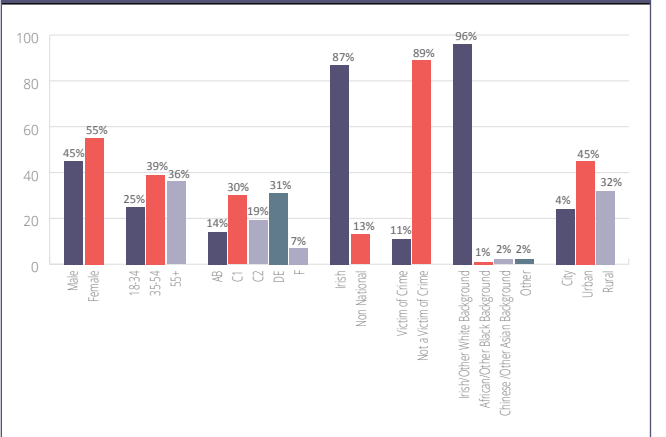
Figure 11 illustrates the triangulation between the three elements (worry about victimisation, fear of crime and impact of fear of crime on quality of life). It can be seen that 34 percent (n=2567) of respondents display all three of these characteristics – they have *some* worry about victimisation, have *some* fear of crime, and their fear of crime has *some* impact on their quality of life.

Figure 11: Intersection of Worry about Victimization, Fear of Crime and Impact on Quality of Life



The characteristics of this central cohort are detailed further in figure 12. For example, there are more females, than males (55% versus 45%), and the majority are aged 35 years or older. City and urban dwellers (69%) feature more than rural respondents (32%). Females account for a slightly higher proportion than their presence in the overall sample (55% of this group, compared to 51% overall). Similarly, 18 to 24-year-olds account for a much larger proportion in this cohort (25%), than in the overall sample (11%).

Figure 12: Characteristics of Central Cohort



# Chapter 3

## Views Towards An Garda Síochána

### 3.1 Satisfaction and Trust in An Garda Síochána

### 3.2 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

**78%**

**SATISFACTION**  
with  
An Garda Síochána  
remains high at 78%



**54%**

Representative of  
diverse communities



Expressed mid to  
high trust in  
An Garda Síochána  
in 2021

**91%**

#### Respondents' views; An Garda Síochána

is friendly or helpful	89%
human-rights focused	80%
and community-focused	77%
effective in tackling crime	72%
well-managed	69%
and modern and progressive	75%



As well as examining satisfaction and trust levels in An Garda Síochána, this chapter examines Garda-community relations and feelings about how Gardaí would treat you in the course of their duties.

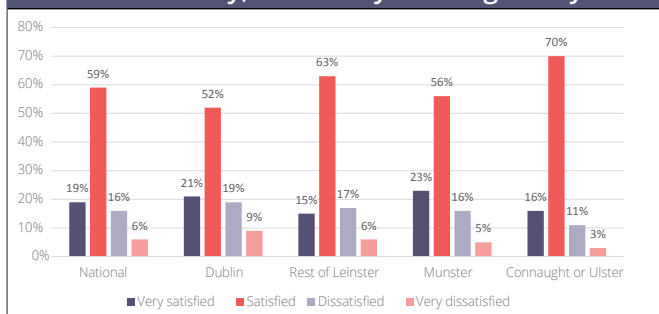
So what does the survey tell us? Satisfaction and trust levels (mid-high trust) in An Garda Síochána among the Irish public are significant – a consistent finding over the last five-year period. Equally, views about the Garda organisation and the Gardaí who serve local communities, was largely positive. The Service was seen by the majority as being friendly and helpful, human-rights and community-focused, as well as modern and progressive and effective in tackling crime. Management of the Service was viewed as slightly less favourably, although perceptions about this are improving. For the first time, views on whether the Service is representative of diverse communities was examined – a little over half agreed that it is.

### 3.1 Satisfaction and Trust in An Garda Síochána

#### 3.1.1 Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána during 2021

The survey examined levels of satisfaction among respondents with Garda service to their local communities. It can be seen from figure 13 that nationally, 78 percent were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied’ with this service. Respondents in Connaught or Ulster expressed the highest satisfaction levels at 86 percent, followed by Munster at 79 percent. Those respondents in Dublin were least satisfied, at 73 percent.

Figure 13: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Community, Nationally and Regionally

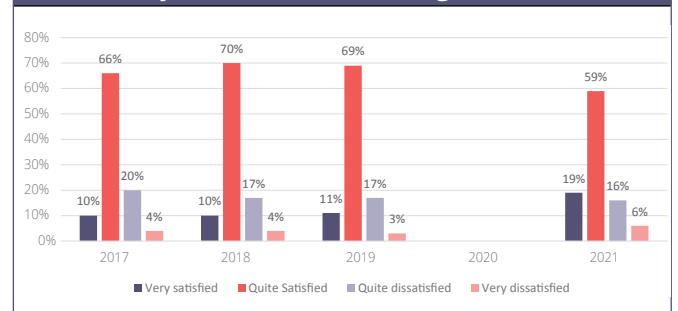


#### 3.1.2 How have satisfaction levels changed over the last 5 years (excluding 2020)?

As figure 14 highlights, satisfaction levels have not fluctuated notably over the last 5-year period, when ‘very satisfied’ and ‘satisfied’ are taken together. However, there are some interesting findings when we examine these variables separately. In 2021, those respondents who were ‘very satisfied’

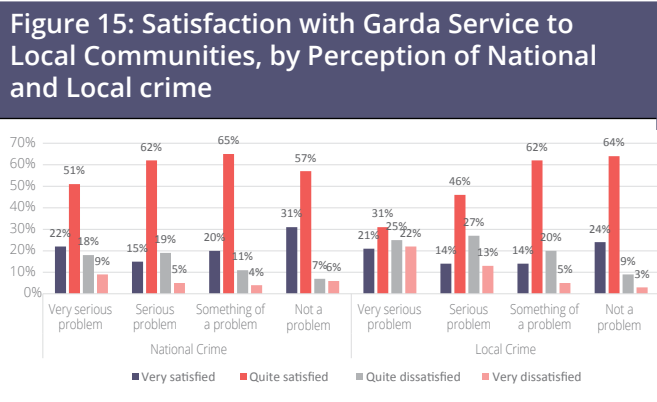
increased to 19 percent, from 11 percent in 2019, and 10 percent the two previous years. Equally, those who were ‘quite satisfied’ has decreased 10 percentage points from 2019.

Figure 14: Satisfaction with Garda service to Local Community 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)



#### 3.1.3 Do perceptions of crime impact satisfaction levels?

As seen in previous survey sweeps, and as figure 15 illustrates, there is a connection between perceptions of national and local crime, and satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities. Eighty-eight percent of people who considered national crime as ‘not a problem’ were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘quite satisfied’ with Garda service (for those who considered it ‘something of a problem’, this figure was 85%). As views of national crimes’ seriousness increased, satisfaction levels decreased (77% for those who considered it a ‘serious problem’ and 73%, ‘a very serious problem’). The same correlation is seen for local crime, although the impact is much more pronounced. For example, 88 percent of those who considered local crime as ‘not a problem’ were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied’. This figure dropped to 52 percent for those who considered local crime as ‘a very serious problem’.



### 3.1.4 Satisfaction and fear of crime

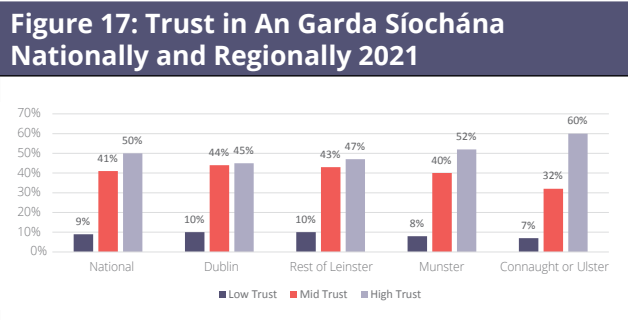
Previous surveys have shown that fear of crime impacts satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities. This is seen again in 2021. As fear of crime levels decrease, satisfaction increases. For example, for those respondents who had 'a lot of fears' about crime, satisfaction levels stood at 50 percent ('very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' combined). Satisfaction levels increased to 85 percent for those who expressed 'no fears' (see figure 16).



## Trust<sup>5</sup>

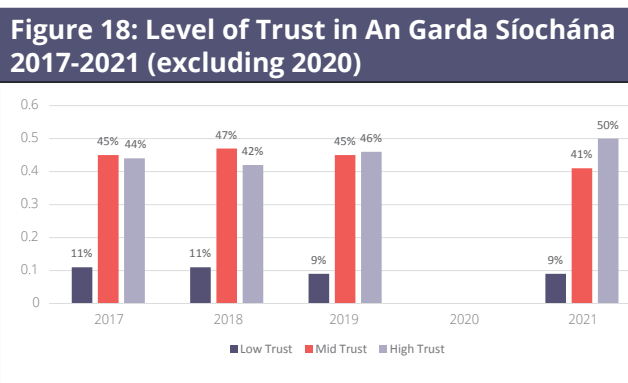
### 3.1.5 Levels of trust in An Garda Síochána during 2021

In 2021, when examined at a national level, half of respondents expressed high trust in An Garda Síochána. This figure was higher in Connaught or Ulster at 60 percent, but lower in Dublin and the rest of Leinster (45% and 47% respectively) (see figure 17). When mid-trust and high trust were combined, we see that across the regions, levels of trust ranged from 89 to 92 percent.



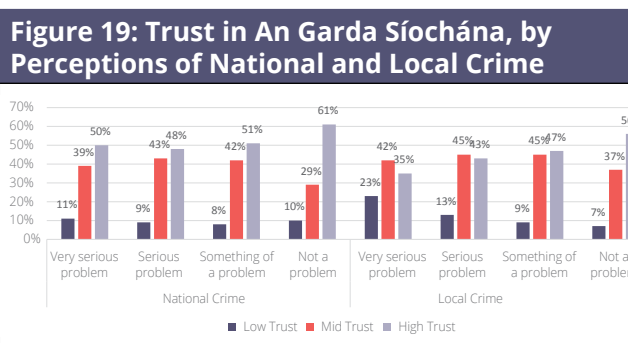
### 3.1.6 How have trust levels changed over the last 5 years?

Examining trust over the last five-year period, we see that when mid-trust and high-trust are taken together, 2019 and 2021 remain the same at 91 percent, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2018 and 2017 (see figure 18).



### 3.1.7 Do perceptions of crime impact trust levels?

As figure 19 illustrates, 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána was greatest for those respondents who considered national crime as 'not a problem' (61%). However, overall, when mid-high trust is combined, trust was greatest for those who considered national crime 'a very serious problem' (89%) and 'a serious problem' (91%). When local crime is examined, 'high' trust was still greatest for those who considered it 'not a problem' (56%), and indeed as views of the seriousness of the crime problem decreased, mid-high trust levels increased.

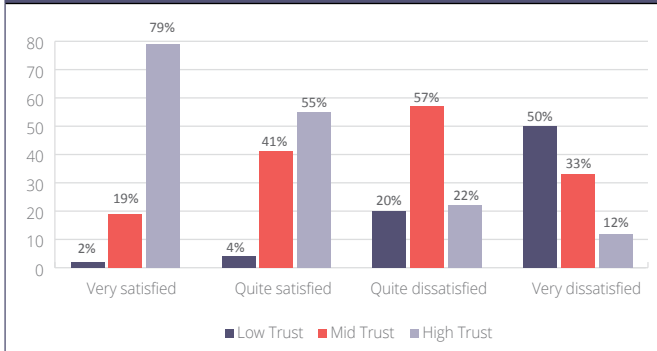


<sup>5</sup> The survey examined levels of trust in An Garda Síochána - respondents were asked to assign a rating of between 1 and 10 to their chosen level, the highest level of trust being ten and the lowest, one. Responses were then recoded to 'low trust' (ratings 1, 2, 3, and 4), 'mid trust' (ratings 5, 6 and 7) and 'high trust' (ratings 8, 9 and 10).

### 3.1.8 Impact of satisfaction with Garda service to local communities on trust levels

A consistent correlation over previous survey sweeps, and one that continues in 2021, is between satisfaction with Garda service to local communities and trust levels. For those respondents who were 'very satisfied' with this service, 'high trust' stood at 79 percent. This decreased to 12 percent for those who were 'very dissatisfied' with Garda service locally. 'Mid-trust' levels tended to be more ambiguous – it was greatest for those who were 'quite dissatisfied' with Garda service to local communities (see figure 20).

Figure 20: Trust in An Garda Síochána, by Satisfaction with Garda Service Locally

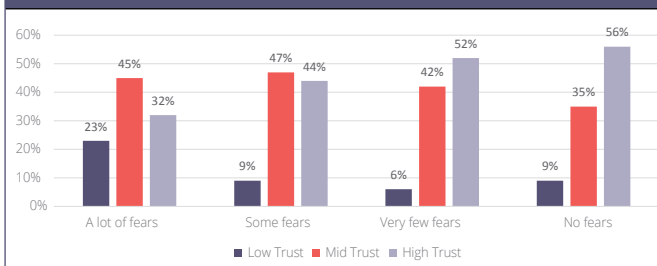


\*The 2% for 'very satisfied' by low trust represents responses of fewer than 30.

### 3.1.9 Does fear of crime impact trust levels?

There is a relationship between fear of crime and trust levels. As fear of crime levels decreased, 'high trust' levels increased (32% who had 'a lot of fears', compared to 56% for those who had 'no fears'). Equally, low trust was greatest for those who had 'a lot of fears' about crime. Levels of fear of crime for those who expressed 'mid-trust' ranged between 35 percent and 47 percent (see figure 21).

Figure 21: Trust in An Garda Síochána, by Fear of Crime



## 3.2 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

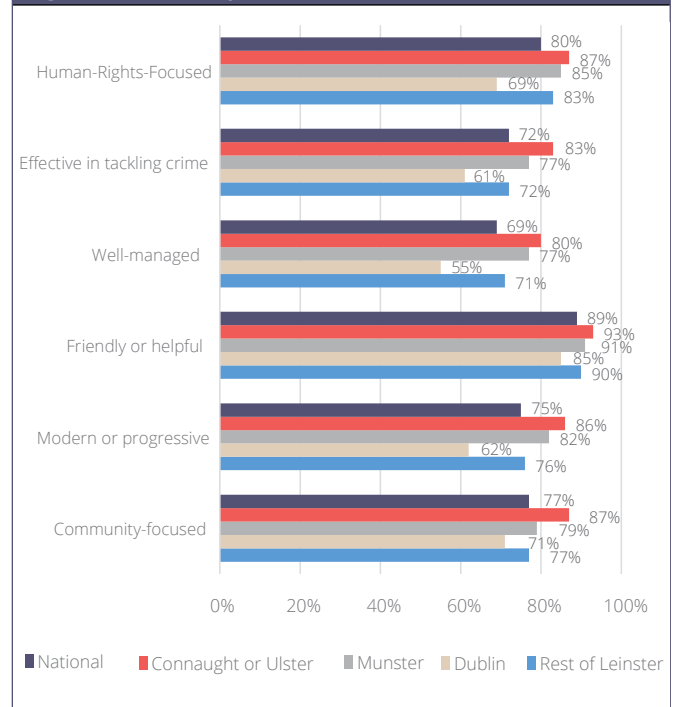
The following section examines agreement levels among respondents with six key statements. Three of these statements relate to whether Gardaí are friendly and helpful, community-focused and effective in tackling crime. The remaining three are concerned with whether An Garda Síochána is modern and progressive, human-rights-focused<sup>6</sup> and whether it is well-managed.

### 3.2.1 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

In the 2021 survey, at a national level, the majority of respondents agreed with the six key statements. For example, the most positive views related to An Garda Síochána being friendly or helpful (89%), human-rights-focused (80%), and community-focused (77%). While still in the majority, agreement levels about certain aspects of An Garda Síochána were less favourable - effective in tackling crime (72%), well-managed (69%) and modern and progressive (75%).

Variance across the regions, and compared to national figures, was pronounced in some areas. For example, in Dublin, 69 percent felt An Garda Síochána was human-rights-focussed, compared to 87 percent in Connaught or Ulster. Equally, in Dublin, 55 percent felt it is a well-managed organisation, compared to 80 percent in Connaught or Ulster (see figure 22 for further comparisons).

Figure 22: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána 2021

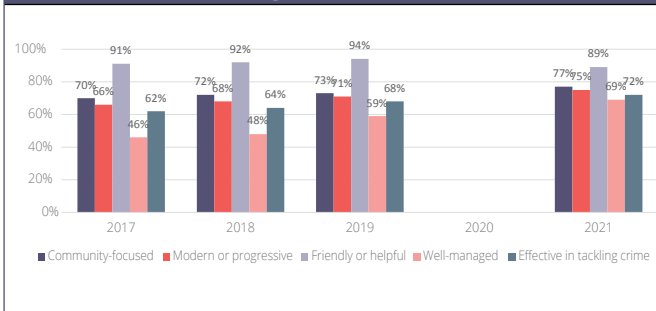


<sup>6</sup> 'Human-rights focused' was an option introduced for the first time in 2021.

### 3.2.2 How have perceptions changed over the last 5 years?

Figure 23 examines changes in perceptions of An Garda Síochána over the last five-year period. Positive changes can be seen in four of the five relevant areas. For example, views about whether An Garda Síochána is well-managed have increased year-on-year from 46 percent in 2017, to 69 percent in 2021. Equally, views on the Gardaí’s effectiveness in tackling crime have also increased each year, from 62 percent in 2017 to 72 percent in 2021.

Figure 23: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)



### 3.2.3 Do perceptions of crime impact views about An Garda Síochána?

As table 6 illustrates, in general, as perceptions of the seriousness of national crime decrease, agreement levels with some of the statements about An Garda Síochána increase – it being community-focused, well-managed and effective in tackling crime. Those who considered national crime as ‘not a problem’ were more likely to view An Garda Síochána as modern or progressive (83%) and human rights-focused (85%). For local crime, across all six statements, as perceptions of the seriousness of crime decreased, agreement levels increased i.e. views of An Garda Síochána became more positive.

Table 6: Perceptions of crime by perceptions of An Garda Síochána

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána



National Crime				Local Crime			
A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem	A very serious problem	A serious problem	Something of a problem	Not a problem
<b>Community-focused</b>							
76%	76%	80%	82%	55%	62%	77%	84%
<b>Modern or progressive</b>							
77%	74%	73%	83%	59%	65%	73%	81%
<b>Friendly or helpful</b>							
88%	90%	90%	88%	78%	82%	90%	92%
<b>Well-managed</b>							
70%	66%	72%	80%	54%	56%	65%	79%
<b>Effective in tackling crime</b>							
71%	70%	75%	81%	53%	56%	68%	82%
<b>Human Rights-focused</b>							
81%	80%	80%	85%	61%	72%	79%	86%



### 3.2.4 Do fear of crime and trust impact perceptions of An Garda Síochána?

There is a clear correlation between fear of crime levels and perceptions of An Garda Síochána. Across all statements, as fear of crime levels decrease, agreement levels with the statements increase – views of An Garda Síochána become more positive. This is true for trust also. The greater the trust levels in An Garda Síochána, the more positive the views of the organisation across all six statements (see table 7).

Table 7: Fear of Crime and Trust by perceptions of An Garda Síochána

 <b>Fear of Crime</b>				 <b>Trust</b>		
A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Low trust	Mid trust	High trust
<b>Community-focused</b>						
59%	71%	82%	82%	22%	69%	93%
<b>Modern or progressive</b>						
58%	69%	77%	81%	24%	65%	91%
<b>Friendly or helpful</b>						
82%	89%	91%	90%	40%	88%	98%
<b>Well-managed</b>						
48%	63%	72%	76%	18%	58%	87%
<b>Effective in tackling crime</b>						
47%	67%	75%	78%	20%	62%	89%
<b>Human Rights-focused</b>						
65%	77%	83%	84%	27%	73%	93%

<sup>7</sup> When 'don't knows' are excluded this figure becomes 66% ('strongly agree' or 'agree').

<sup>8</sup> Supervisory or clerical, junior manager, Nurse, Teacher, sales representative, shop owner, Student

### 3.2.5 Diversity in An Garda Síochána

In 2021, a new statement was added to the survey; 'Do you agree or disagree that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves?' Figure 24 illustrates agreement levels with this statement. When 'strongly agree' and 'agree' are combined, on a national level, 54 percent of respondents agreed with this statement<sup>7</sup>. This figure was 62 percent in Connaught or Ulster, but dropped to 45 percent in Dublin.

Figure 24: Perception of An Garda Síochána being Representative of Diverse Communities

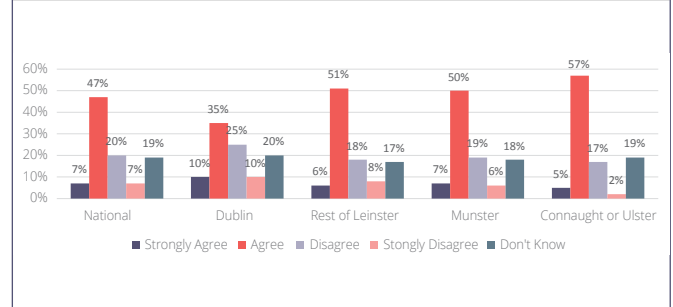
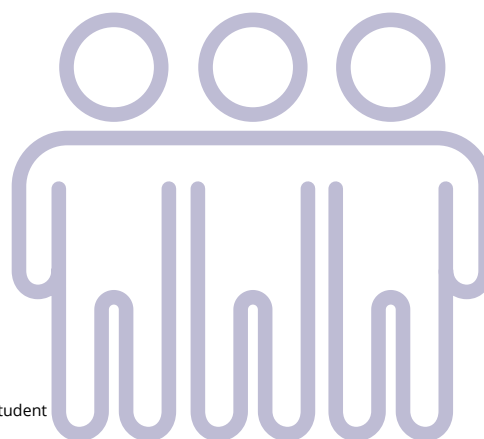
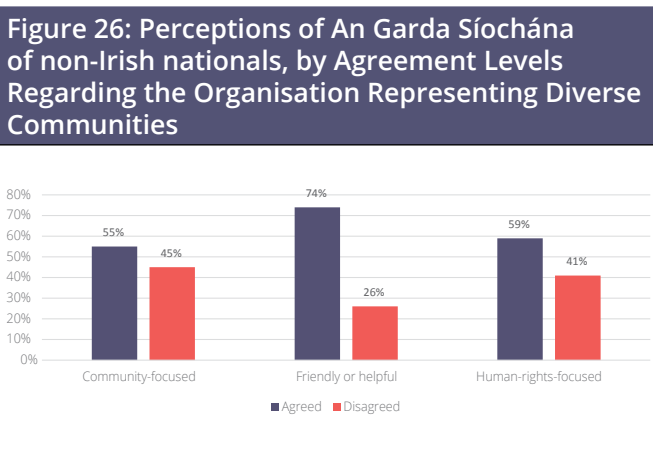
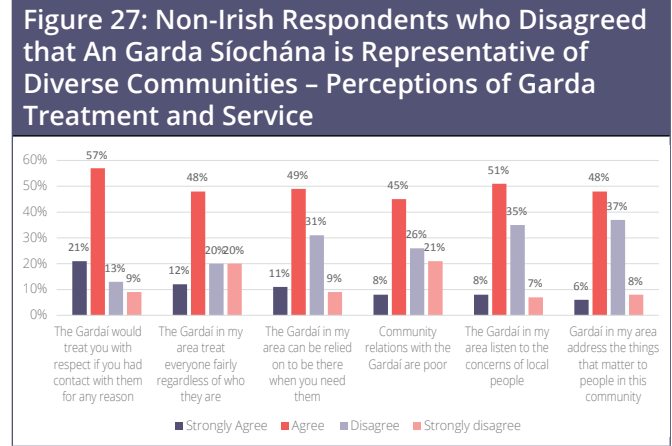
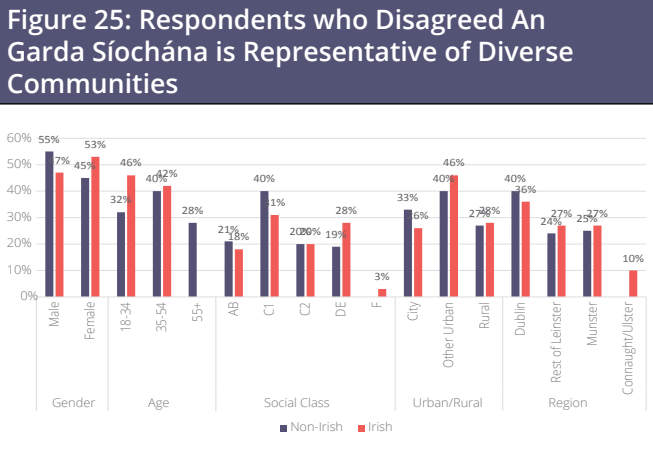


Figure 25 examines Irish and non-Irish nationals' perceptions of whether An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities. Of those non-Irish nationals who disagreed with the statement, there was a greater proportion of males than females (55% versus 45%), while the opposite was true for Irish nationals (47% males versus 53% females). A greater proportion of Irish nationals in the age category 18-34 years (46%) disagreed that Gardaí are representative of diverse communities, than non-Irish nationals in this age category (32%).

In terms of social class, those non-Irish nationals in class C1<sup>8</sup> were the most likely to disagree (40%), as were Irish nationals in this social class grouping (31%). Irish and non-Irish nationals in 'other urban' areas were more likely to disagree with the statement, than those in city and rural areas. Respondents (both Irish and non-Irish) in Dublin represented the majority of those who disagreed, when compared to other areas.







When we look at non-Irish nationals who disagreed that An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities (figure 27), we see that, despite this, their perceptions of the organisation are largely positive, although notably lower than the total sample (figures in red). For example, when ‘strongly agree’ and ‘agree’ are combined, 78% believed Gardaí would treat you with respect (91%), 60% believed they would treat you fairly regardless of who you are (77%). Agreement levels across the other considerations were: reliability (60%) (77%); Gardaí listen to concerns of local people (59%) (80%); Gardaí address things that matter to local community (54%) (77%). Forty-seven percent disagreed that Garda-community relations are poor (67%).

In terms of perceptions of the Garda organisation by non-Irish nationals, by whether or not they agreed that it is representative of diverse communities, we see from figure 26 that of those that agreed, views were more positive (e.g. 74% agreed Gardaí are friendly or helpful, versus 26% for those who disagreed).



# Chapter 4

## Service Delivery Perceptions

### 4.1 Perceptions of Garda Visibility and Presence

### 4.2 Treatment by An Garda Síochána



**49%**

Aware of  
**GARDA PATROLS**  
increasing every year  
**SINCE 2017**

**46%**

held the  
view that  
**GARDA  
PRESENCE**  
is about right



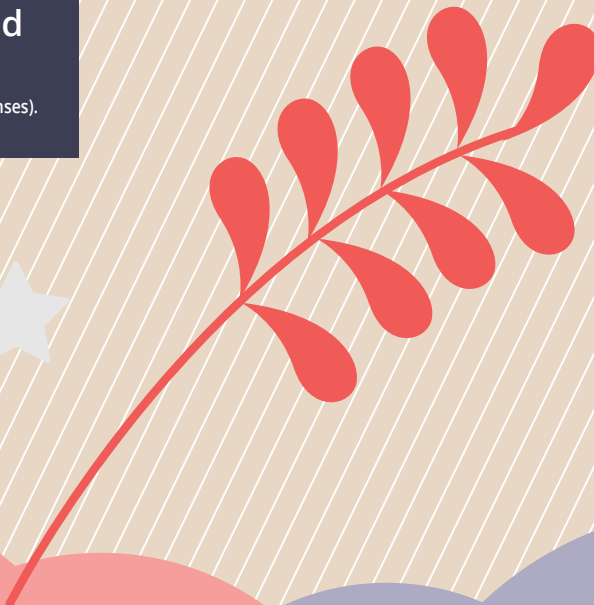
**52%** Regularly see  
Gardaí patrolling  
**BY CAR**  
while **7%** regularly see  
Gardaí patrolling  
**BY FOOT**

Respondents views:

**85%** thought they would be  
treated with respect;

**66%** felt they would be treated  
fairly by Gardaí

(‘strongly agree’ and ‘agree’ combined, including ‘don’t know’ responses).



This chapter examines important elements of Garda service – perceptions about whether Gardaí are visible in our communities and whether their perceived level of presence is enough. Expected levels of treatment by Gardaí was examined, as well as service to, and relationships with, local communities.

So what does the survey tell us? Awareness of Garda patrols among the Irish public is increasing year on year - most perceived these patrols to be in cars and rarely on foot. Fewer than half of 2021's respondents felt that Garda presence is 'about right', but this has been improving since 2018. The majority of respondents held very positive views about An Garda Síochána's potential level of treatment towards them, should they have contact with them for any reason, in terms of fairness and respect. Equally, views about their service to local communities was very positive – reliability, addressing concerns of communities and perceptions about Garda-community relations.

## 4.1 Perceptions of Garda Visibility and Presence

### 4.1.1 Awareness of Garda patrols

As figure 28 highlights, on a national level, 49 percent of respondents to the 2021 survey reported being aware of Garda patrols, 43 percent reported being unaware, while 8 percent did not know. Respondents in Connaught or Ulster had the most awareness of Garda patrols at 60 percent, with Dublin respondents having the least awareness (41%).

In 2021, a new dimension was added to the question about awareness levels of Garda patrols. This related to the patrol type (by foot, car or bicycle). An Garda Síochána's stated ongoing commitment to improving Garda visibility in communities necessitates understanding perceptions of not only Garda patrols, but also, how respondents perceive these patrols to be carried out. Respondents reported greater awareness of Gardaí in patrol cars, than on foot or bicycle, with 59 percent reporting that they never see Gardaí patrolling by foot (see figure 29).

Figure 28: Awareness of Garda Patrols Nationally and Regionally 2021

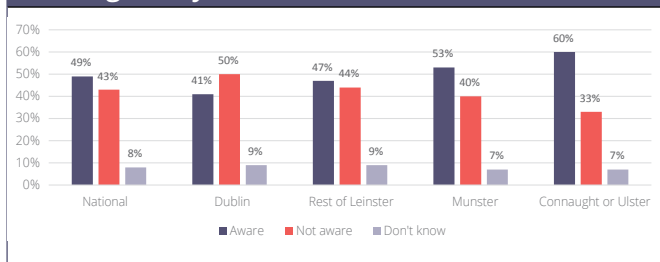
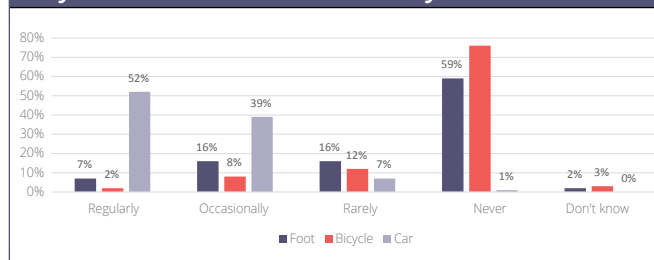


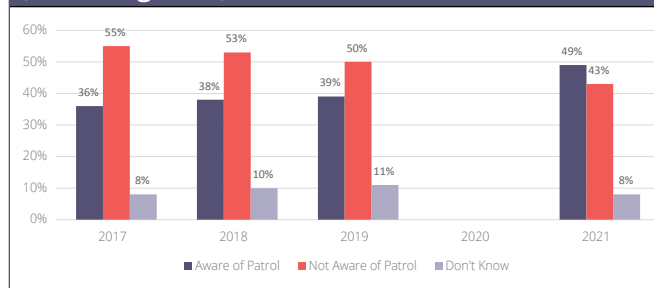
Figure 29: Perception of the Frequency of Foot, Bicycle and Car Patrol Nationally



### 4.1.2 How has awareness of Garda patrols changed over the last five years?

Awareness of Garda patrols has been increasing year on year over the last 5-year period (excluding 2020), from 36 percent in 2017, to 49 percent in 2021 (figure 30), with an increase of 10 percentage points since 2019 (see figure 30).

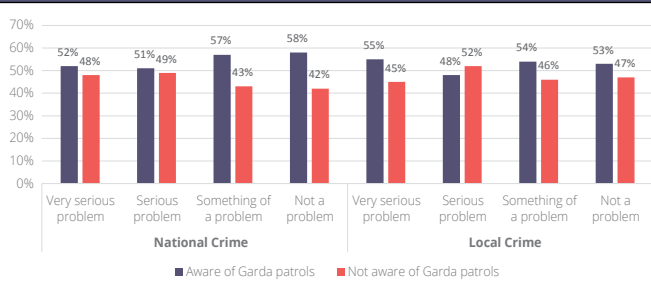
Figure 30: Awareness of Garda Patrols 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)



### 4.1.3 Do perceptions of crime impact on awareness of Garda patrols?

Those respondents who were of the view that national crime is 'not a problem' or 'something of a problem' reported the greatest awareness of Garda patrols (58% and 57% respectively), compared to, for example, those who considered it 'a very serious problem' (52%). Views on the seriousness of local crime did not impact awareness of Garda patrols to a large extent - those who considered it 'a very serious problem' reported the greatest awareness levels at 55% (see figure 31).

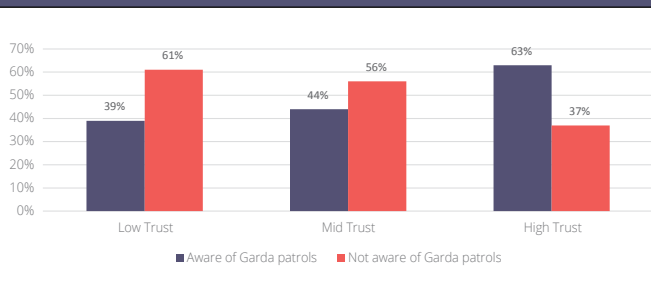
Figure 31: Awareness of Garda Patrols, by Perceptions of National and Local Crime



### 4.1.4 Do trust levels in An Garda Síochána impact awareness of Garda patrols?

As figure 32 highlights, those with 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána reported the greatest awareness of Garda patrols at 63 percent. Conversely, those with 'low trust' were least aware of Garda patrols - 39 percent aware.

Figure 32: Awareness of Garda Patrols, by Trust in An Garda Síochána



## Views on Garda Presence

### 4.1.5 Perceptions of Garda presence

Fifty-three percent of respondents felt that Garda presence is not enough in their local areas - this figure has been decreasing over the last three survey sweeps - 61%, 55%, 53% in years 2018, 2019 and 2021 (figure 33).

Of those respondents who stated that Garda presence in their local area is 'not enough', the majority (65%) reported that they 'never or rarely see Gardaí.' Only seeing Gardaí in cars, or not seeing them on foot, were also given as reasons for this by a large cohort of respondents (36% and 21% respectively) (see table 8). Interestingly, for those who reported that Garda presence is 'about right,' 33 percent cited the fact that they see Gardaí patrolling in cars as reason for this, while 52 percent stated the reason as being because there is 'not much crime' (table 9).

Figure 33: Perception of Garda Presence in Local Area 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)

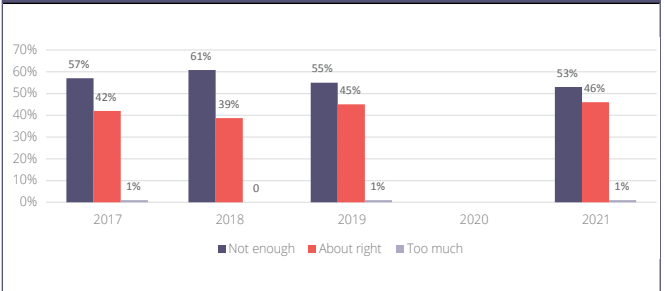


Table 8: Reasons Cited for why Local Garda Presence is 'Not Enough' 2021

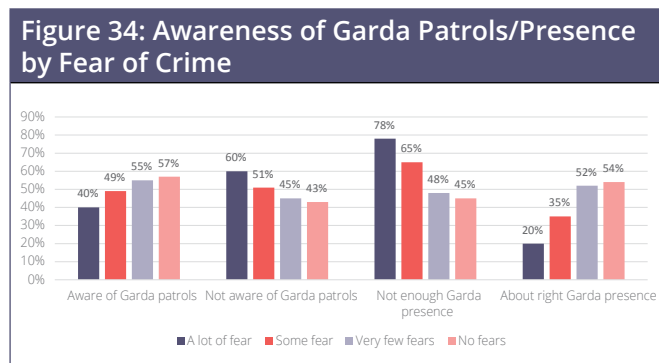
Reasons that local Garda presence is 'not enough'	%
Never or rarely see Gardaí	65%
Only see Gardaí in cars	36%
Not enough or need more or don't see Gardaí on foot	21%
Only there when there's a crime or trouble	15%
Used to be more Gardaí	14%
Slow to respond	9%
See crimes happening, but no Gardaí	9%
Gardaí should check on elderly/not enough Gardaí to check on elderly	9%
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	8%
Other	8%
Not enough being done about domestic abuse/no support for domestic abuse	6%
Gardaí can't do anything when crimes happen	5%
Rely too much on cameras	5%
Not enough being done about traffic offences (inc. speeding)	4%

**Table 9: Reasons Cited for why Local Garda Presence is 'About Right' 2021**

Reasons that local Garda presence is 'about right'	%
Not much crime	52%
See Gardaí patrolling in cars	33%
See them quite often	30%
Not necessary to see them all the time	16%
Garda station nearby	16%
Crime rates are improving	6%
Other	6%
Seeing too many is overwhelming	5%
See Gardaí on foot	3%

**4.1.6 Does fear of crime impact awareness of Garda patrols/views on adequacy of Garda presence?**

Those respondents who were more likely to report they had 'a lot of fears' of crime, were less likely to be aware of Garda patrols (60%), compared to 43 percent who had 'no fears'. Equally, this group who had 'a lot of fears' of crime were less likely to consider Garda presence as 'about right' (20%), compared to 54 percent of respondents who had 'no fears' (see figure 34).



\*In the above chart, the 'too much' response option is not included, as cell counts were less than 30

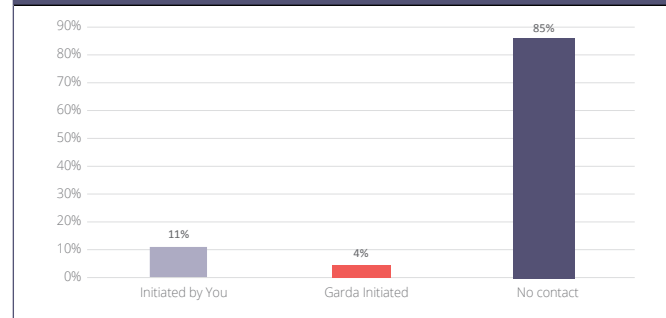
**4.1.7 Contact with An Garda Síochána**

Of the 7,656 respondents in the 2021 survey, 85 percent had *no contact* with An Garda Síochána in the preceding 12 months (figure 35). Of the 15 percent (n=1,184) who had *some* contact (self or Garda-initiated), 862 (11%) had self-initiated contact, while 4 percent had Garda-initiated. Of the 11 percent who had self - initiated contact, 50 percent reported this to be by phone call (not 999 or 112). 'Visit to a Garda Station' was the next most commonly reported contact type at 33 percent (see figure 36 for a full breakdown).

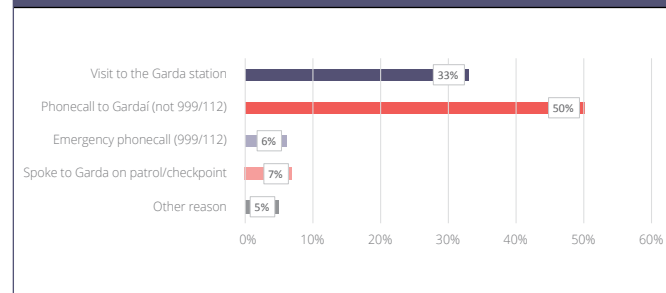
As figure 37 highlights, of the 1,184 who had *some* contact, 75 percent of respondents were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with their most recent

contact with the Gardaí. In terms of contact type and impact on satisfaction levels with that contact, 80 percent expressed satisfaction with contact when they visited a Garda station, while 72 percent were satisfied when the contact was a phone call to Gardaí (not 999 or 112) (see figure 38 - analysis of the other three contact types was not possible due to low cell counts).

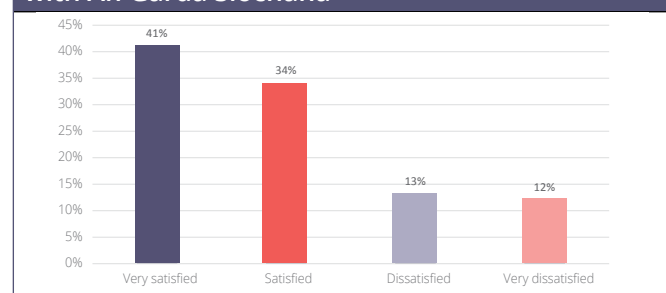
**Figure 35: Respondents who had Contact with An Garda Síochána in 2021**



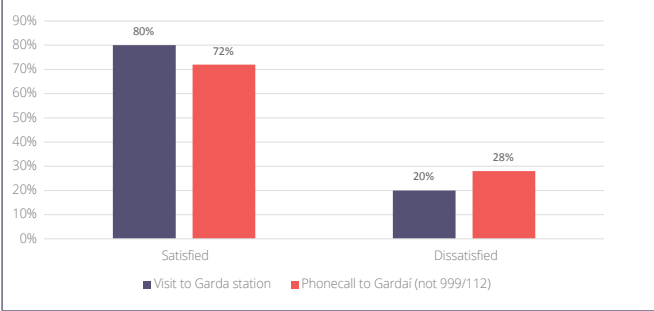
**Figure 36: How Most Recent Contact with An Garda Síochána was Made**



**Figure 37: Satisfaction with Most Recent Contact with An Garda Síochána**



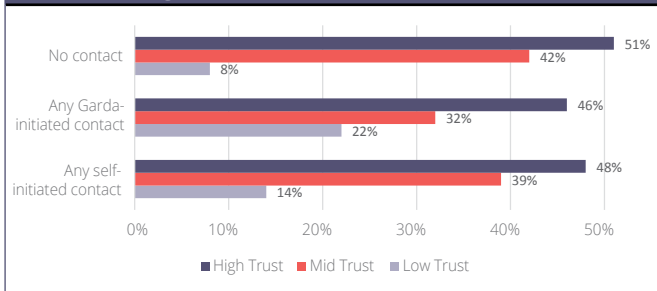
**Figure 38: Satisfaction with Service, by Contact Type**



**4.1.8 Does contact type impact on trust levels?**

Those who had any Garda-initiated contact were more likely to have low trust levels in An Garda Síochána (22%), than those who had self-initiated (14%), or no contact at all (8%). See figure 39.

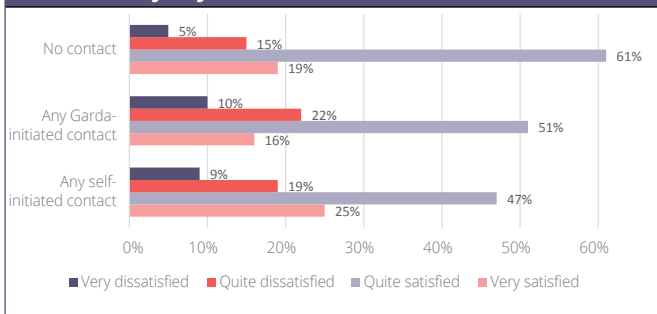
**Figure 39: Trust in An Garda Síochána, by Contact with the Organisation**



**4.1.9 Does contact with An Garda Síochána impact satisfaction with service to local communities?**

Those respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána, reported the greatest satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities (80%), compared to those who had some contact (72% for self-initiated contact, and 67% for Garda-initiated) (see figure 40).

**Figure 40: Satisfaction with Service to Local Community, by Contact with An Garda Síochána**



**4.1.10 Are perceptions of An Garda Síochána impacted by contact type?**

As table 10 illustrates, across agreement levels with the perceptions of An Garda Síochána statements, those who had *no contact* with An Garda Síochána were more likely to agree with them. Some notable differences can be seen, for example, for those who had Garda-initiated contact - 77 percent considered An Garda Síochána friendly or helpful, compared to 87 percent who had self-initiated contact. Equally, of those who had Garda-initiated contact, 64 percent felt An Garda Síochána was well-managed, compared to 71 percent who had self-initiated contact.

**Table 10: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána (agreement levels), by Contact Type**

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána	Type of Contact		
	Self-initiated Contact	Garda-initiated Contact	No Contact
Community-focused	70%	62%	79%
Modern or progressive	67%	70%	76%
Friendly or helpful	87%	77%	90%
Well-managed	71%	64%	72%
Effective in tackling crime	64%	66%	74%
Human-Rights-focused	73%	72%	82%

**4.2 Treatment by An Garda Síochána**

Two questions explored respondents' views of how Gardaí treat people - respect displayed by Gardaí towards individuals and whether they treat everyone fairly regardless of whom they are.

A further four questions relate to the reliability of Gardaí in local areas and police-community relations.

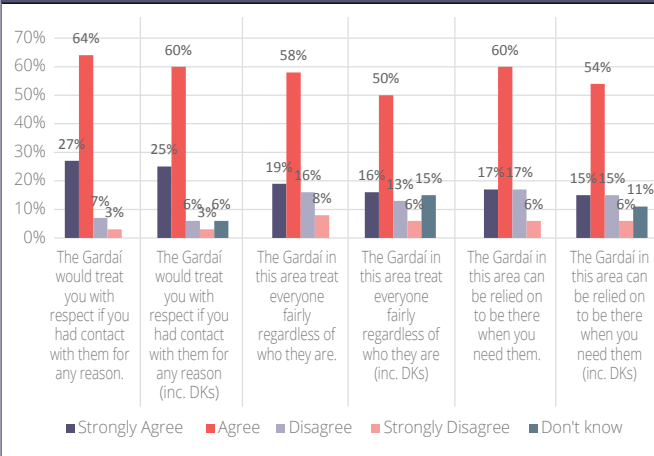
**4.2.1 Treatment by An Garda Síochána**

Respondents in the 2021 survey held positive views of how they would be treated by An Garda Síochána if they had contact with them for any reason; 85 percent thought they would be treated with respect; 66 percent felt they would be treated fairly ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined). Agreement levels with the other statements were also positive:

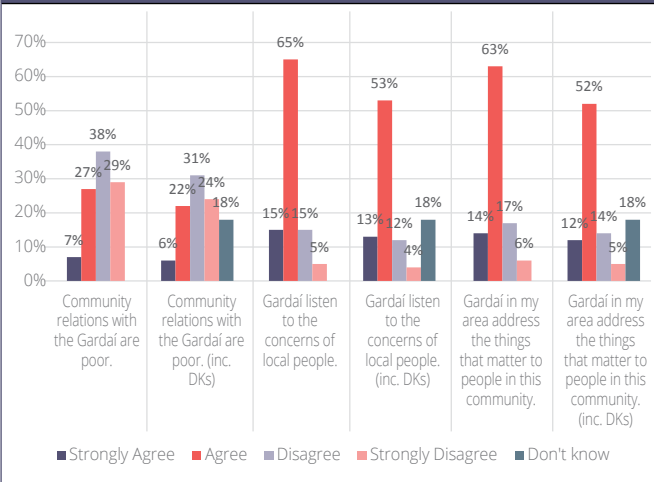
- The Gardaí in this area can be relied on to be there when you need them (69% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed').
- Community relations with the Gardaí are poor (55% 'strongly disagreed' or 'disagreed').
- Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people (66% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed').
- Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (64% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed').

These figures differ when 'don't know' responses were excluded in the analysis, and are highlighted below (see figures 41 and 42).

**Figure 41: Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána Statements (Part 1)**



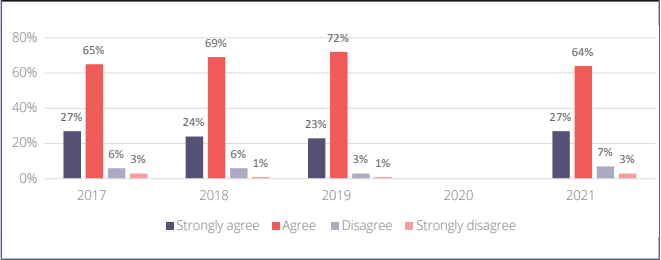
**Figure 42: Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána Statements (Part 2)**



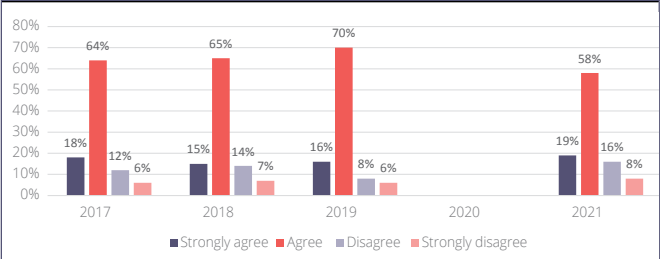
**4.2.2 How have perceptions of Gardaí changed over the last number of years?**

Figure 43 examines agreement levels with 'don't know' responses excluded. Levels have remained consistently high with the statement that 'Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason' over the last five years, despite 2021 seeing the lowest figure since 2017, at 91 percent ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined). While agreement levels are lower for views on fair treatment by Gardaí, they are still very positive ranging from 77 percent in 2021, to 86 percent in 2019 (figure 44).

**Figure 43: The Gardaí would Treat you with Respect if you had Contact with them for any Reason, 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)**



**Figure 44: The Gardaí in this Area Treat Everyone Fairly Regardless of who they are, 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)**

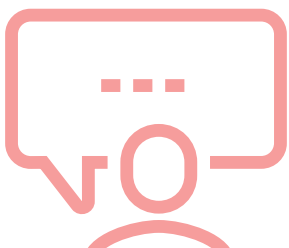


As table 11 highlights, agreement levels on whether Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed have been increasing since 2018 (excluding 2020); 75%, 76% and 77% respectively.

Equally, agreement levels with the statement that 'Gardaí address things that matter to the local community' have been increasing since 2018, with 77 percent of respondents holding this view in 2021 (65% in 2019, and 58% in 2018).

2021 has seen a slight decrease in disagreement levels that Garda-community relations are poor at 67 percent, since 2019 (70%), although still higher than 2018 (64%).

In terms of Gardaí listening to the concerns of local people, 80 percent of respondents agreed with this in 2021, a decrease of 6 percentage points from 2019, and 3 percentage points from 2018.



**Table 11: Views on Service Delivery, 2018-2021 (excluding 2020)**

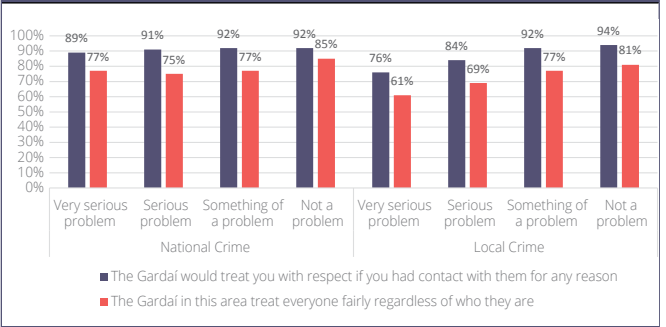
The Gardaí can be relied on to be there when you need them				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Strongly agree	12%	12%		17%
Agree	63%	64%		60%
Disagree	20%	17%		17%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%		6%
Garda relations with the local community are poor				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Strongly agree	7%	5%		7%
Agree	30%	26%		27%
Disagree	42%	47%		38%
Strongly disagree	22%	23%		29%
Gardaí listens to the concerns of local people				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Strongly agree	12%	14%		15%
Agree	71%	72%		65%
Disagree	13%	10%		15%
Strongly disagree	5%	4%		5%
Gardaí are dealing with the things that matter to the local community				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Strongly agree	17%	18%		14%
Agree	41%	47%		63%
Disagree	33%	29%		17%
Strongly disagree	9%	7%		6%

**4.2.3 How do perceptions of crime impact on views of treatment by An Garda Síochána?**

Perceptions of national crime had no notable impact on views of whether Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them. However, those respondents who viewed local crime as, for example, ‘not a problem’, were more likely to agree with the statement (94%), than those who considered it ‘a very serious problem’ (76%).

In terms of fair treatment by Gardaí, respondents who viewed national crime as ‘not a problem’ were more likely to agree that Gardaí would treat you fairly regardless of who you are (85%), compared to those who viewed it as ‘a very serious problem’ (77%) or ‘serious problem’ (75%). The difference was more pronounced for local crime (81% agreement for those who viewed local crime as ‘not a problem’, compared to 61% for those who viewed it as ‘a very serious problem’) (see figure 45).

**Figure 45: Views on Treatment by Gardaí by Perceptions of Crime**



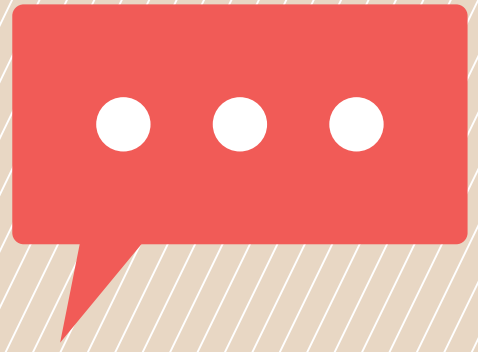
**4.2.4 How do satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities impact on views of treatment by An Garda Síochána?**

As figure 46 indicates, as satisfaction with Garda service decreases, agreement levels with the two statements also decrease – respondents were less likely to agree that Gardaí would treat you with respect, or treat everyone fairly.

**Figure 46: Satisfaction with Garda Service by perceptions of Treatment**

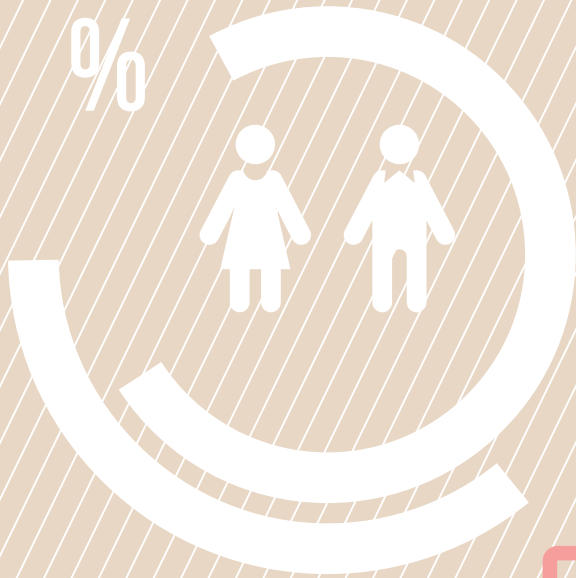






# Chapter 5

## A Demographic Snapshot



In this chapter we explore the main themes of this report by certain demographic characteristics - namely, gender, age and nationality (further analysis by demography may be seen in appendix 2, which explores the main themes by social class grouping and urban/rural divide).

So what does the survey tell us? Older age groups viewed national and local crime as more serious than younger groups. Equally, fear of crime among older respondents was greater. In addition, female respondents were more likely to report greater levels of fear of crime, and impact on their quality of life. Trust in An Garda Síochána was highest in older age cohorts (satisfaction was among the highest also), although 18-24 year olds reported the greatest satisfaction levels. This latter group also reported the most awareness of Garda patrols and were more likely to consider this presence 'about right'. In terms of perceptions of An Garda Síochána, views between the genders did not differ notably, with most being positive. In general, those aged 65+ and non-Irish nationals had the most positive views of the organisation, when compared to younger groups and Irish nationals respectively.

## 5.1 Perceptions of Crime



Views about the seriousness of national and local crime between men and women did not differ notably (nor from the total sample). Women were slightly more likely to view **national crime** as 'a very serious problem' at 31 percent, compared to men at 27 percent. However, males were more likely to see it as 'something of a problem' at 27 percent (23% for females). These findings were statistically significant. Differences between the sexes in terms of their views about **local crime** were less notable.

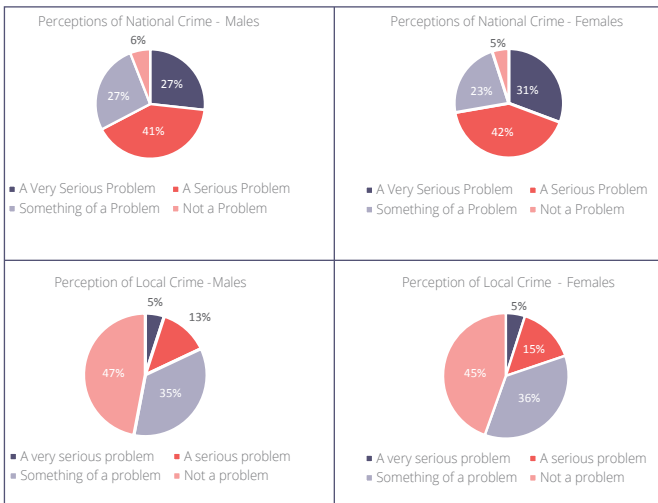


Older respondents were more likely to view national and local crime as more serious than younger groups, and also when compared to the total sample.. As age increased, so did views of the seriousness of **national crime** ('a very serious problem' and 'a serious problem' combined). The difference was significantly pronounced between those aged 65 years and older (81%) and those aged 18-24 years (58%), and 25-34 years (62%). Equally, the difference was pronounced when the total sample was considered in terms of national crime being 'very serious' (29% held this view), while this figure was 41 percent of those aged 65+. This was generally true for **local crime** also. A greater proportion of young people viewed local crime as 'not a problem' compared to those aged 35 years and older (e.g. 57% aged 18-24, compared to 45% of those aged 65 years and older, and 46% for the total sample).

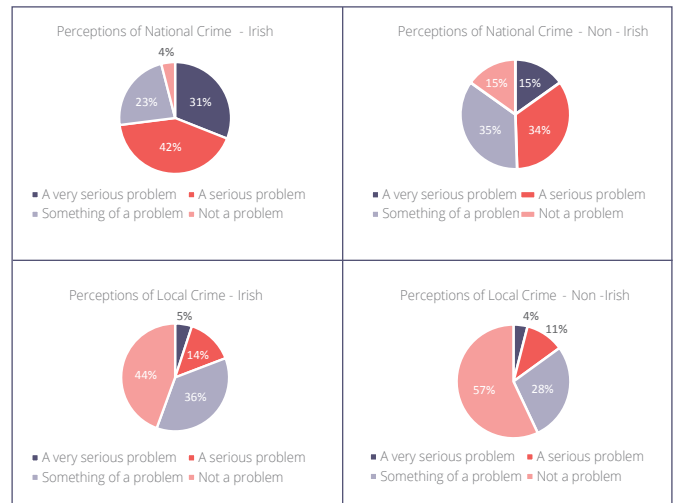


Non-Irish nationals considered national and local crime as less of a problem than Irish nationals. In terms of **national crime**, 49 percent of non-Irish nationals viewed it as 'a very serious' or 'serious problem' combined, compared to 73 percent of Irish nationals. Equally, in terms of **local crime**, 57 percent of non-Irish nationals considered it 'not a problem' compared to 44 percent of Irish nationals. Both of these findings were statistically significant. When comparing figures between the total sample and non-Irish nationals, there were some notable differences. For example, views on *national* crime being 'very serious' was 29 percent for the total sample (15% for non-Irish); 'not a problem' for the total sample was 5 percent (15% for non-Irish). Views on local crime as being 'not a problem' was 46 percent for the total sample (57% for non-Irish).

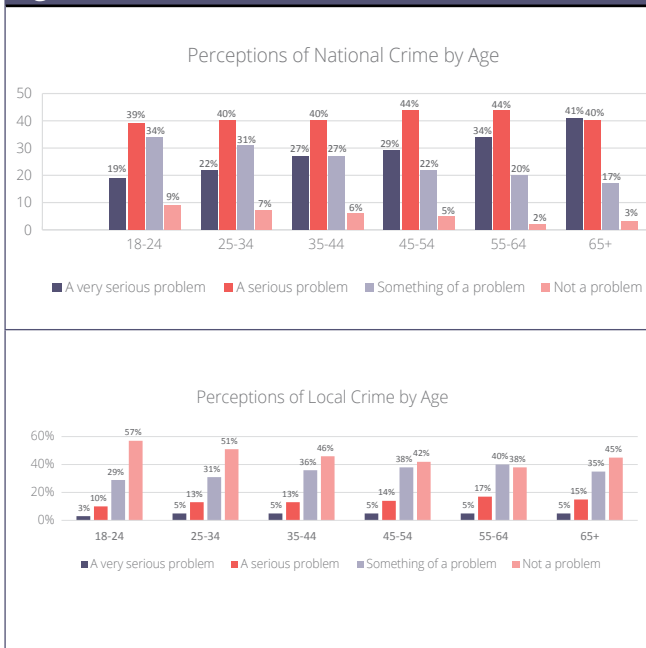
## Gender



## Nationality



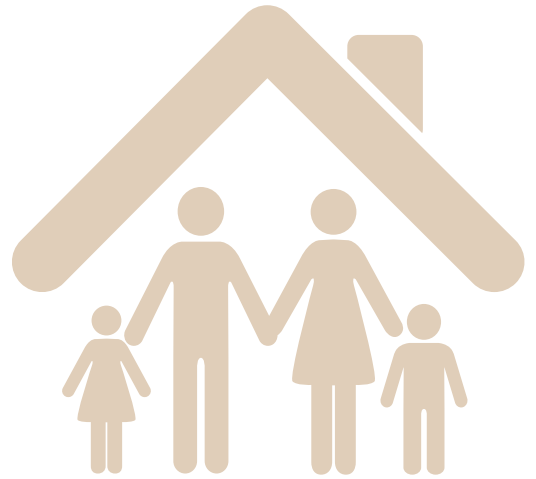
## Age



## 5.2 Policing Priorities<sup>9</sup>

Sexual offences and domestic abuse should be top priorities for An Garda Síochána, according to most respondents across the categories.

Regardless of gender, age or nationality, sexual offences received the highest priority by most respondents (those aged 65 years and older ranked drugs offences as their first priority, and sexual offences second). Domestic abuse was ranked second across the categories. Human trafficking featured highly for younger cohorts, while assaults were also considered as high importance for many groups. Traffic offences, public order offences and road safety all received the lowest priority across the groups.






### Policing Priorities - Gender/Age/Nationality


	Policing Priorities	Gender		Age						Nationality	
		Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
	Sexual offences	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
	Domestic Abuse	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Human trafficking	3	3	3	3	3	3	5	4	3	3
	Assaults	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
	Illegal weapons	5	5	4	4	5	5	6	6	5	4
	Drugs offences	7	5	9	7	6	6	2	1	6	6
	Robberies	6	7	6	6	7	8	8	6	7	7
	Burglaries	7	8	7	7	8	7	7	6	8	8
	Hate Crime	9	9	8	9	9	9	9	11	9	9
	Criminal damage	10	10	10	11	11	11	9	9	10	10
	Fraud	10	11	11	10	10	10	11	10	10	10
	Road Safety	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
	Public order offences	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
	Traffic offences	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14

<sup>9</sup> In order to determine whether differences existed across demographic groupings, ranks were assigned to priorities. 'One' was assigned to the highest percentage priority and 'eleven' to the lowest. Those with equal weighting were given the same rank score.


### 5.3 Fear of Crime

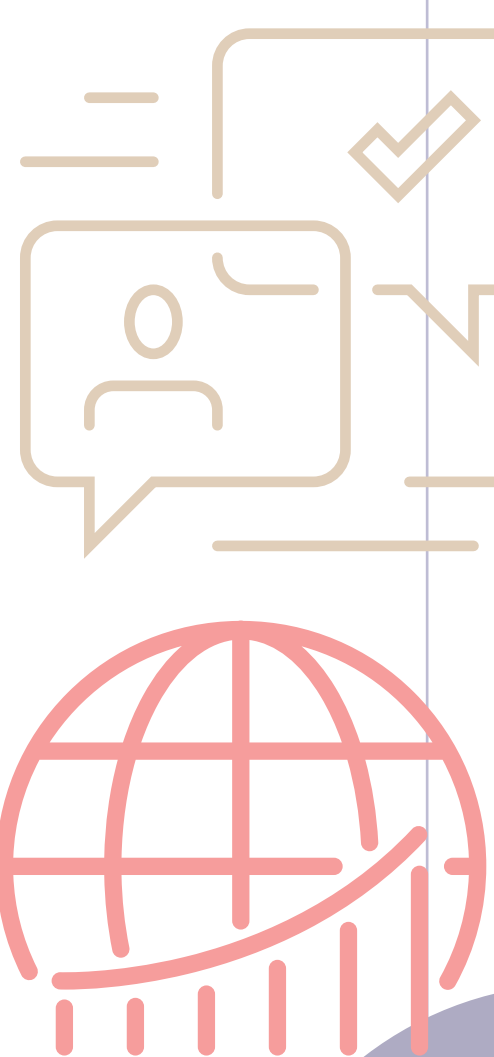
	<p>Male respondents were more likely to report that they had no fear of crime, compared to females (42% versus 35% of females) – 4 percentage points greater than the total sample. In terms of the <i>impact</i> of fear of crime on quality of life then, 64 percent of males reported ‘no impact’, compared to 58 percent of females (total sample figure - 61%).</p>
	<p>Respondents in younger age categories were more likely to report that they had no fears about crime, compared to older groups. – 33 percent of those aged 65 years and older reported this, compared to 51 percent of those aged 18-24 years – significantly higher than the total sample (38%). Equally, older respondents were more likely to report that fear of crime impacted quality of life ‘a little’, compared to younger cohorts (e.g. 23% of those aged 65 years and over, compared to 15% of 18-24 year olds, with the figure for the total sample being 20%).</p>
	<p>Non-Irish nationals also reported slightly lower levels of fear of crime than Irish nationals. Impact of fear of crime on quality of life, between the two groups, did not differ notably.</p>

#### Fear of Crime




	 Gender/Age/Nationality									
	Gender		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Have a lot of fears	5%	7%	4%	4%	5%	6%	6%	8%	6%	5%
Have some fears	27%	31%	21%	26%	29%	32%	30%	32%	29%	26%
Have very few fears	27%	28%	24%	30%	28%	26%	29%	29%	28%	27%
Have no fears	42%	35%	51%	41%	38%	36%	35%	33%	38%	42%

#### Impact of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life

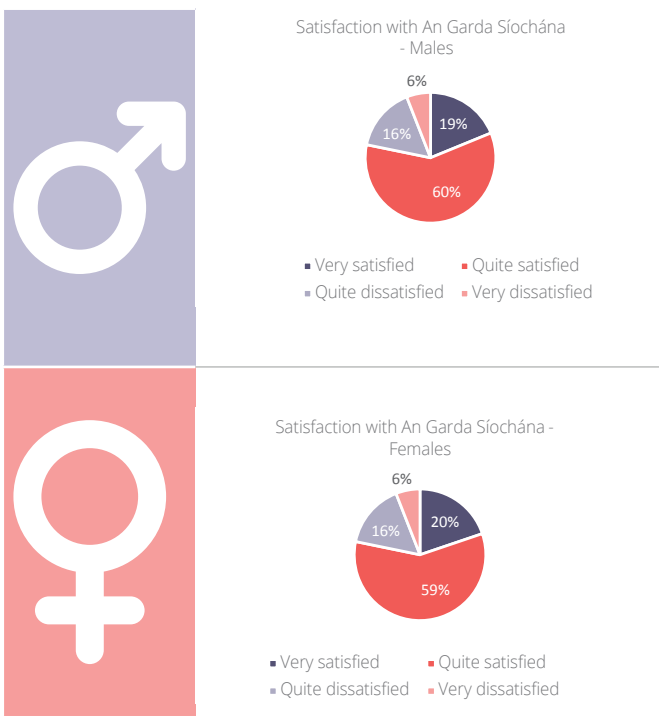
	 Gender/Age/Nationality									
	Gender		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Greatly reduced quality	1%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	-
Significantly reduced quality	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	6%	5%	4%
Moderately reduced quality	12%	14%	10%	13%	12%	14%	13%	16%	13%	14%
Reduced quality a little	19%	21%	15%	19%	19%	21%	21%	23%	20%	20%
No effect on quality	64%	58%	70%	63%	63%	60%	60%	54%	61%	61%



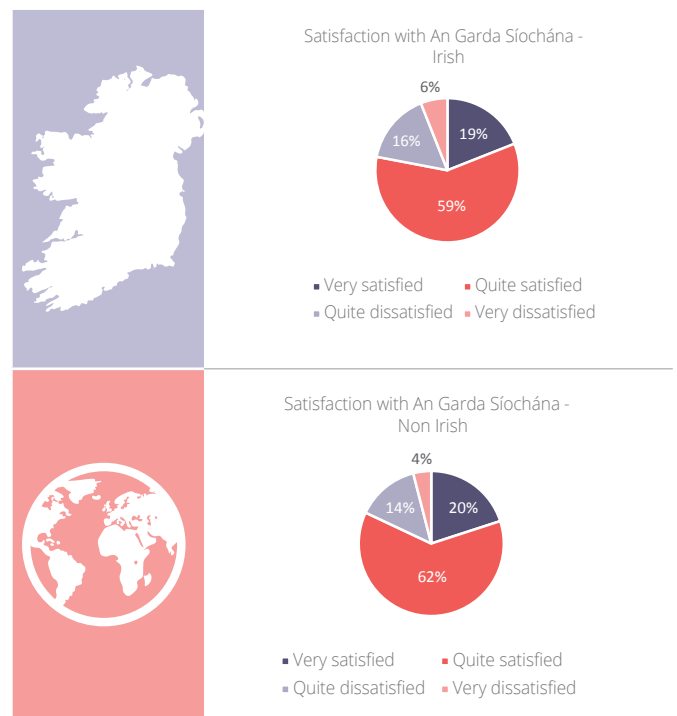
## 5.4 Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities

	<p>Satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities were generally the same between males and females - 79 percent satisfaction levels when 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' were combined.</p>
	<p>Continuing to examine this combination for age, we see that those aged 18-24 years, and the 65 years and older cohort reported the greatest satisfaction levels (83% and 82% respectively), This latter age category also reported the highest percentage of 'very satisfied' responses (25%), compared to the other groups, and when compared to the total sample (19%), both statistically significant findings.</p>
	<p>Non-Irish nationals were more satisfied with Garda service than Irish nationals – 82 percent satisfaction, compared to 78 percent respectively.</p>

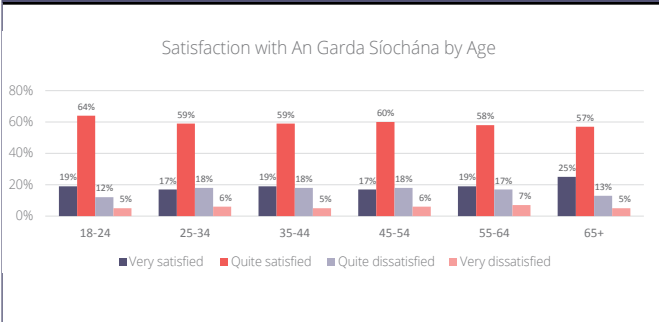
### Gender






### Nationality



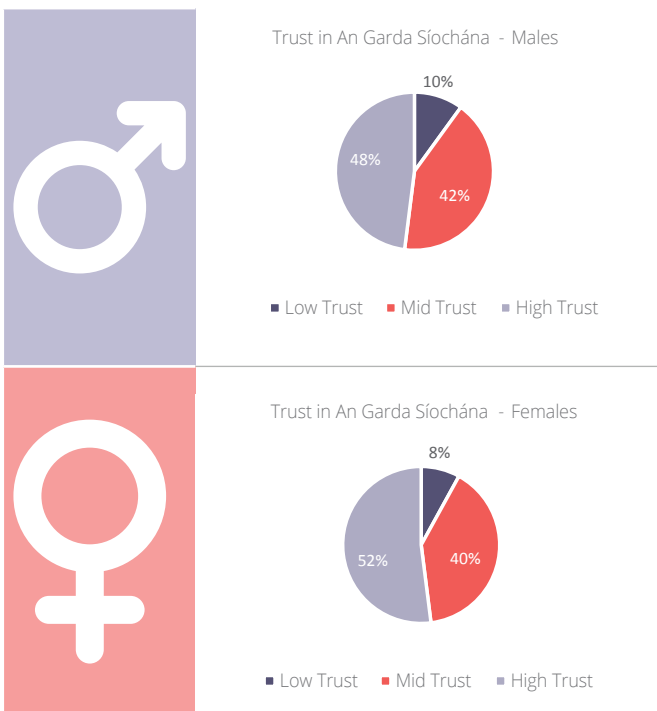
### Age



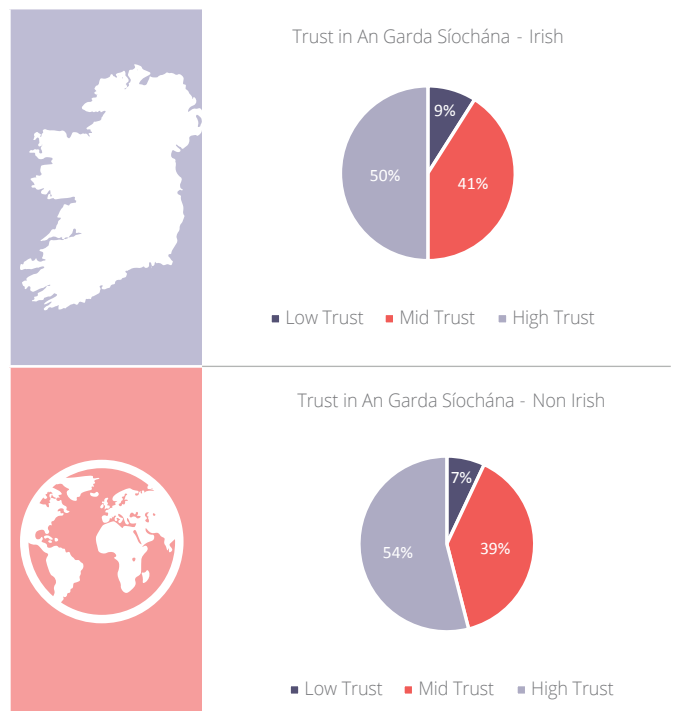
## 5.5 Trust in An Garda Síochána

	<p>While trust levels in An Garda Síochána continue to be high amongst the Irish public, females had slightly greater levels, than males (52% had 'high' trust, compared to 48% of males – statistically significant). These figures do not differ notably from the total sample (50%).</p>
	<p>As age increased, levels of 'high trust' increased, while levels of 'mid trust' decreased. A statistically significant finding was that those aged 65 years and older reported the greatest levels of 'high trust' (65%), compared to, for example, 18-24 year olds (39%).</p>
	<p>Trust levels between Irish and non-Irish nationals did not differ notably – both had elevated levels of mid to high trust in An Garda Síochána.</p>

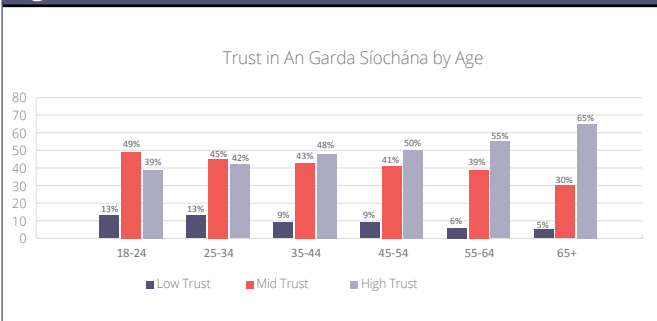
### Gender






### Nationality



### Age

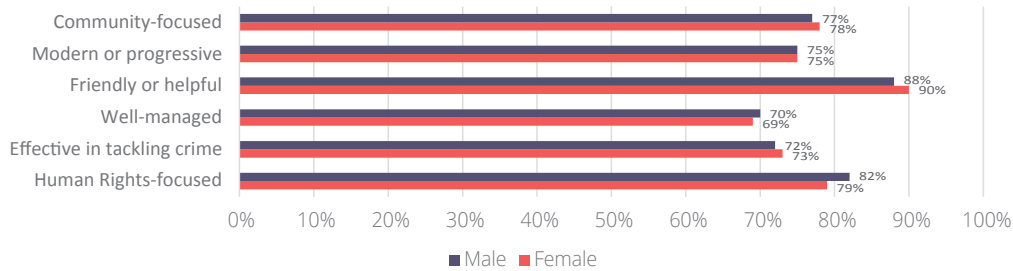


## 5.6 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

	<p>Views of An Garda Síochána, according to both male and female respondents, were largely positive. There were some areas where there were slight differences between them. For example, in line with the figure for the total sample (89%), females were slightly more likely to think of Gardaí as friendly or helpful, than males (90% versus 88%).</p>
	<p>When we examine perceptions of An Garda Síochána across the age categories, those aged 65 years and older held the most positive views across all of the statements (and when compared to the total sample). Indeed, in general, views became more positive as age increased.</p>
	<p>Non-Irish nationals held more positive views than Irish nationals, across all categories. A notable differing view was in terms of management of An Garda Síochána (68% of Irish nationals considered it well-managed, compared to 81% of non-Irish nationals), a statistically significant finding. The total sample figure here was 69 percent.</p>

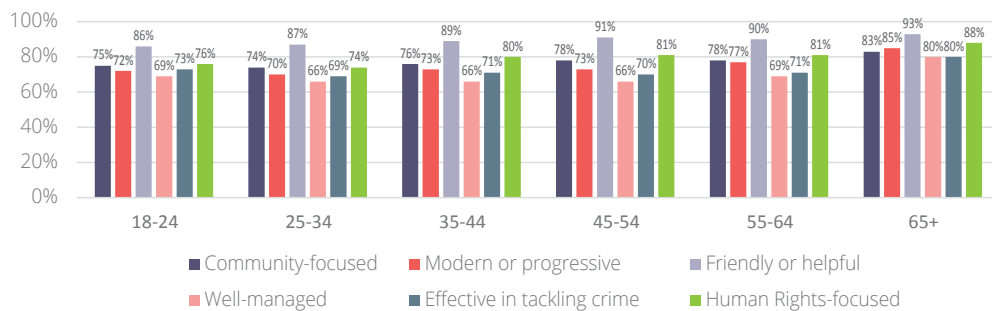
### Gender

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by Gender



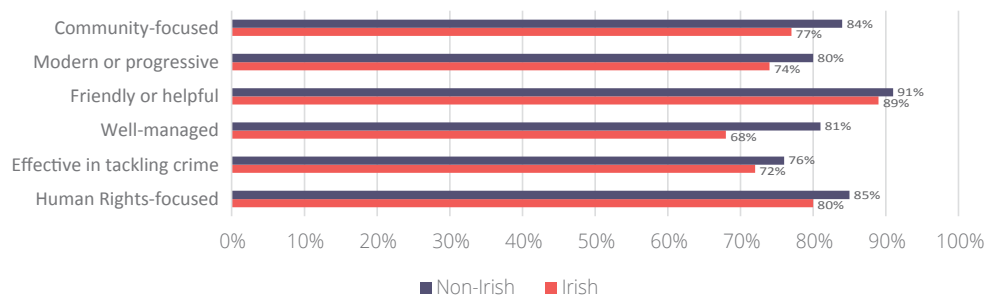
### Age

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by Age






### Nationality

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability by Nationality





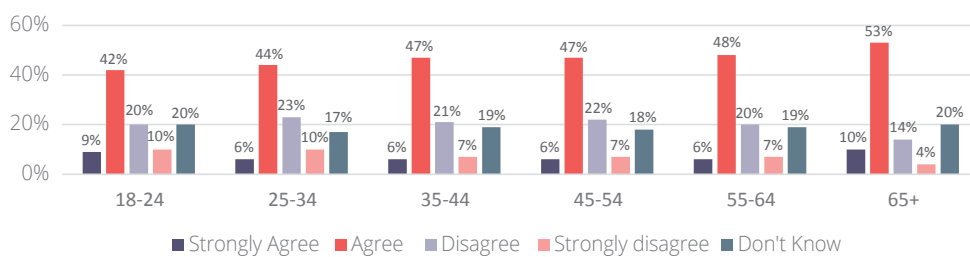
## 5.7 An Garda Síochána Representative of Diverse Communities?

	<p>Males and females held very similar views about whether An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves (55% and 53% respectively agreed that it is), and these views did not differ notably from the total sample (54%).</p>
	<p>In general, as age increased, agreement levels also increased, with 65-year-olds, and over, having the highest agreement levels at 63 percent.</p>
	<p>Irish and non-Irish nationals held very similar views on this – those who ‘strongly agreed’ and ‘agreed’ stood at 54 percent and 55 percent respectively.</p>

Gender	Nationality
<p>An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Males</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly Agree: 7%</li> <li>Agree: 48%</li> <li>Disagree: 20%</li> <li>Strongly disagree: 18%</li> <li>Don't Know: 7%</li> </ul>	<p>An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Irish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly Agree: 7%</li> <li>Agree: 47%</li> <li>Disagree: 21%</li> <li>Strongly disagree: 8%</li> <li>Don't Know: 18%</li> </ul>
<p>An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Females</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly Agree: 7%</li> <li>Agree: 46%</li> <li>Disagree: 20%</li> <li>Strongly disagree: 19%</li> <li>Don't Know: 8%</li> </ul>	<p>An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities Non-Irish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strongly Agree: 8%</li> <li>Agree: 47%</li> <li>Disagree: 16%</li> <li>Strongly disagree: 7%</li> <li>Don't Know: 22%</li> </ul>

### Age

An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities by Age



### 5.8 Awareness of Garda Patrols

Males and those aged 18-24 years, displayed the most awareness of Garda patrols in their local areas, when compared to females and other age groups. Males were slightly more aware of Garda patrols in their local areas at 55 percent (females 52%), and both figures were higher than the total sample - 49 percent. Eighteen to 24 year-olds displayed the highest awareness levels at 58 percent – 9 percentage points higher than the total sample. There was no notable difference between Irish and non-Irish nationals in terms of awareness.

Gender/Age/Nationality										
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>Awareness of Garda patrol in local area by demographics</b>										
Aware of Garda patrols	55%	52%	58%	51%	55%	53%	50%	52%	53%	54%
Not aware of Garda patrols	45%	49%	42%	49%	45%	47%	50%	48%	47%	46%

### 5.9 Perceptions of Garda Presence

Males, younger people and non-Irish nationals were more likely to consider Garda presence in local areas as being 'about right'. Of statistical significance, perceptions of Garda presence in local areas as being 'about right' was higher among males (49%), than females (43%). Younger ages groups (18-34 year olds) were more likely to think that this presence was 'about right', compared to older cohorts, as were non-Irish nationals (54%), when compared to Irish nationals (45%).

Gender/Age/Nationality										
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>Perceptions of Garda presence in local area by demographics</b>										
Not enough	50%	56%	36	47%	54%	58%	61%	59%	54%	46%
Too much	49%	43%	61%	51%	46%	41%	39%	41%	45%	54%
Too much	2%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	-

\*A dash means the cell count was less than 30.

### 5.10 The Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason

Across all categories, agreement levels about Gardaí being respectful, was high. Older age groups had higher agreement levels. Differences in perceptions between males and females as to 'whether Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason', were not notable. As age increased, agreement levels with this statement also increased ('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined). Agreement levels between 18-24 year olds (85%) and 25-34 year olds (86%) differed from the total sample by 6 and 5 percentage points fewer, respectively (91%). Irish nationals and non-Irish nationals had very high agreement levels with this at 91 percent and 93 percent respectively.

Gender/Age/Nationality										
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí would treat you with respect</b>										
Strongly Agree	26%	28%	23%	22%	26%	28%	28%	33%	27%	28%
Agree	64%	64%	62%	64%	66%	65%	65%	61%	64%	65%
Disagree	7%	6%	10%	10%	6%	6%	7%	4%	7%	5%
Strongly disagree	4%	2%	6%	4%	2%	-	-	3%	3%	2%

### 5.11 The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are

Agreement levels about whether Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are were high, but lower than agreement about respectful treatment by Gardaí. Older age groups and non-Irish nationals had the highest agreement levels with this statement. Males and females had the same agreement levels about whether Gardaí would treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, at 77 percent. Eighteen to 24-year-olds had the most negative views about this (agreement levels at 66%), and as age increased these views became more positive, with 65+ year olds having the most positive views, at 87 percent. Non-Irish nationals were more likely to agree with this statement, than Irish nationals (84% versus 76%). The total sample figure for this statement was 77 percent – 18-24 year olds were 11 percentage points below this, while non-Irish nationals were 7 percentage points above it. All findings were of statistical significance, other than differences between the sexes.

Gender/Age/Nationality										
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly</b>										
Strongly Agree	18%	19%	17%	17%	18%	17%	17%	25%	18%	22%
Agree	59%	58%	49%	56%	57%	60%	62%	62%	58%	62%
Disagree	16%	16%	21%	17%	17%	17%	15%	10%	16%	11%
Strongly disagree	8%	7%	13%	9%	8%	7%	6%	3%	8%	5%

### 5.12 The Gardaí in my area can be relied on to be there when needed

Those aged 65+ and non-Irish nationals were more likely to agree that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed. Males and females held very similar views about whether Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed (77% and 78% agreement levels, respectively). The older cohort of 65+ were more likely to agree with this statement, while non-Irish nationals (85% agreement levels) held more positive views related to this, when compared to Irish nationals (76%) - 8 percentage points greater than the total sample of 77 percent.

Gender/Age/Nationality										
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí in my area can be relied on</b>										
Strongly Agree	16%	18%	18%	13%	16%	14%	17%	23%	17%	18%
Agree	61%	60%	61%	62%	60%	59%	59%	59%	59%	67%
Disagree	17%	17%	15%	17%	18%	21%	18%	14%	18%	13%
Strongly disagree	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	4%	7%	-

### 5.13 Community Relations with the Gardaí are Poor

Views on Garda-community relations were generally positive across the demographic groups. Older respondents held the most positive views about this. Although not statistically significant, slightly more males (68%) disagreed that 'community relations with the Gardaí are poor', than females (65%). In general, older age groups were more likely to disagree with this statement, with those aged 65 years and older having the most positive views (71% disagreed). Differences between Irish and non-Irish nationals were not significant.

Gender/Age/Nationality										
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>Community relations with the Gardaí are poor</b>										
Strongly Agree	6%	8%	9%	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	5%
Agree	26%	28%	25%	32%	27%	29%	25%	22%	27%	27%
Disagree	39%	36%	38%	36%	38%	38%	38%	37%	37%	39%
Strongly disagree	29%	29%	28%	25%	28%	28%	30%	34%	29%	29%

### 5.14 The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns of local people

Respondents held positive views across the demographic categories about Gardaí listening to the concerns of local people.

There was little difference between men and women in terms of agreement levels that Gardaí listen to the concerns of local of people. As with many of the other statements in this section, older age groups were more likely to agree (86% agreement for 65 year olds and older), with 18-34 year olds having the lowest agreement levels with this statement (77%) – the total sample figure was 80 percent. Non-Irish nationals were slightly more likely to agree at 83 percent (80% for Irish nationals).

Gender/Age/Nationality										
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns</b>										
Strongly Agree	14%	16%	16%	14%	14%	14%	15%	19%	15%	17%
Agree	65%	65%	61%	63%	64%	67%	65%	67%	65%	66%
Disagree	16%	13%	16%	16%	16%	15%	16%	11%	15%	14%
Strongly disagree	5%	6%	6%	7%	6%	4%	5%	3%	6%	-

### 5.15 The Gardaí in my area address the things that matter to the local community

While agreement levels were high across the categories, older cohorts and non-Irish nationals were more likely to agree that Gardaí address things that matter to the local community. Men and women held very similar views about Gardaí addressing things that matter to local communities (77% and 78% agreement levels respectively). Across the age groups, those aged 65 years and older, again, held the most positive views at 83 percent agreement – this was 6 percentage points greater than the total sample (77%). Equally, as with other views on Gardaí-community relations, non-Irish nationals had more positive views than Irish nationals (82% versus 76% agreement levels).

Gender/Age/Nationality										
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí in my area address things that matter</b>										
Strongly Agree	14%	15%	14%	12%	14%	12%	14%	19%	14%	15%
Agree	63%	63%	61%	62%	62%	65%	63%	64%	62%	67%
Disagree	18%	17%	18%	19%	18%	18%	18%	12%	18%	14%
Strongly disagree	6%	6%	7%	8%	7%	5%	5%	4%	6%	3%



# Chapter 6

## Victims of Crime

In the 2021 survey,  
the victimisation rate  
stood at

**6.5%**



The  
victim  
reporting  
rate was

**81%**

Satisfaction among  
victims with how Gardaí  
handled their case stood  
at

**59%**

**51%**

Felt information  
received was  
'about right'.



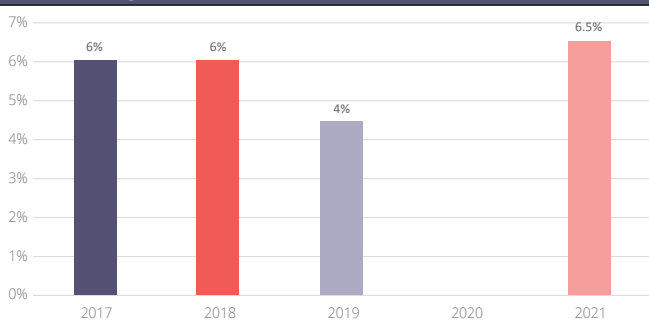
This chapter examines the main themes of this report through the lens of victims of crime. It explores how victimisation impacts on perceptions and fear of crime, trust in Gardaí and views of the Garda organisation, as well as aspects of Garda service delivery and expected treatment by Gardaí.

So what does the survey tell us? Victimisation negatively impacts perceptions of the national and local crime problem, and fear of crime levels, which in turn impact quality of life to a greater extent than those who were not a victim. Furthermore, when victims of crime were dissatisfied with the service they receive from An Garda Síochána, this had a detrimental effect on trust levels in Gardaí. In addition, perceptions about how they would be treated by Gardaí in terms of respect and fairness, were also negatively impacted by victimisation.

## 6.1 Victimization in Ireland

As with previous Public Attitudes Surveys, the 2021 survey measured the percentage of adults aged 18 years and older, who were victims of at least one crime in the preceding twelve months (regardless of whether they reported the crime to the Gardaí or not). This is referred to as the *victimisation rate*. This rate was 6.5 percent in 2021 (499 victims of crime, out of 7,656 respondents). This is roughly in line with years 2017 and 2018 when it stood at 6% and an increase from 2019, when the victimisation rate was 4.4% (see figure 47). Please see Appendix 3 for a demographic profile of victims from the 2021 survey.

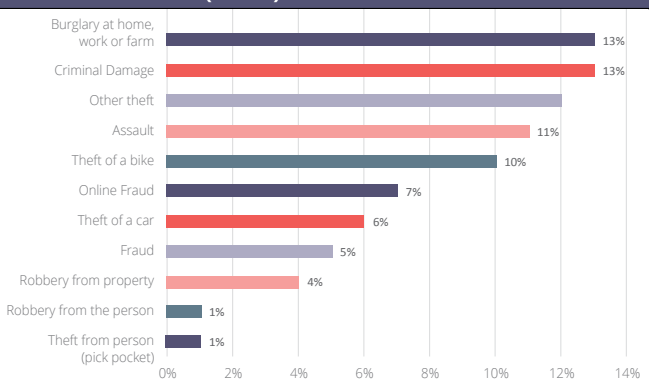
Figure 47: Victimization Rate 2017-2021 (excluding 2020)



\*2020 missing due to Covid-19.

The most common crimes experienced by victims in the 2021 survey were burglary and criminal damage (13% respectively), similar to the 2018 and 2019 surveys. 'Other theft' and 'assaults' were the next most common crime type (see figure 48).

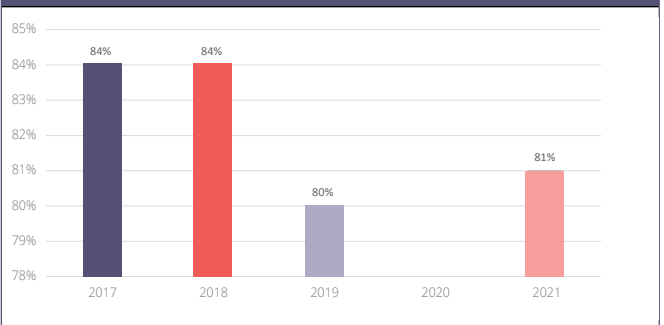
Figure 48: Most Recent Crime Experienced in the last 12 Months (2021)



### 6.1.1 Reporting victimisation to the Gardaí

Of the victims of crime in the 2021 survey, 81 percent reported their most recent crime to the Gardaí (in 2019 this figure was 80%), 3 percentage points lower than years 2017 and 2018 (see figure 49). Reasons stated for not reporting their crime were the respondent 'dealt with it myself' (30%), the 'incident was not serious enough' (28%) and respondents 'felt Gardaí could not do anything about it' (25%) (for more detail see table 12).

Figure 49: Percentage of Victims who Reported their Crime to An Garda Síochána



\*2020 missing due to Covid-19.

Table 12: Reason's for not Reporting to Gardaí

Reasons for not reporting crime	%
Dealt with it myself	30%
Incident not serious enough	28%
Felt Gardaí could not do anything about it	25%
Other reason	14%
Felt Gardaí would not do anything about it	14%
Reported it to another authority	8%
Did not want to involve Gardaí	8%
Fear of reprisal from perpetrators	6%
No need to make insurance claim	3%

## 6.2 Garda service to victims of crime

In terms of information provided to victims, 51 percent felt this was 'about right', while 28 percent were of the view that it was 'too little'. Nineteen percent of respondents reported that they received no update on the status of their investigation.

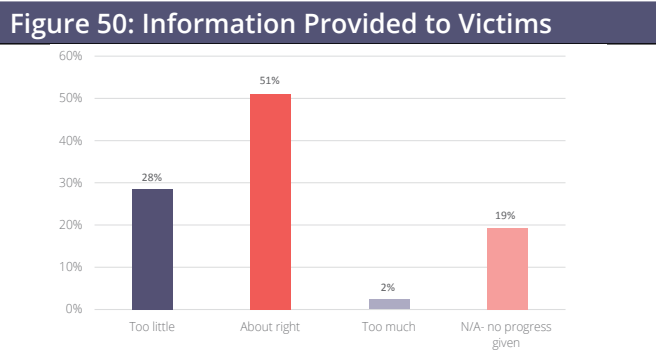
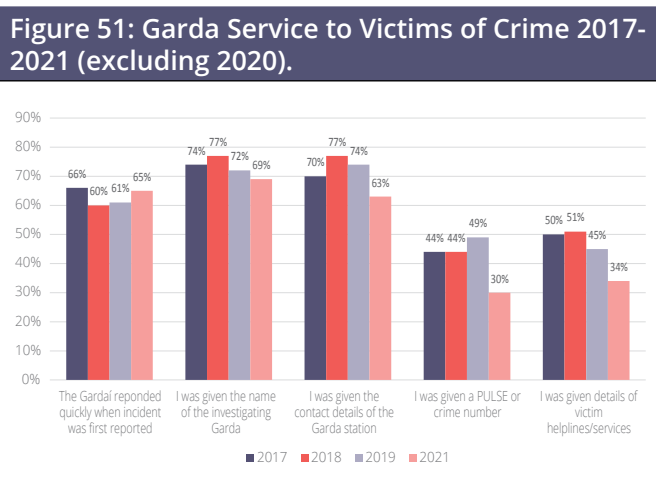


Figure 51 explores this further, by examining elements of service and information provision that respondents received in the aftermath of reporting the incident to the Gardaí, and changes over the last five-year period. Areas of note where information provision was markedly lower in 2021, and has also decreased since 2019, related to the provision of PULSE numbers and details of victim services or helplines.<sup>10</sup>

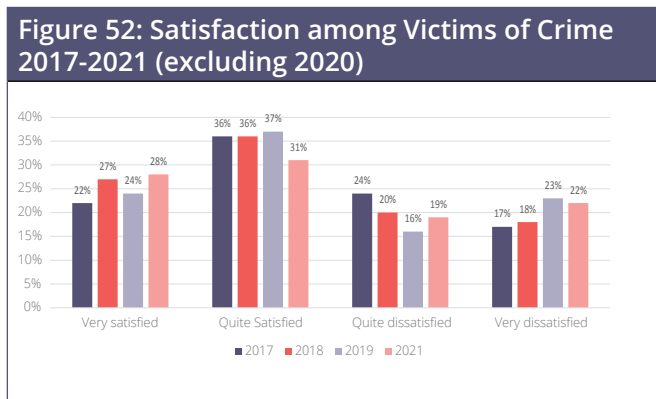
- 65% held the view that the Gardaí responded quickly to the incident (68%).
- 69% reported that they received the name of the investigating Garda (71%).
- 63% reported that they were given Garda Station contact details (66%).
- 30% stated they received a PULSE number (34%).
- 34% stated that they were provided with details of victim support services/helplines (40%).
- 66% reported that they were contacted by phone or in person after the incident (an answer option added in 2021).



### 6.2.1 Satisfaction with Garda service among victims of crime

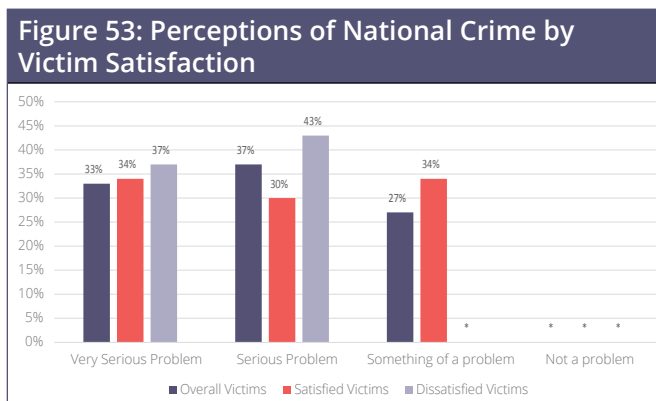
As figure 52 highlights, 59 percent of those victims who reported their crime were satisfied with the way

the incident was handled by Gardaí ('very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied'). This is a slight decrease from years 2018 and 2019 (63% and 61% respectively).



### 6.3 Does victimisation, and victim satisfaction with Garda service, impact perceptions of national and local crime?

Figure 53 highlights how victimisation impacts perceptions of national crime and whether satisfaction among victims, in turn, influences this. Victims of crime were more likely to view national crime as 'a very serious problem' or 'serious problem' (70%), and dissatisfaction with Garda service further compounded these perceptions (80% of dissatisfied victims viewed national crime as either 'a very serious problem' or 'serious problem').

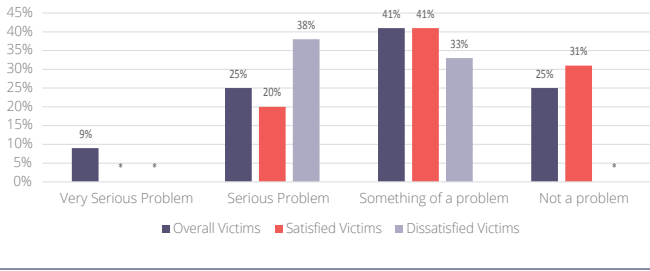


\* Does not appear in chart as cell count under 30.

Local crime was predominantly viewed by victims overall as 'something of a problem' (41%), although 34 percent viewed it as 'a very serious problem' and 'serious problem' combined. Thirty-eight percent of dissatisfied victims viewed local crime as a 'serious problem', compared to 20 percent of satisfied victims (See figure 54).

<sup>10</sup> For comparability with previous years which included 'not applicable' within survey responses, the 2021 figures also include this response. However, figures in red denote findings with 'not applicable' removed.

**Figure 54: Perceptions of Local Crime by Victim Satisfaction**



\*Does not appear in chart as cell count under 30.

## 6.4 Does victimisation impact chosen policing priorities?

The main policing priorities for victims of crime were 'sexual offences', 'domestic abuse', 'human trafficking' and 'assaults'. In this regard, both crime victims and non-victims held similar views (see table 13).

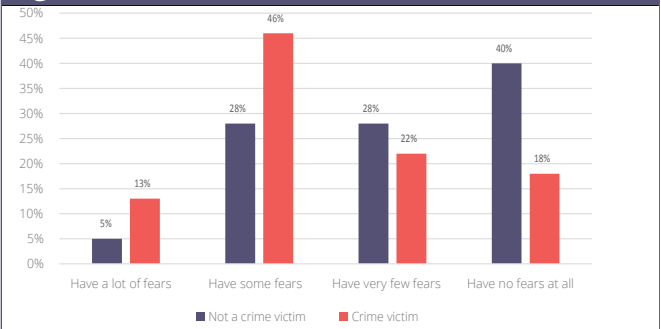
**Table 13: Policing Priorities by Victimization**

	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
Sexual offences	90%	86%
Domestic Abuse	87%	83%
Human trafficking	84%	80%
Assaults	82%	82%
Illegal weapons	82%	73%
Drugs offences	80%	75%
Robberies	78%	74%
Burglaries	77%	73%
Hate Crime	73%	70%
Criminal damage	68%	60%
Fraud	67%	63%
Road Safety	63%	59%
Public order offences	54%	48%
Traffic offences	41%	34%

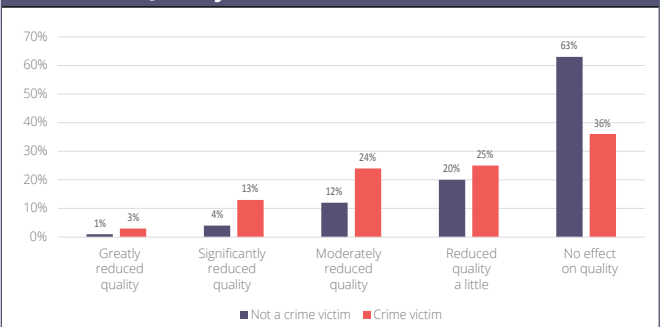
## 6.5 Does victimisation impact fear of crime levels?

Victimisation negatively impacted levels of fear of crime, as figure 55 indicates. While 40 percent of non-crime victims had 'no fears at all' about crime, this figure was 18 percent for victims of crime. Equally, 33 percent of non-victims had 'a lot' or 'some fears' about crime. This figure stood at 59 percent for crime victims. The *impact* of fear of crime was more pronounced for victims of crime also, with 40 percent stating that it 'moderately', 'significantly' or 'greatly' reduced their quality of life. For non-crime victims these impacts were reported by 17 percent of respondents (see figure 56).

**Figure 55: Victimization and Fear of Crime**



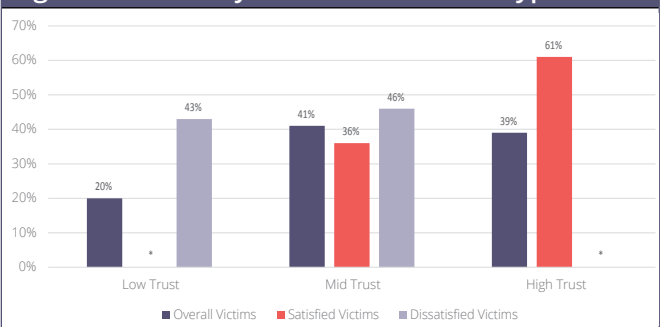
**Figure 56: Victimization and the Effect of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life**



## 6.6 Does victimisation and satisfaction with Garda service, effect trust in An Garda Síochána?

Dissatisfaction with the service received when reporting a crime negatively impacted trust levels among victims of crime with the Gardaí. Overall, similar to the main sample, victims of crime displayed significant levels of trust in An Garda Síochána (mid to high trust). This stood at 80 percent. However, among dissatisfied victims, the figure decreased to 46 percent who expressed mid trust (see figure 57).

**Figure 57: Trust by Victim Satisfaction Type 2021**



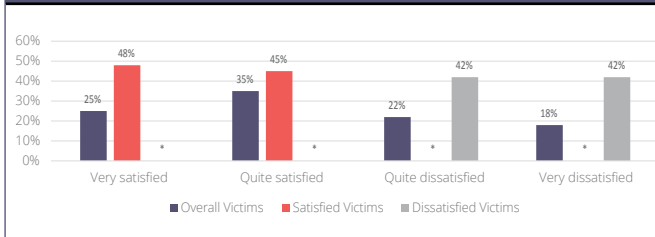
\*Does not appear in chart as cell count under 30.



## 6.7 Does victimisation impact satisfaction with Garda service to the local community?

Similar to trust levels, dissatisfied victims were more likely to be dissatisfied with Garda service *in general* to their local communities – 84 percent of dissatisfied victims were ‘quite dissatisfied’ or ‘very dissatisfied’ with this service. For the total sample this figure stood at 40 percent.

Figure 58: Satisfaction with Service to Local Community by Victim Satisfaction Type (2021)

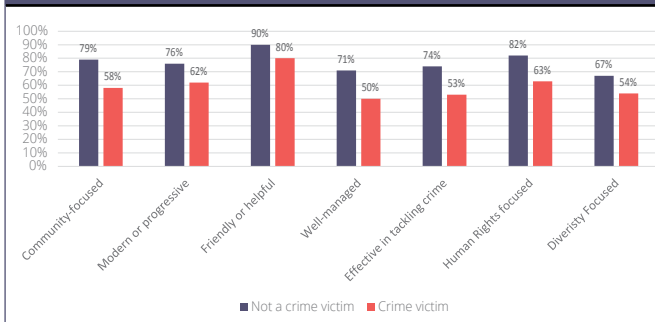


\*Does not appear in chart as cell count under 30.

## 6.8 Does victimisation impact on perceptions of An Garda Síochána?

Victimisation negatively impacted perceptions of An Garda Síochána, across all areas (see figure 59). The three areas where the difference in agreement levels between victims of crime and non-victims was the most pronounced (21% difference for each), related to whether An Garda Síochána is community-focused, effective in tackling crime and well-managed.

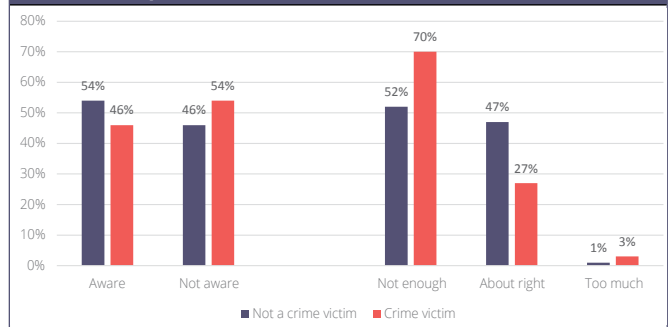
Figure 59: Victimization by Perceptions of An Garda Síochána



## 6.9 Does victimisation impact awareness of Garda patrol/ perceptions of Garda presence?

Continuing the negative impact of victimisation on perceptions of Garda service delivery, figure 60 illustrates that crime victims were less aware of Garda patrols (54% versus 46% for non-victims), and were more likely to perceive Garda presence in their local areas as ‘not enough’ (70% versus 52% of non-victims).

Figure 60: Victimization by Awareness of Patrols and Perceptions of Garda Presence



## 6.10 Victimization and impact on views about equality of treatment by Gardaí

In terms of agreement levels with statements about fair and respectful treatment by Gardaí, as well as other statements related to Garda-community relations, across all categories crime victims’ views were less positive than non-victims (see figure 61). For example, in terms of whether Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people, 81 percent of non-victims agreed that they do, while 64 percent of crime victims held this view. Similarly, 78 percent of non-victims agreed that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed. This figure was 63 percent for victims of crime.

Figure 61 (a): Views on Equality of Treatment by Victimization (Part 1)

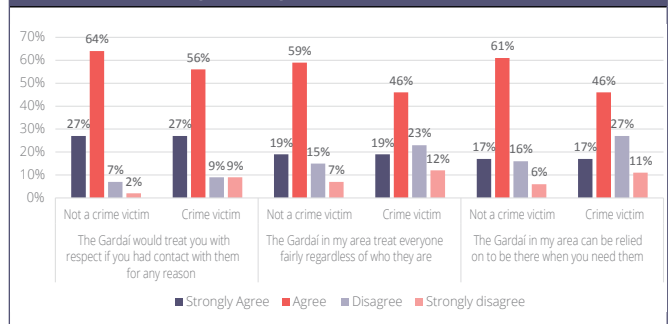
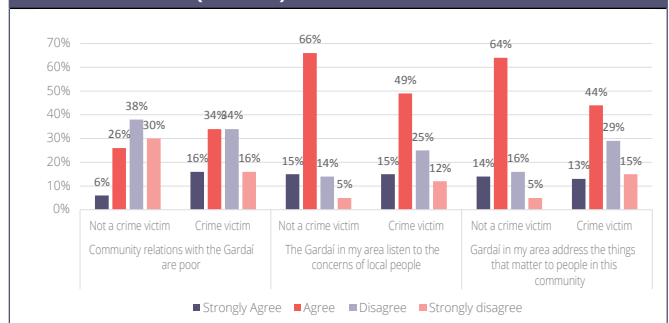


Figure 61 (b): Views on Equality of Treatment by Victimization (Part 2)



## Appendix 1

### Interpreting tables and figures

Frequency and percentages tables are used to explore survey responses within this report. Changes or differences are measured for statistical significance. Where differences have emerged as being statistically significant, post-hoc analysis of chi square contingency tables, using the adjusted residual method was completed. Statistically significant differences are identified in the text and highlighted in tables/figures.

One issue with lower sample sizes is they may provide unreliable findings, as well as presenting confidentiality issues. As such, any cell size with fewer than 30 weighted/unweighted respondents are represented by a dash. However, it should be noted, percentages for those cell sizes greater than 30 are based on total number of responses for that column. A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category (e.g. 'agreement' is made up of 'strongly agree' plus 'agree') identified in the figures or tables by summing two or more percentages. The percentage has been recalculated for the single combined category and therefore may differ by one or two percentage points from the sum of the percentages derived from the figures and tables. Some questions in the survey allow respondents to choose multiple responses. These

percentages will not sum to 100 percent with the other percentages presented. Finally, not all columns where percentages are used will add up to 100 per cent. This is due to the rounding of figures.

Preliminary analysis of all variables was completed to assess the proportion of 'don't know' responses. A decision was then taken as to whether they were to be excluded from subsequent analyses. For questions where 'don't know' responses accounted for less than 10 percent, they were excluded from analysis and are not presented. In cases where 'don't know' responses totalled 10 percent or more of respondents' replies, analysis including and excluding such responses are presented for completeness (analysis including 'don't know' responses are presented in the following appendices, with the exception of the question on 'diversity' which is presented in the main text, due to its first-time inclusion in the 2021 survey).

The tables in Appendix 2 use a breakdown of social class as used by market research companies. Table 2, in the introductory chapter, sets out the definition of these social classes. The tables also break down responses by geographical areas, including 'city', 'other urban' and 'rural'. 'City' areas are city boroughs, 'other urban' is any area with a population between 1,500 and 10,000 and 'rural' areas have a population of less than 1,500.



## Appendix 2

The tables and charts in the following appendices present the main findings by social class and urban/rural divide. Note: As stated earlier in the report, the sample is representative of the population in terms of gender, age, social class and nationality. However, it is not representative of urban/rural divide.

### Perceptions of Crime

**Table 1: Perceptions of National Crime by Social Class Grouping**

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
<b>Perceptions of National Crime</b>					
A very serious problem	22%	27%	29%	33%	36%
A serious problem	40%	40%	43%	41%	46%
Something of a problem	33%	29%	22%	21%	14%
Not a problem	90%	5%	6%	5%	-

**Table 2: Perceptions of Local Crime by Social Class Grouping**

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
<b>Perceptions of Local Crime</b>					
A very serious problem	3%	4%	5%	6%	-
A serious problem	12%	12%	15%	17%	10%
Something of a problem	40%	37%	35%	33%	33%
Not a problem	45%	47%	45%	44%	54%

**Table 3: Perceptions of National Crime by Urban/Rural Divide**

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>Perceptions of National Crime</b>			
A very serious problem	30%	29%	29%
A serious problem	36%	42%	43%
Something of a problem	28%	25%	22%
Not a problem	5%	5%	6%

**Table 4: Perceptions of Local Crime by Urban/Rural Divide**

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>Perceptions of National Crime</b>			
A very serious problem	8%	5%	3%
A serious problem	10%	14%	10%
Something of a problem	37%	38%	32%
Not a problem	34%	43%	56%

**Table 5: Perceptions of National Crime by Contact Type**

	Self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
<b>Perceptions of National Crime by Contact</b>			
A very serious problem	30%	26%	29%
A serious problem	39%	39%	42%
Something of a problem	28%	30%	24%
Not a problem	4%	-	5%

**Table 6: Perceptions of Local Crime by Contact Type**

	Self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
<b>Perceptions of Local Crime by Contact</b>			
A very serious problem	8%	-	4%
A serious problem	20%	15%	13%
Something of a problem	41%	38%	34%
Not a problem	31%	42%	48%



**Policing Priorities**

**Table 7: Policing Priorities by Social Class, Region and Urban/Rural Divide**

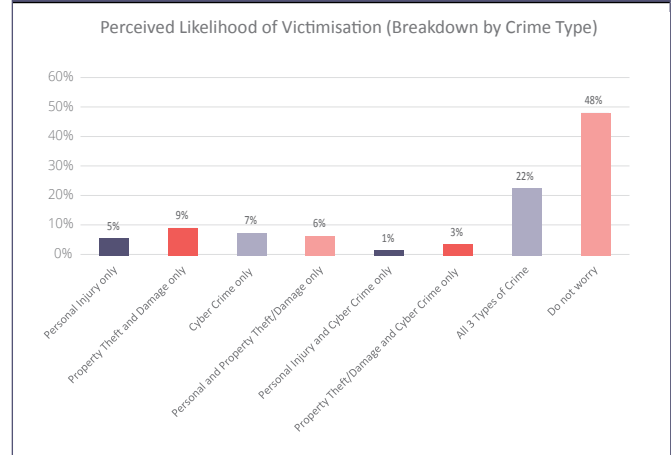
Policing Priorities	Social Class					Region				Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught and Ulster	City	Other Urban	Rural
Sexual offences	89%	92%	89%	87%	91%	93%	90%	84%	93%	85%	91%	90%
Domestic Abuse	86%	90%	87%	84%	87%	92%	86%	82%	91%	85%	88%	87%
Human trafficking	84%	87%	84%	80%	85%	89%	84%	79%	86%	82%	84%	84%
Assaults	82%	85%	82%	79%	85%	87%	80%	77%	87%	81%	84%	81%
Illegal weapons	80%	84%	81%	79%	83%	86%	80%	77%	83%	79%	82%	82%
Drugs offences	74%	77%	81%	81%	91%	73%	80%	82%	84%	73%	79%	83%
Robberies	71%	77%	78%	78%	85%	76%	77%	75%	85%	71%	78%	80%
Burglar-ies	71%	76%	77%	77%	85%	74%	75%	77%	83%	72%	76%	79%
Hate Crime	72%	74%	73%	70%	74%	76%	68%	71%	77%	71%	73%	72%
Criminal damage	60%	65%	68%	69%	81%	64%	66%	67%	75%	62%	66%	72%
Fraud	63%	67%	66%	67%	80%	64%	65%	69%	74%	59%	67%	72%
Road Safety	57%	65%	61%	64%	68%	61%	63%	61%	70%	58%	63%	66%
Public order offences	47%	55%	52%	56%	61%	57%	49%	52%	61%	53%	53%	55%
Traffic offences	30%	41%	40%	44%	50%	37%	40%	40%	52%	35%	38%	47%

**Table 8: Policing Priorities by Contact Type**

Policing Priorities	Self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
Sexual offences	89%	88%	90%
Domestic Abuse	87%	84%	87%
Human trafficking	83%	80%	84%
Assaults	86%	73%	82%
Illegal weapons	81%	71%	82%
Drugs offences	80%	68%	80%
Robberies	77%	70%	78%
Burglaries	76%	67%	77%
Hate Crime	75%	63%	73%
Criminal damage	64%	54%	68%
Fraud 66% 62% 68%	66%	62%	68%
Road Safety 63% 55% 63%	63%	55%	63%
Public order offences	50%	42%	55%
Traffic offences	34%	32%	42%

**Worry about Victimization**

**Figure 1: Perceived Likelihood of Victimization by Crime Type**



**Fear of Crime and Impact on Quality of Life**

**Table 9: Fear of Crime by Social Class and Urban/Rural Divide**

Fear of Crime	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Have a lot of fears	5%	4%	5%	8%	-	7%	6%	5%
Have some fears	32%	29%	27%	27%	32%	32%	29%	26%
Have very few fears	29%	29%	27%	26%	31%	23%	27%	30%
Have no fears at all	34%	38%	41%	39%	34%	38%	38%	39%

**Table 10: Impact of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life by Social Class and Urban/Rural Divide**

Impact of Fear of Crime	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Greatly reduced quality	-	2%	-	1%	-	2%	1%	-
Significantly reduced quality	4%	3%	5%	6%	-	8%	4%	4%
Moderately reduced quality	12%	12%	14%	13%	15%	18%	13%	11%
Reduced quality a little	21%	21%	17%	19%	24%	20%	20%	20%
No effect on quality	61%	62%	63%	60%	57%	52%	62%	64%

### Satisfaction

**Table 11: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities by Social Class Group**

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Very satisfied	21%	19%	8%	19%	16%
Quite satisfied	57%	62%	59%	55%	68%
Quite dissatisfied	17%	14%	17%	18%	12%
Very dissatisfied	5%	5%	6%	7%	-

**Table 12: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities by Urban/Rural Divide**

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Very satisfied	24%	19%	17%
Quite satisfied	48%	59%	65%
Quite dissatisfied	19%	17%	14%
Very dissatisfied	9%	6%	4%

### Trust

**Table 13: Trust in An Garda Síochána by Social Class Group**

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Low Trust	6%	6%	10%	14%	-
Mid Trust	45%	41%	42%	39%	35%
High Trust	49%	52%	48%	47%	62%

**Table 14: Trust in An Garda Síochána by Urban/Rural Divide**

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Low Trust	12%	9%	8%
Mid Trust	43%	41%	40%
High Trust	45%	50%	52%

### Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

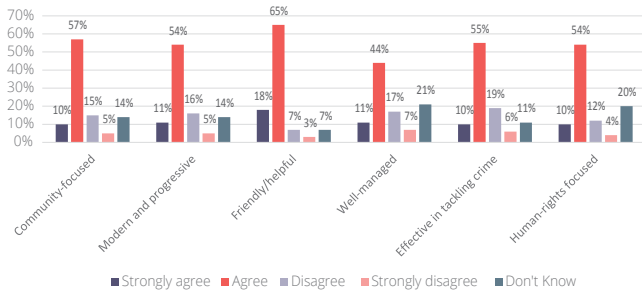
**Table 15: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána by Social Class Group**

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Community-focused	78%	80%	76%	74%	84%
Modern or progressive	69%	74%	74%	76%	92%
Friendly or helpful	92%	91%	89%	86%	95%
Well-managed	67%	69%	66%	70%	86%
Effective in tackling crime	71%	73%	71%	70%	86%
Human Rights-focused	77%	81%	79%	79%	92%

**Table 16: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána by Urban/Rural Divide**

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Community-focused	69%	77%	82%
Modern or progressive	65%	73%	83%
Friendly or helpful	86%	89%	92%
Well-managed	60%	67%	77%
Effective in tackling crime	65%	70%	79%
Human Rights-focused	70%	80%	86%

**Figure 2: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána (Including 'don't Know' Responses)**



**Diversity**

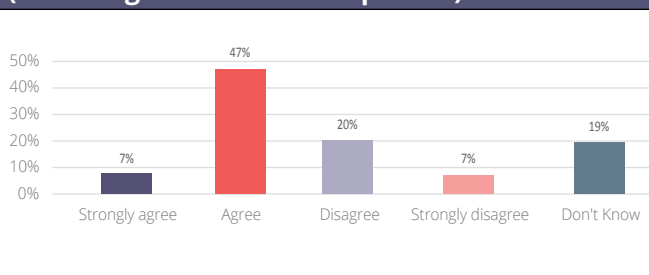
**Table 17: Whether An Garda Síochána Represents Diverse Communities by Social Class**

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
<b>An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities</b>					
Strongly Agree	5%	8%	7%	8%	-
Agree	41%	47%	47%	47%	62%
Disagree	27%	21%	20%	18%	12%
Strongly disagree	11%	8%	7%	7%	-
Don't Know	16%	17%	19%	21%	19%

**Table 18: Whether An Garda Síochána Represents Diverse Communities by Urban/Rural Divide**

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities</b>			
Strongly Agree	12%	9%	8%
Agree	43%	41%	40%
Disagree			
Strongly disagree			
Don't Know	45%	50%	52%

**Figure 3: An Garda Síochána is Representative of the Diverse Communities it Serves? (Including 'don't know' Responses)**



**Garda Visibility**

**Table 19: Awareness of Garda Patrols by Social Class and Urban/Rural Divide**

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>Awareness of Garda patrol in local area by socio-economic and area groupings</b>								
Aware of Garda patrols	51%	52%	52%	57%	49%	49%	52%	57%
Not aware of Garda patrols	49%	48%	48%	43%	51%	51%	48%	43%

**Table 20: Awareness of Garda Presence by Social Class and Urban/Rural Divide**

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>Perceptions of Garda presence in local area by socio-economic and area groupings</b>								
Not enough	53%	53%	53%	55%	47%	59%	58%	44%
About right	46%	46%	45%	44%	53%	39%	41%	56%
Too much	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-

**Treatment by An Garda Síochána**

**Table 21: Views on Respectful Treatment by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide**

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>The Gardaí would treat you with respect</b>								
Strongly Agree	31%	28%	27%	24%	27%	29%	28%	25%
Agree	62%	64%	63%	63%	69%	58%	63%	68%
Disagree	5%	6%	8%	9%	-	8%	7%	6%
Strongly Disagree	-	2%	2%	4%	-	5%	3%	2%

**Table 22: Views on Fair Treatment by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide**

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly</b>								
Strongly Agree	20%	20%	18%	16%	19%	21%	19%	17%
Agree	57%	60%	57%	55%	70%	50%	57%	64%
Disagree	15%	14%	17%	19%	9%	20%	17%	12%
Strongly Disagree	8%	6%	8%	9%	-	10%	8%	6%

**Table 23: Views on Reliability by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide**

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>The Gardaí in my area can be relied on</b>								
Strongly Agree	18%	18%	17%	16%	15%	20%	17%	15%
Agree	61%	63%	57%	57%	67%	52%	59%	65%
Disagree	17%	14%	20%	19%	15%	19%	18%	15%
Strongly Disagree	5%	5%	7%	8%	-	9%	6%	5%

**Table 26: Views on Addressing things that Matter by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide**

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>Gardaí in my area address the things that matter</b>								
Strongly Agree	14%	15%	14%	13%	15%	15%	13%	14%
Agree	65%	65%	60%	60%	70%	52%	63%	68%
Disagree	16%	15%	20%	19%	11%	23%	18%	13%
Strongly Disagree	5%	5%	6%	8%	-	10%	6%	4%

**Table 24: Views on Community Relations by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide**

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>Community relations with the Gardaí are poor</b>								
Strongly Agree	7%	5%	8%	8%	7%	10%	6%	7%
Agree	25%	23%	31%	31%	18%	30%	29%	23%
Disagree	39%	40%	35%	35%	44%	33%	37%	41%
Strongly Disagree	29%	32%	26%	26%	31%	27%	29%	30%

**Table 27: Community Relations with the Gardaí are Poor**

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>Community relations with the Gardaí are poor</b>								
Strongly Agree	7%	5%	8%	8%	-	10%	6%	7%
Agree	25%	23%	31%	31%	18%	30%	29%	23%
Disagree	39%	40%	35%	35%	44%	33%	37%	41%
Strongly Disagree	29%	32%	26%	26%	31%	27%	29%	30%

**Table 25: Views on Listening to Concerns by Social Class Grouping and Urban/Rural Divide**

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
<b>The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns</b>								
Strongly Agree	15%	16%	16%	14%	16%	16%	16%	15%
Agree	67%	67%	62%	62%	70%	57%	64%	70%
Disagree	13%	13%	16%	17%	11%	19%	16%	12%
Strongly Disagree	5%	4%	6%	7%	-	9%	5%	4%



## Appendix 3

**Table 28: Demographic Profile of Victims 2021**

Gender		Age		Social Class		Region	
Male	47%	18 - 34	32%	ABC1	44%	Dublin	31%
Female	53%	35-54	42%	C2DEF	57%	Leinster (exc. Dublin)	33%
		55+	25%			Munster	24%
						Connaught or Ulster	12%
Age		Nationality		Ethnicity		Religion	
City	24%	Irish	82%	White Irish	80%	Roman Catholic	65%
Other Ur- ban	44%	Non-Irish	18%	Other white	16%	Church of Ireland	2%
Rural	33%			African + Other Black	2%	Other Christian	4%
				Chinese + Other Asian	1%	Other	2%
				Other	2%	No religion	18%
						Refused	9%

\*Figures may not add to 100 due to rounding.

**Table 29: Frequencies of Occurrence of each Crime Type**

Victimisation	Once	Twice	Three or more
Burglary at home, work or farm	91%	6%	3%
Theft of a bike	91%	4%	5%
Theft of a car	89%	3%	8%
Other theft	85%	11%	4%
Robbery from the person	91%	9%	-
Robbery from property	76%	17%	7%
Criminal Damage	74%	24%	2%
Theft from person (pick pocket)	82%	18%	-
Assault	85%	14%	1%
Fraud	83%	14%	3%
Online Fraud	84%	16%	-
Other	68%	12%	20%



