



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice

# Justice Plan 2023

## Mid-Year Progress Report

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## Ministerial Foreword



I am delighted to welcome this mid-year progress report on the Justice Action Plan 2023. This progress report updates on the significant work programme undertaken by the Department of Justice over the first six months of this year and forms part of an annual process in which we measure the progress on actions to be delivered in accordance with the published delivery dates.

My colleague Minister Simon Harris published Justice Plan 2023 on 6 April 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank Minister Simon Harris and Minister of State James Browne for taking this significant Justice work portfolio forward during the period of my leave. This year's Justice Plan outlines over 140 headline actions to continue building stronger and safer communities in Ireland.

So far this year, progress has been made on a suite of policy and legislative reforms that are priorities for me as Minister. Implementation of the government's Zero Tolerance plan to tackle domestic, sexual and gender based violence continues. The Strategy is an ambitious, five-year, whole-of-Government programme of reform and its publication was accompanied by a detailed implementation plan covering the first 18 months, with yearly implementation plans thereafter.

This Government is committed to building stronger, safer communities in rural Ireland and in our towns and cities. Everybody has the right to feel safe and to be safe in their homes and on their land and property. As Minister for Justice I am fully committed to ensuring An Garda Síochána have the resources needed to keep our rural and urban communities safe.

I have introduced and committed to enacting significant legislation reforms. For example, the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill has been provided for and allows laws to make stalking and non-fatal strangulation standalone criminal offences; increases the sentence of conspiracy to murder from 10 years to life in prison, a key measure to tackle gangland crime and those who direct it; and to double the maximum sentence for assault causing harm – one of the most common offences in domestic violence cases – from five years to ten years.

Other legislation is also progressing through the Houses of the Oireachtas and includes: enacting the new Hate Crime and Hate Speech Bill; enacting the Recording Devices Bill to improve use of CCTV, and to provide for Body worn cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition; and enacting law to establish a new Judicial Appointments Commission to ensure best practice in the way we appoint judges.

I want to sincerely thank the staff of the Department and its agencies for their continued professionalism and commitment during another demanding period. We would not have achieved this progress without your hard work and dedication.

For the remainder of the year ahead, we will do our utmost to implement the ambitious reforms set and continue to prioritise and deliver the work that will make a real difference for people in Ireland, building stronger and safer communities.

**Helen Mc Entee T.D.**

**Minister for Justice**

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## Foreword by the Secretary General



Our Justice Plan 2023 is the final annual plan to deliver on the ambition set out in the Department's Statement of Strategy 2021-2023, A safe, fair and inclusive Ireland.

Building on the five key goals of this three year Statement of Strategy, Justice Plan 2023 continues to detail a number of key performance indicators under each goal which will be used to measure our achievements.

The five high level goals reflect the broad scale, complexity and significance of the Department's mission to work for a safe, fair and inclusive Ireland. The day-to-day work that the Department of Justice and its Agencies deliver on plays such an important role in supporting members of the public through what may be one of the most difficult times in their life.

To deliver on our Departments strategic goals, Justice Plan 2023 is committed to continued development of evidence-based policy, provides a legislative response, always with an innovative focus. Justice Plan's actions are delivered in addition to the wide-ranging and extensive day-to-day activities of the Department that delivers vital services for members of the public and agencies in the justice sector.

Justice Plan 2023 set out 140 headline actions with a number of associated sub-actions, each with specific timelines for implementation to achieve our high-level goals. This Mid-Year Progress Report details that, at the mid-year point, over two thirds (70%) of the actions reported on for delivery in the first half of 2023 are reporting as achieved or achieved to date. Of the remaining actions (30%) reporting as not yet achieved, we have outlined the mid-year status of these actions and revised timeline for delivery where possible.

Bringing the Department's Statement of Strategy 2021-2023, A safe, fair and inclusive Ireland to completion, I am very proud of the continued commitment demonstrated by my colleagues. The empathy and energy displayed by everyone on a daily basis is much appreciated, not just by the senior management team but most importantly by our service users.

With the Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 ending this year, as part of our business planning processes, we are advancing development of our future high-level goals. We are learning from our successes achieved over the past 3 years and proud to work for a fair, safe and inclusive Ireland.

**Oonagh McPhillips**  
Secretary General

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## Executive Summary

Justice Plan 2023 is the third iteration in a series of annual plans outlining objectives and actions to drive reforms across the Justice sector to build a justice system that works for everyone. These actions reflect the priorities of the Minister, the Minister of State and the Department in line with the various commitments set out in the Programme for Government and the Department's Statement of Strategy, for the years 2021-2023, *A safe, fair and inclusive Ireland*. The actions contained within the Justice Plan are grouped within the five overarching goals for the Department over this three-year period:

1. Tackle crime, enhance national security and transform policing.
2. Improve access to justice and modernise the courts system.
3. Strengthen community safety, reduce reoffending, support victims and combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence.
4. Deliver a fair immigration system for a digital age.
5. Accelerate innovation, digital transformation and climate action across the justice sector.

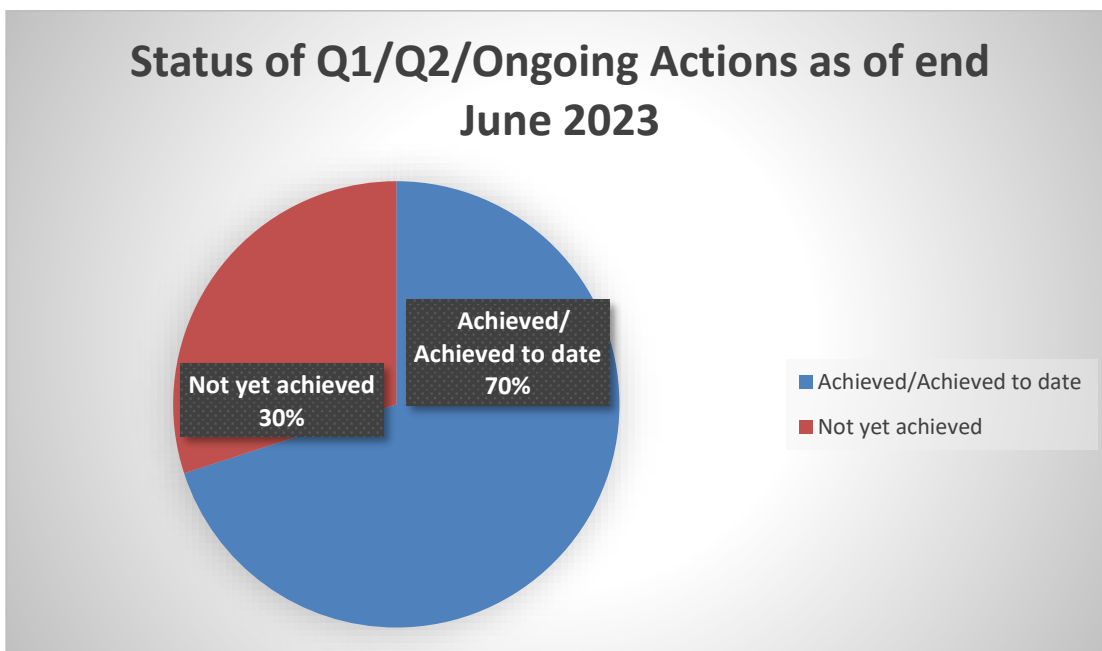
The full Justice Plan 2023 can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/Obf45-justice-plan-2023/>

To ensure a measurable and transparent process, progress on Justice Plan 2023 is examined by the Ministers of the Department on a regular basis in meetings with the Department's Management Board. We also committed to publishing two progress reports annually, mid-year and at the end of the year. This report is the first such report for 2023 and outlines progress made on the actions and sub-actions due for delivery in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2023. While providing details on the achievements made during this period, the report also updates on ongoing actions.

Of the 176 actions and sub-actions examined and reported on in this progress report, over two thirds (70%, 123 actions) are 'Achieved' or 'Achieved to date' as of the end of Q2. While this represents progress on our ambitions as set out in the Department's Statement of Strategy, some work remains to be done to deliver on the full suite of actions targeted for delivery by the end of Q2.

The remaining 30% (53 actions) of actions are categorised as 'Not yet achieved'. While significant progress has been made, further work is required to bring the outstanding actions to completion. A narrative update has been provided in respect of the not yet achieved actions and revised delivery dates where possible.



Justice Plan 2023 details a number of key performance indicators under each goal, which will be used to measure success. For the purposes of this Mid-Year Progress Report, these indicators are reported under the Goals 1, 2, 4 and 5 headings below.

## Goal 1: Tackle crime, enhance national security and transform policing

The overarching aim of the objectives and actions set out under Goal 1 is to build a safer Ireland by reducing and preventing crime, continually working to enhance national security and to transform and strengthen An Garda Síochána.

Momentum is building again following the COVID enforced pause with the first class of approximately 90 Garda trainees from the 2022 recruitment campaign due to attest at the end of July. Furthermore, new classes of Garda recruits are entering Templemore every 11 weeks in 2023 and are growing in size with each intake – 135 in February, 154 in May with another intake set to take place in July, and further intakes later in the year.

An Garda Síochána also ran a new recruitment campaign in March this year to provide a steady new stream of candidates, receiving almost 5,000 applications, which demonstrates a major interest in a career in An Garda Síochána.

In March, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Minister for Justice Simon Harris and Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform Paschal Donohoe officially opened the new Garda station on O’Connell Street, Dublin. The station has a public office for members of the public to report crimes, and to provide advice and support to victims of crime. The new station ensures a high visibility policing presence in an area that has significant tourist and commercial footfall. The station will also serve as the parade location for Gardaí assigned to Operation Citizen, which is a Garda operation targeting anti-social behaviour and public order, with an emphasis on community and stakeholder engagement.

Building on providing a more visible presence, through the Community Safety Innovation Fund, the Department provided funding to the Dublin Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) to develop further the Community Safety Warden scheme. Promoting a space for recreation in and around Wolfe Tone Park, with an extension to the scheme to include the O'Connell Street area during weekends, the scheme will provide a visible presence that will act both as a deterrent to criminal and anti-social behaviour, and as a reassurance to the community.

The Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Bill 2022 has now passed all stages in the Dáil. Following the enactment of the Bill this legislation will provide a legal basis for the deployment and use of body worn cameras by An Garda Síochána.

Other key achievements to enhance national security include, the publication of the review of the Offences Against the State Acts. The Independent Review Group, chaired by Mr Justice Michael Peart, a former judge of the Court of Appeal, was appointed by the Minister in 2021 to examine all aspects of the Offences Against the State Act 1939-1998, the State's primary counter-terrorism legislation.

The Group was asked to take into account the current threat posed by domestic/ international terrorism and organised crime, the duty to deliver a fair and effective criminal justice system to ensure the protection of communities and the security of the State, and Ireland's obligations in relation to constitutional and ECHR rights and international law.

The chairperson of the Review Group submitted reports from a majority and minority of its membership, which have both been published. In considering the package of recommendations, the Minister asked officials to consult with other relevant departments and the Garda Commissioner, the Office of the DPP and the Courts Service to inform the preparation of a substantive response for consideration by Government in due course. Officials have also been asked to consult with the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to ensure that a broad human rights perspective is captured.

In June, the Minister signed an order to bring into operation provisions of the Communications (Retention of Data) (Amendment) Act 2022. The Act provides that general and indiscriminate retention of communications traffic and location data is permissible on national security grounds, where approved by a designated judge.

The Act also introduces a system of preservation and production orders to facilitate preservation of, and access to, specified communications data held by service providers for national security purposes and for the investigation of serious crime where permitted by an authorising judge.

In providing further strengthening measures to tackle terrorism and other serious and organised crime through domestic action and international co-operation, key legislation was brought into law. Regulations to transpose EU Directive 2019/1153 facilitating the use of financial information for the investigation of criminal offences were provided for in S.I. No. 22/2023 - European Union (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Use of Financial and Other Information) Regulations 2023.

In March, the Criminal Justice (Mutual Recognition of Custodial Sentences) Act 2023 was enacted. This Act provides for the mutual recognition of custodial sentences and for the transfer of sentenced persons between EU member states. The Act also amends and updates the existing legislation underpinning transfers for non-EU states, including the United Kingdom.

Regulations designating An Garda Síochána as the competent authority in Ireland for issuing legal orders requiring internet service providers to remove online terrorist content where signed by the Minister in June. This comes on foot of the obligation on each EU member state under the EU Terrorist Content Online Regulation [Regulation (EU) 2021/784] to designate a competent authority for this purpose.

With our objective to reform, review and modernise criminal law and procedure to enhance and support the efficient and effective operation of the criminal justice system, a number of key actions were delivered in the first half of 2023.

Through the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023, the laws to increase sentences for assaults causing harm to members of An Garda Síochána and other emergency workers have been provided for. Legislative amendments provided for in the Act will change the maximum sentence for assaulting or obstructing a police officer from 7 to 12 years. This increase in maximum sentence will apply where the assault causing harm in question is against an on duty Garda or emergency service worker, such as hospital staff, prison officers, members of the fire brigade, ambulance personnel or members of the Defence Forces.

Section 10 of the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023 also commenced and provided for restrictions on firearms certificates for semi-automatic centre-fire rifles. It is now no longer possible to obtain a new firearms certificate for a semi-automatic centre-fire rifle. In addition, and in line with long-stated government policy, firearms certificates for semi-automatic centre-fire rifles that were first granted after 18 September 2015 and which were in force immediately before 1 August 2023, are revoked with effect from 1 November 2023.

In June, the final report and recommendations of the Working Group examining the Disregard of Convictions for Certain Qualifying Offences Related to Consensual Sexual Activity between Men was published. The report contains 95 recommendations regarding the introduction of a statutory scheme to enable the disregard of relevant criminal records.

The report makes a number of recommendations on eligibility standards, the application process that should be followed and the offences to include in the scheme. It states that applications for disregard can be made on behalf of deceased persons and that emigrants and citizens of other countries who were affected can apply. In addition, formal statements may be accepted where no records in respect of the conviction are available or do not contain the detail required to ascertain if the eligibility criteria have been met.

In progressing our objective to ensure strong governance in all bodies across the criminal justice sector; and provide challenging yet supportive oversight to these bodies, the Minister secured government approval to publish the Draft General Scheme of the Irish Prison Service Bill 2023. The General Scheme of the Irish Prison Service Bill 2023 will establish the IPS and its Director General on a statutory basis with defined functions including providing safe and secure custody, upholding human rights, and supporting prisoner rehabilitation. The Department will work with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel on drafting the Bill.

## Key Performance Indicators

The focus of this goal is on reducing and preventing crime; enhancing national security and transforming and strengthening An Garda Síochána.

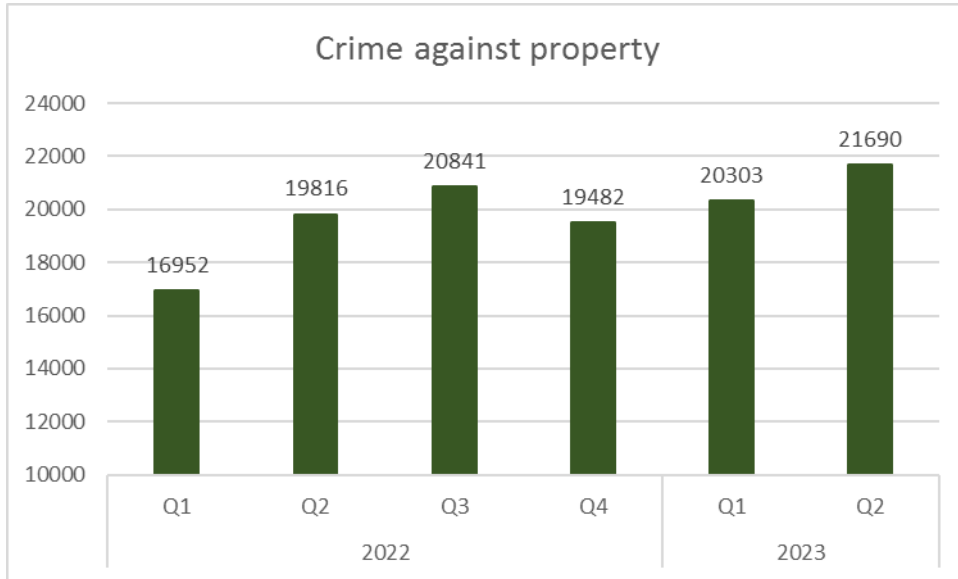
Progress is measured through comparing 2023 data with the baseline period of 2022. The data used to measure progress is taken from the CSO quarterly crime statistics publications.

### Crimes against property

This group is made up of: Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences; Theft and related offences; Aggravated burglaries and Burglary (not aggravated).

In the first two quarters of 2022, there were 36,738 incidents. The comparative figure for 2023 is 41,993 incidents, an overall increase of 14.2%.

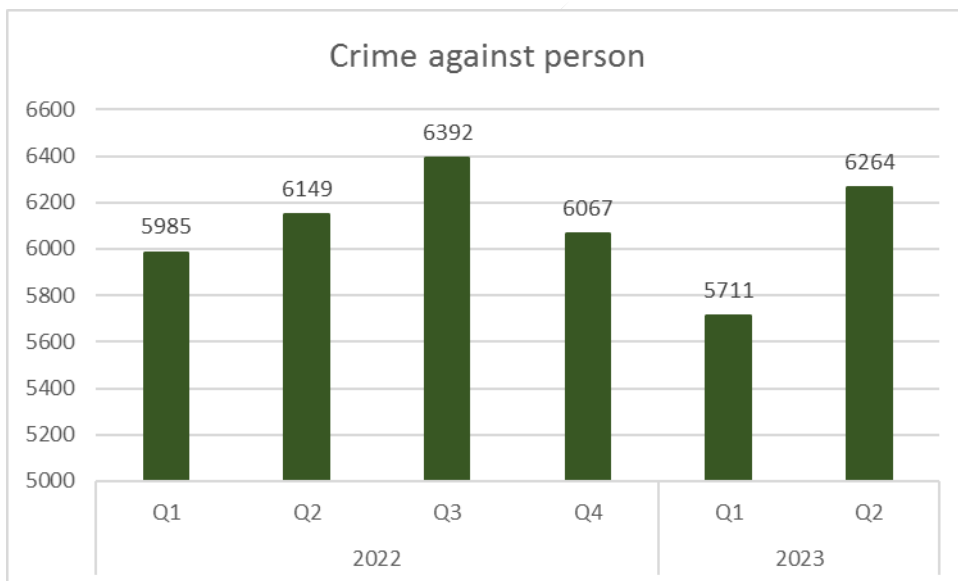




### Crimes against the person

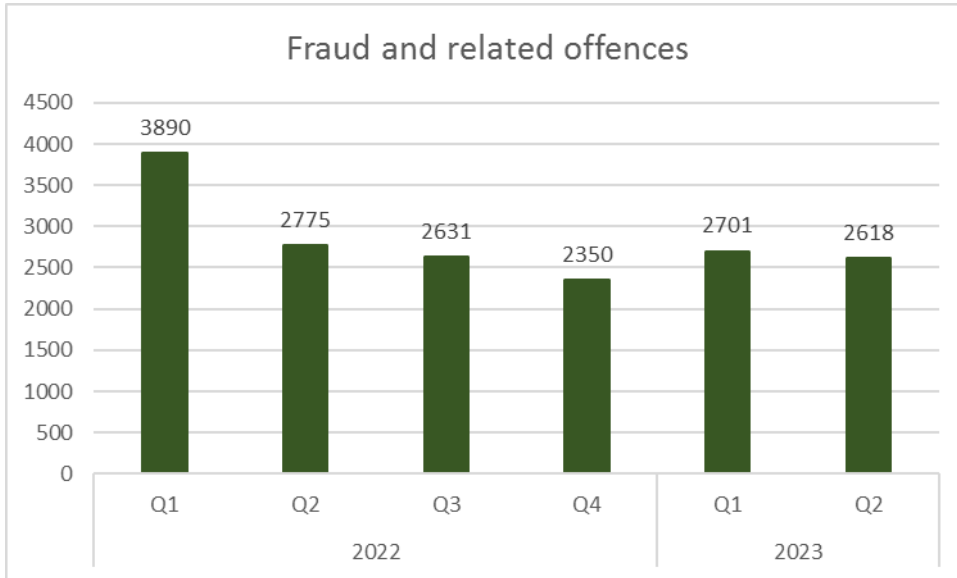
Crimes against the person refer to: Homicide offences; Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences; Endangerment; Abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty and Kidnapping and related offences.

In the first two quarters of 2022, there were 12,134 incidents. The figure for 2023 is 11,975, a reduction of 1.3%



### Fraud and related offences

For the first two quarters of 2022 there were 6,665 incidents recorded. The figure for the same period in 2023 is 5,319 incidents, a reduction of 20.2%.



### Ensure strong governance in all bodies across the Criminal Justice System

An objective within Goal 1 is to ensure strong governance in all bodies across the Criminal Justice System. In Justice Plan 2023, we continued to expand the use of Key Indication across each Goal.

In Q1 and Q2, all Oversight and Performance Delivery Agreements were agreed and signed off with all applicable Criminal Justice agencies, with each agreement published on the Department’s website.

In addition, the first round of Governance meetings for 2023 have been complete with the second round scheduled before year end.

Goal	Objective	Measure	Data source	Indicator
1	Ensure strong governance in all bodies across the Criminal Justice System	Oversight and performance delivery agreements are in place with all bodies and agencies in the sector	Criminal Governance records	Percentage: 100%
1	Ensure strong governance in all bodies across the Criminal Justice System	Appropriate governance meetings are held with all agencies and bodies	Criminal Governance records	Numerical: 37*

\*The numerical of 37 represents 100% of Governance Meetings.

## Goal 2: Improve access to justice and modernise the courts system

Under Goal 2, we are committed to introducing reforms to improve access to justice, which is a fundamental right. The changes we are introducing to the justice and courts systems will ensure that the expectations of a modern society and economy can be met. In progressing this reform, the following actions have been advanced:

The Department is currently leading on an ambitious programme of family justice reform, including the publication of the Family Justice Strategy and the Family Courts Bill 2022, which completed Second Stage in the Seanad in February 2023. The Strategy puts children at the centre of the system, and emphasises amongst other things the need to ensure they are listened to and heard and their views given due regard (in line with constitutional obligations and rights).

Implementation of the strategy continues to be led by the Family Justice Implementation Group that includes representatives of key stakeholders including the Courts Service, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Legal Aid Board, the Judiciary, and the County Registrars Association.

The Strategy committed to the establishment of the Family Justice Development Forum, chaired by the Minister, which meets twice a year. Membership of the Forum comprises key stakeholders across the family justice system, including groups who represent the views of single parents. The Forum is an opportunity to update stakeholders on the progress of the Strategy and to gather feedback and collaborate on particular pieces of work in the area of family justice. The Forum last met on 28 June and will meet again this December.

To progress Action 42.3, the Department commenced a review of the enforcement of child maintenance orders as an action in the Family Justice Strategy. This review will examine the scope for reform including examining whether measures can be taken to enhance the enforcement process.

The Department also committed to undertake both a public consultation and independent research on the topic of parental alienation as part of the Justice Plan 2022. The findings of both these strands were analysed and arising from this, officials developed a policy paper on how to address the issue. Minister Harris brought both the finalised policy paper and the research report to Government on the 23 May. Both the research report and the policy paper have now been published on the Department's website.

In advance of publication of these reports, officials from the Department of Justice provided interested Oireachtas members with a briefing on the topic, as well as a briefing to representatives of NGOs and other stakeholders.

In fulfilling our objective to modernise the courts and legal system to improve the fair and speedy conduct of court proceedings a number of actions have been achieved in the first half of this year.

To give further effect to the Hague Convention of 23 November 2007 on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance approved on behalf of the European Union by Council Decision 2011/432/EU of 9 June 2011, in March, Minister Harris signed S.I. No. 111/2023 - European Union (Hague Maintenance Convention) (Amendment) Regulations 2023.

In May, the Court Proceedings (Delays) Bill 2023 was published which provides for statutory compensation for breach of the right to a hearing within a reasonable time in both civil and criminal matters. The Bill provides for the appointment of a Chief Court Delays Assessor and Court Delays Assessors to assess such applications. The Bill also provides for the making of an application to the Circuit Court, in certain circumstances, for such a declaration and compensation, and for related matters.

To ensure Ireland can participate in Regulation (EU) 2022/850, in June, the Oireachtas approved the necessary motions for Ireland's post-adoption opt-in to both the e-CODEX Regulation and the Digitalisation proposals and Digitalisation Directive. This allow Ireland to participate on a computerised system for the cross-border electronic exchange of data in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters (e-CODEX system). The final text of the Digitalisation Proposals and Directive is awaited from Trilogues and adoption is expected later this year.

Following a review on the future of the Abhaile Scheme in conjunction with the Department of Social Protection, in July, the Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Justice announced that the Abhaile Scheme is to be extended for a further four years. The scheme has proven critical in terms of supporting families who find themselves in serious or long-term mortgage arrears and are at risk of losing their homes.

The General Scheme of the Criminal Justice (Legal Aid) Bill 2023 was published. This Bill will modernise the operation of the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, transferring administrative responsibility from the Department of Justice to the Legal Aid Board and introducing strengthened oversight and governance structures for the Scheme. The Bill will introduce a number of reforms to safeguard the operation of the Criminal Legal Aid scheme, and to formalise existing procedures and strengthen controls where that is warranted.

In February, Government approved the report of the Judicial Planning Working Group. The report recommended a significant increase in the number of judges. This increase will facilitate greater access to justice, support the government's priorities to establish a Planning and Environmental Court and a dedicated Family Courts, and to clear COVID backlogs. It is the Minister's intention is to appoint an initial tranche of 24 new judges in 2023, with a further 20 new judges following the implementation of reforms and efficiencies.

In supporting our economy and society through regulatory, licensing and civil law reform, the Departments Programme Board continues to support to CEO Designate of the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland in preparing for the establishment of the Authority. The operational preparations are progressing in parallel to the progression of the Gambling Regulation Bill so that the Authority commences operations as soon as possible after enactment.

Following it's progression through the House of the Oireachtas, the Minister commenced the majority of the provisions of the Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023. The Act contains wide-ranging legislative amendments will help improve access to justice and make civil processes more efficient, streamlined and people-centred.

In March, following government approval for priority drafting of the Bill and referral of the General Scheme to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice for pre-legislative scrutiny, the General Scheme of the Defamation (Amendment) Bill was published.

The General Scheme of the Sale of Alcohol Bill was published in October 2022 and the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice conducted two pre-legislative scrutiny sessions in January, and published its report in March 2023. Officials from the Department are engaging with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel on the drafting of the Bill.

As committed to in Action 76, amendments have been made to the Occupiers Liability Act, 1995 to update our duty of care legislation striking the right balance between ensuring that businesses, community groups and organisers of events fulfil their duty of care responsibilities, while acknowledging the importance of personal responsibility of visitors, recreational users and trespassers.

## Key Performance Indicators

In Goal 2, we continued to expand the use of key Indicators. Objectives with key indicators under this goal include: Access to justice and modernisation of the courts; Modernise the courts and legal system to improve the fair and speedy conduct of court proceedings; and to Ensure strong governance in all bodies across the Civil Justice System.

Goal	Objective	Measure	Data source	Indicator	Update
2	Access to justice and modernisation of the courts	Wait time for civil hearings	Courts Service Annual Report	Weeks	Efforts continue to address waiting times across the court jurisdictions. It is expected that the implementation of the recommendations of the Judicial Planning Working Group report which was published on 27 February 2023 will help reduce waiting times across the courts significantly. As part of the implementation, a first tranche of 24 additional judges was approved by Government on 21 February.
2	Access to justice and modernisation of the courts	Number of cases handled annually	Legal Aid Board Annual Report	Numerical	Of the 16,477 cases handled in LAB law centres in 2022, 63% were in the private family law area.  The figure provided is taken from the Legal Aid Board's Law Centre Annual Caseload Report for 2022, as provided directly by the LAB.
2	Modernise the courts and legal system to improve the fair and	Work with the Courts Service and Judiciary to develop a suite of	Courts Service	Numerical	Officials from the Department have worked with the Courts Service and the Judiciary to develop a suite of

	speedy conduct of court proceedings	impact indicators to assess the impact of additional judicial resources on case clearance rates			impact indicators to assess the impact of the first tranche of additional judicial resources. Initial data indicators have been agreed between the stakeholders and include case clearance rates across the court jurisdictions.
2	Ensure strong governance in all bodies across the Civil Justice System	Oversight and performance delivery agreements are in place with all bodies and agencies in the sector	Civil Governance records	Percentage : 100%	All oversight agreements for the civil agencies, with the exception of one, were in place as of end June 2023. Whilst three Performance Delivery Agreements had been finalised, three more were subject to ongoing discussions. Agreement on all outstanding items is expected in Q3 2023. The Department continues to monitor the agencies' meeting of the targets set as the year progresses.
2	Ensure strong governance in all bodies across the Civil Justice System	Appropriate governance meetings are held with all agencies and bodies	Civil Governance records	Numerical: 14	The Civil Governance team runs a biannual programme of governance meetings with the seven civil agencies under its remit. As of end June 2023, six such meetings were held, with the seventh meeting scheduled for July.

## **Goal 3: Strengthen community safety, reduce reoffending, support victims and combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence**

As set out under Goal 3, we have committed to providing that safety by engaging communities, reducing reoffending, diverting young people away from crime, supporting victims and combating domestic, sexual and gender based violence.

Combatting all forms of domestic, sexual and gender-based is a priority for this Government. Achieving this priority is reflected in a range of policies and legislation actions contained in Justice Plan 2023.

Continuing the progress achieved in this area following the publication of the 5 year ambitious Zero Tolerance Strategy in 2022, building on the four pillars of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Policy Co-Ordination, the accompanying implementation plans detailed actions will continue to be implemented this year.

One of the overarching goals of the Strategy is to ensure everyone who needs a refuge space will get one, and we are working closely with the sector to achieve this. We will double the number of refuge spaces over the lifetime of the strategy, as we work to meet our obligations under the Istanbul Convention.

Zero Tolerance also sets a target to increase the number of Safe Homes. In 2022, an additional 12 Safe Homes were put in place and there will be a further increase from 32 to 50 or above by the end of 2023.

A new statutory agency, under the aegis of the Department of Justice, will be established to ensure a permanent and dedicated focus on this important area of work. Under the Strategy, legislation has progressed to double the maximum sentence for assault causing harm and to introduce standalone offences of stalking and non-fatal strangulation.

Legislation is also being progressed to update sexual offences legislation, including in relation to the law around consent and to continue reforms to put the victim at the centre of the criminal justice system, and to improve the monitoring of sex offenders through the enactment of the Sex Offenders Bill.

Fulfilling another action in the Zero Tolerance Strategy, an awareness campaign was launched in May, highlighting that threatening to share intimate images of another person is a crime with potentially serious consequences. The 'Serious Consequences' campaign – which runs on TV, cinema, local and national radio, digital and social media – seeks to empower victims by making them aware of the legislation and protections available.

Minister Harris also launched a significant new awareness campaign highlighting the rights available if you are a victim of crime. The campaign also runs across TV, local and national radio, digital and social – directs people to the VictimsCharter.ie website. The website sets out the rights that victims of crime have and provides information on the supports and services available in an easily accessible manner. Two adverts – 'Diversity' and 'Translations' – form the centrepiece of the 'Victims of Crime - Know your rights' campaign, and were developed with marginalised, minority and harder-to-reach communities in mind.

A further national campaign to develop a national shared understanding of the meaning and importance of consent in sexual relationships is underway. The Department has supported the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre to undertake research into the topic of consent and is using these findings to develop and create effective messaging to launch this national campaign on consent later in the year.

Achieving Action 90, following the commissioning and funding of the research in 2022, the Department welcomed the publication of a new CSO survey providing national prevalence figures on sexual violence in Ireland, which

focused on respondents' experiences of a broad spectrum of sexual violence and harassment experienced in their lifetime.

The survey results provide high quality national prevalence data on sexual violence, which will act as a new baseline for the levels of sexual violence in Ireland. The survey is due to be conducted again in 10 years' time. The survey covers a range of sexually violent behaviour, from non-contact experiences to non-consensual sexual intercourse.

Progressing the implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 has continued through 2023. The implementation of this Strategy has led to the broadening and deepening of the services provided by the network of Youth Diversion Projects. This strategy puts a focus on Early Intervention and Family Support programmes for children at risk, as well as access to appropriate Education, Training and Youth Services. A public consultation on increasing diversion from 18 to 24 years has been held and officials in the Department are preparing for an open policy forum in the coming months.

In June, Minister of State James Browne launched the first evaluation report of the Youth Diversion Projects (YDPs). The evaluation is the first of its kind and was undertaken the period between December 2021 and November 2022. The overall purpose of the evaluation was to generate policy-relevant knowledge concerning the structure, conduct and impacts of the YDPs. The report shows that YDPs are performing well in many areas and are known to impact positively on reducing crime.

To support the development of community safety through innovative, local community based initiatives, an open call for Community Safety Innovation Funding 2023 was launched with €3 million made available. This amounts to a €1 million increase on the previous year's funding.

Meeting the Programme for Government commitment and a key commitment under the Department of Justice's Review of Policy Options for Prison and Penal Reform 2022-2024 to review the existing functions, powers, appointment procedures, and reporting processes of Prison Visiting Committees, the completion and publication of this Review occurred in April. The report on the Review of Prison Visiting Committees was informed by wide-ranging public and stakeholder consultation. Completion of this review will allow for the reform of Prison Visiting Committees in line with today's rehabilitation focussed practices. Reform of the legislation underpinning Prison Visiting Committees will be advanced alongside legislation to achieve compliance with the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) which the State signed in 2007 and continues to work towards full ratification of.

## **Goal 4: Deliver a fair immigration system for a digital age**

Under Goal 4, with demand for Irish immigration services continuing to increase at a significant rate, in addition to the challenges of the Ukrainian crisis, our focus continued to deliver efficient, robust and customer-centric frontline immigration services.

In the last twelve months, a Modernisation team has been established in Immigration Service Delivery (ISD), charged with delivering the Department's stated, and published, objective of a fair immigration system for a digital age. This ambitious programme of modernisation is aimed at improving the service we provide to customers and requires significant ongoing financial investment.

A modernised Immigration Service will offer a fully online service for our customers (as well as access for those who are unable to engage online). The service will include a portal allowing users to save applications and communications. The service will also facilitate integration with commonly used third-party services (for instance, payment services). When delivered, ISD's service will have minimised the need to submit printed applications or



other documentation, will have reduced processing time and increased the quality of service offered to applicants and their families.

This approach is building on ISD's current digital offering, including the online registration renewals process in the Dublin region and the 2021 launch of the new Irish Immigration website. The number of customers using the website, and using its automatic translation service (the site is offered in 14 languages), is encouraging. Additionally, most ISD applications forms which do not require the user to be physically present, for example for fingerprinting, are now available online and more will be published in the coming months (including Travel Documents and Turkish Association applications in the coming weeks and Citizenship applications later this year).

As well as improving operational efficiency, we are committed to improving the service we provide to our customers. In the last few months, we have launched a centralised customer service function: this unit is now addressing almost half of all in-bound queries, and their capacity (and digital capability) is due to be further enhanced in the coming months. We have also introduced the Freephone appointment booking service; addressing a significant customer concern around access to appointments.

In parallel with these modernisation measures, it is also the Department's intention to take stock of registration and renewal arrangements in general, including the duration of renewals, against the general backdrop of plans to transfer certain immigration registration functions currently carried out by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) to ISD, as recommended by the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland (COFPI).

The Department continues to take all necessary steps to manage the international protection process efficiently and effectively, while ensuring the integrity of the immigration system is maintained at all times. An accelerated procedure for international protection applicants from safe countries of origin was introduced in November 2022. This new process has seen applicants from such countries receive much quicker decisions throughout 2023.

Immigration Service Deliver continue to utilise the Immigration NGO Forum to identify and resolve significant customer service issues.

## Key Performance Indicators

The below sets out the current progress of Action 113 in the Justice Plan 2023 – “Maintain the 25% increase in processing achieved in key Immigration Service Delivery functions in 2022”. It also sets out the methodology by which this is done.

In measuring progress:

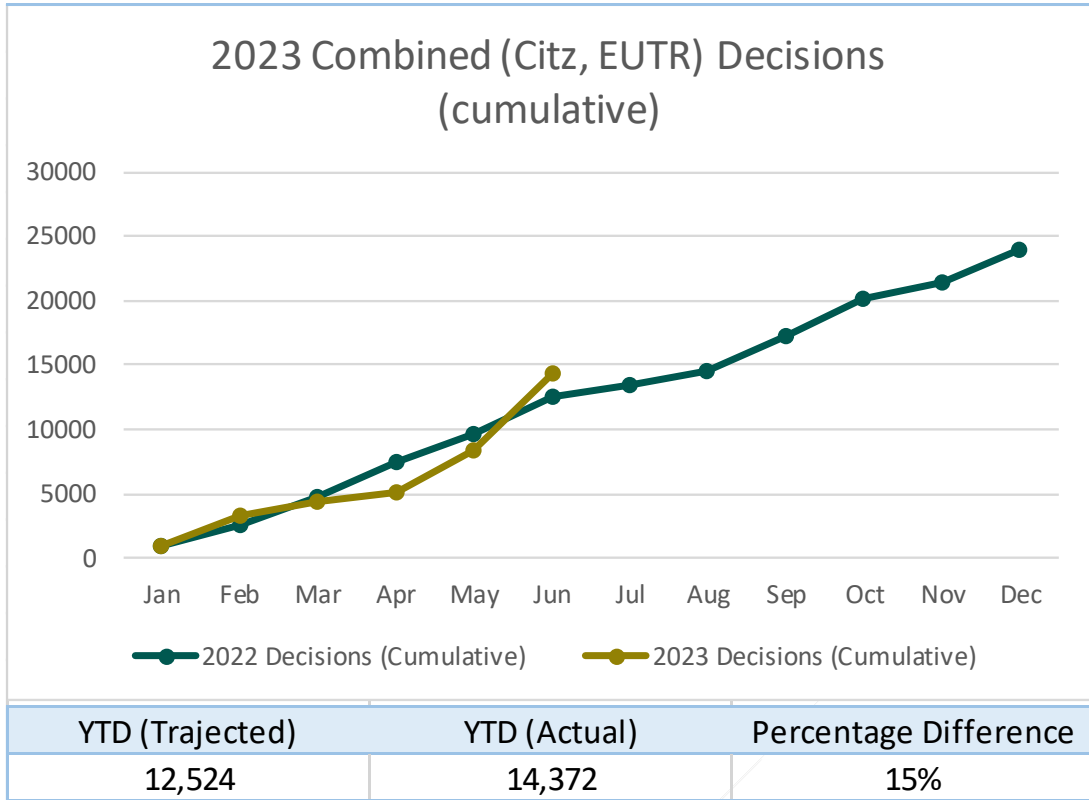
A 'trajectory' is set – this is the number of actual decisions made in 2022. This is graphed on a cumulative monthly basis using real historical decision figures from that year

The actual number of decisions made to date in 2023 is mapped against this, identifying progress

In terms of maintaining the 25% increase in processing, overall there is positive news.

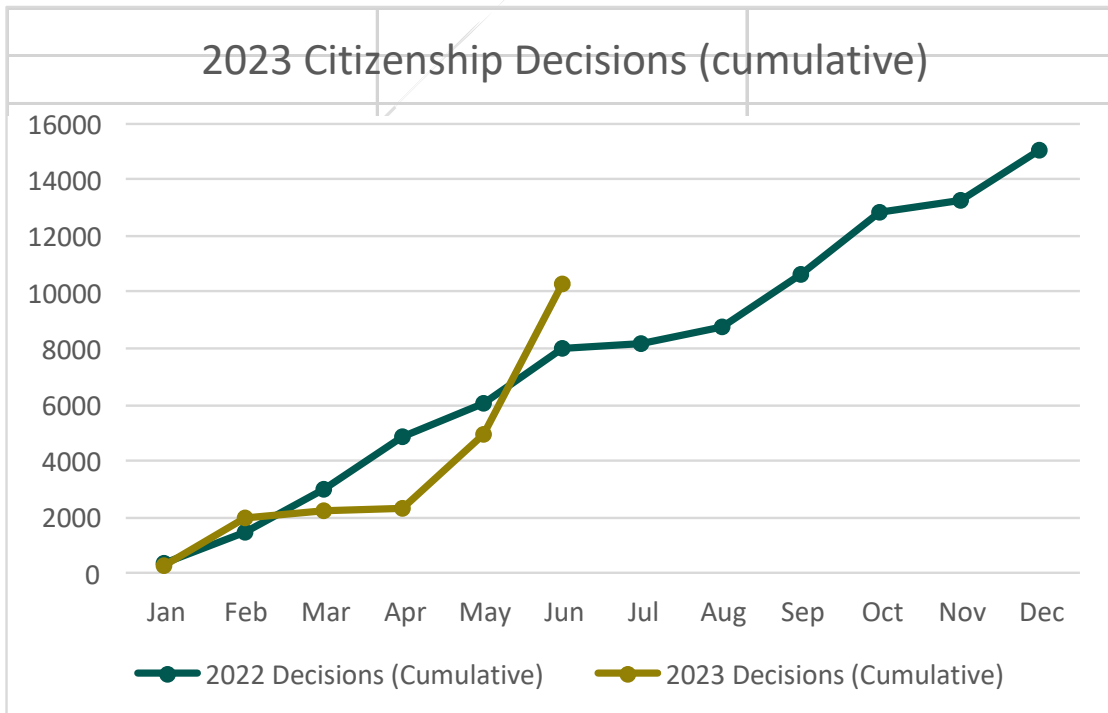
### Combination of Citizenship and EUTR

At the end of June, we are 15% ahead of trajectory for total decisions (a combination of Citizenship and EUTR). This is an increase compared to May when total decisions were running 14% behind trajectory.



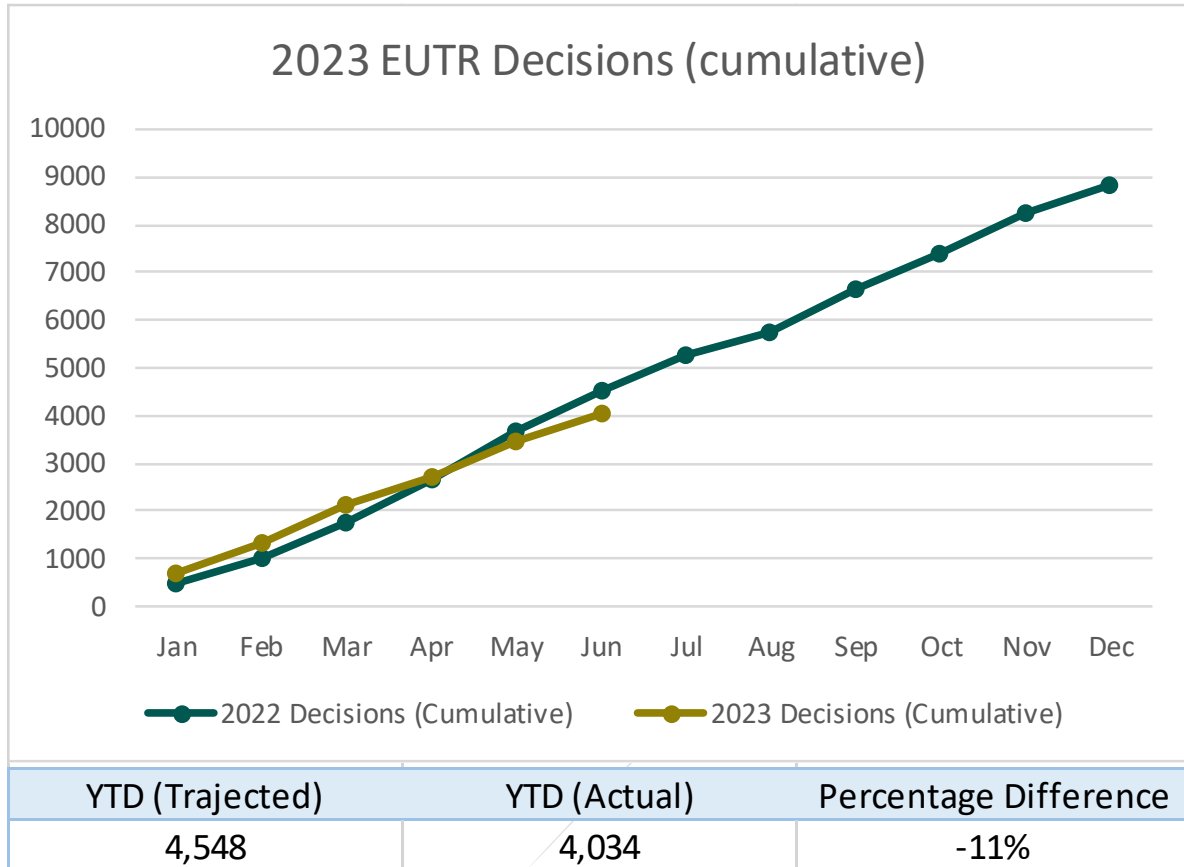
#### Citizenship

Citizenship has seen a major increase for June in the number of decisions made. Citizenship has moved from 18% behind trajectory in May to 30% ahead of trajectory in June.



## EU Treaty Rights (EUTR)

EUTR has seen a decrease for June in the number of decisions made. EUTR has moved from 6% behind trajectory in May to 11% behind trajectory in June.



## Goal 5: Accelerate innovation, digital transformation and climate action across the justice sector

As set out under Goal 5, accelerating innovation, digitalisation and climate action across the justice sector continued to be vital levers to deliver the significant reforms set out in our Plan.

In keeping with the objectives of Goal 5, the first Innovation Strategy for the Justice sector was launched. Our vision in this strategy is to create the right environment and conditions for our people and organisations to respond innovatively to the challenges of an increasingly complex and uncertain world.

As a sector it is incumbent upon us to deliver value through innovation to achieve better outcomes towards our vision of a safe, fair and inclusive Ireland. The size and complexity of our sector is challenging, which is why we have opted to focus on building the innovation capabilities of our people and organisations.

The strategy will support our sector to improve on service delivery, enhance consistency, transparency, fairness and inclusion, and reduce inefficiencies. It also aims to support us in innovating across sectoral boundaries developing a more systematic approach to our services.

## Key Performance Indicators

5	Dramatically increase digital services across the Justice Sector	Move legacy Notes Databases onto modern digital platforms	CTI Data	Target: 40	For Legacy notes databases onto modern digital platforms, there are 2 PowerApps applications live, with 63 Lotus Notes applications migrated to other tech.
5	Dramatically increase digital services across the Justice Sector	Accept all International Protection applications digitally	CTIU/ISD Data	Target: 100%	Attachments can now be submitted digitally and a digital instance of the questionnaire has been developed for pilot testing.
5	Dramatically increase digital services across the Justice Sector	Increased number of online application forms available	CTI Data	Target: 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 online forms are live</li> <li>• 3 additional forms at advanced stages of development</li> </ul>

Progress on each of the actions to be delivered in the first half of 2023 is set out below.

## Goal 1: Tackle crime, enhance national security and transform policing

Objective - Developing a leading edge and accountable policing service through the implementation of A Policing Service for our Future (APSFF)			
2	Progress the implementation of the 8 strand programme required to enable full commencement of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act and provide quarterly updates to the Minister	Ongoing	Achieved to date
3	Support and monitor continued recruitment by An Garda Síochána of Garda Members, Garda Reserve, Garda Staff and redeployment of Garda Members to frontline duties.	Q4	
	3.1 An Garda Síochána / Public Appointments Service launch of Garda recruitment campaign with targeted focus at underrepresented groups	Q2	Achieved
	3.2 Monitor progress against targets for Garda trainees (1000) and Garda staff (400)	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	3.3 Continue to work with AGS to identify roles suitable for redeployment where a Garda Member will be replaced by Garda Staff	Ongoing	Achieved to date

4	Work with AGS, DoT and DPER to drive forward the delivery of 'A Policing Service for our Future'	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	4.1 Provide quarterly updates to the Minister on the roll out of the new Garda Operating Model to include the rollout of the Community Engagement Function and Community Policing Teams	Ongoing	Achieved to date
6	Support the Garda Síochána (Digital Recordings) Bill on AGS use of body worn cameras, drones, CCTV and ANPR to enactment	Q4	
	6.1 Draft Committee Stage amendments	Q2	Achieved
	6.2 Support Bill to enactment	Q3	Not Yet Achieved
7	Implement new actions to continue to tackle Anti-Social behaviour	Q4	
	7.1 Implement recommendations arising from the Anti-social Behaviour Forum and report quarterly on the work of the forum	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	7.3 Support AGS and OPW to deliver the new O'Connell Street Garda Station	Q1	Achieved
	7.4 Provide funding to Dublin Local Community Safety Partnership to support the Community Safety Warden Schemes in Dublin Inner city	Q1	Achieved
	7.5 Examine the issue of Anti-Social Behaviour in Approved Housing Body complexes and report to the relevant Ministers.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Local Leadership Programme underway with selected high-vulnerability AHB area administered by UL REPPP and local AHB. Proposals to be completed and presented in Q3
	7.6 Support Dublin Local Community Safety Partnership publish the Community Safety Plan for North Inner City	Q2	Achieved - Report published Q3
8	We will implement the Greentown programme which provides support to the children most at risk of recruitment by organised crime groups	Q4	
	8.1 Develop a target on the number of interventions to be delivered	Q1	Achieved
9	Review of National Security Framework	Ongoing	

	9.1 Submit final report of Offences Against State Act Review Group to Government	Q2	Achieved
	9.2 Review legislation to identify scope for modernisation	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - project underway
10	Finalise the review of arrangements for Garda Vetting in the context of the introduction of a statutory re-vetting regime	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Review group report nearing completion
11	Finalise the Review of Courts Security	Q1	Achieved
<b>Objective - Deliver a comprehensive programme to improve the operation of the criminal justice system</b>			
13	Support the work of the Inter-Agency Working Group to examine Ireland's future participation in the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) with a view to advising Government on whether Ireland should exercise its option to opt-in to the measure under Article 4 of Protocol 21 to the Lisbon Treaty.	Q2	Achieved
14	Report to the Minister on the Strategic Review of the Department's EU engagement, taking account of the vital importance of Ireland's EU membership in a post-Brexit environment	Q1	Achieved
15	Strengthen regulatory enforcement capability of the Anti Money Laundering Compliance Unit (AMLCU) in response to the detection of clear regulatory breaches of the law by designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) under the Unit's supervision	Q2	Not Yet Achieved
	15.1 Finalise offences which will be subject to issuing of fines by AMLCU	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Ongoing engagement with the AGO to identify offences
	15.2 Secure Government approval for legislative proposals for issuing of fines by AMLCU for strict liability offences	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Ongoing engagement with the AGO to identify offences
	15.3 Promote compliance through quarterly webinars targeting DNFBPs	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	15.4 Targeted community events to raise awareness raising among relevant business community (7 events across the year)	Ongoing	Achieved to date
16	Support compliance with the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010 as amended by DNFBPs supervised by the AMLCU through the issuing of a set of written guidelines	Q1	Not Yet Achieved - progress to publication nearing completion

	16.1 Publish guidelines on compliance for businesses supervised by AMLCU	Q1	Not Yet Achieved - progress to publication nearing completion
<b>Objective - Support work to tackle cybercrime, improve online safety and prepare for the challenges ahead through stronger policies and legislation</b>			
19	Commence Data Retention legislation enacted in 2022 and initiate policy work on further consolidated legislation in this area.	Q4	
	19.1 Commence Communications (Retention of Data)(Amendment) Act 2022	Q1	Achieved
<b>Objective - Strengthen measures to tackle terrorism and other serious and organised crime through domestic action and international co-operation</b>			
23	Finalise Risk assessment on terrorist financing.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Working Group continue to progress assessment
24	Take measures to implement EU Terrorist Content Online (TCO) Regulation 2021	Q4	
	24.1 Signature of Statutory Instrument designating Garda Síochána as Irish authority competent to issue removal orders	Q1	Achieved
	24.2 Obtain agreement with AGO and other relevant Departments on details of industry levy to fund TCOR-related activities within Coimisiún na Meán.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - ongoing engagement with AGO with further progress expected in Q3
26	Support the EAW (Amendment) Bill to address issues in the EAW Act in the EU infringement proceedings to enactment	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Committee stage amendments require Government approval, expect to progress in Q3 with enactment in Q4
27	Support the Criminal Justice (Mutual Recognition of Custodial Sentences) Bill 2021, which transposes the EU Framework Decision on custodial sentences and updates the law on transfer of sentences persons to third countries, to enactment.	Q1	Achieved
28	Signature of Regulations to transpose EU Directive 2019/1153 facilitating the use of financial information for the investigation of criminal offences	Q1	Achieved
<b>Objective -Reform, review and modernise criminal law and procedure to enhance and support the efficient and effective operation of the criminal justice system</b>			

29	Publish an amendment to increase the maximum penalty available for assaulting a peace officer to 12 years.	Q2	Achieved
30	Review minimum custodial terms for persons sentenced to life imprisonment	Q3	
	30.1 Develop draft policy proposals as appropriate	Q2	Achieved
31	Coordinate Working Group on Draft Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes (MLA Convention) to determine representation at formal negotiations and consider Ireland's negotiating position	Q2	Achieved
32	Publish Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill to implement legislative recommendations of Proceeds of Crime Review and other legislative amendments identified	Q4	
	32.1 Publish heads of Bill	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - General scheme being finalised, expected to progress in Q3
33	Examine policy implications following the Firearms Licensing Review	Q4	
	33.1 Appoint a Firearms Technical Advisor (FTA) who will be responsible for providing firearms advice to the Minister & Minister of State and on behalf of the Department when required.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Work progressing with delivery date likely Q3
35	Resolve infringement proceedings relating to Article 4(5) of the Firearms Directive	Q2	Achieved
	35.1 Designate Justice Service Delivery as a competent authority for data filing (for Registered Firearms Dealers) under article 4(5) of the Firearms Directive	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Delivery date likely Q4
	35.2 Agree and develop solution to gather firearms data for traceability of firearms bought and sold by RFDs	Q1	Achieved
36	Support the Criminal Justice (Misc Provisions) Bill which deals with a number of issues including firearms licensing, conspiracy to murder, appeal against sentence, prison planning rules and evidence held in the cloud to enactment	Q2	Achieved
37	Finalise a proposal to disregard convictions for certain qualifying offences related to consensual sexual activity between men	Q1	Achieved



**Objective - Ensure strong governance in all bodies across the criminal justice sector; and provide challenging yet supportive oversight to these bodies**

38	Finalise and bring to Government the General Scheme of a Bill to provide a statutory basis for the IPS among other structural governance reforms	Q2	Achieved
39	Provide support to agencies in implementing their capital investment programmes across the Criminal Justice sector, ensuring compliance with statutory obligations and engagement with all relevant stakeholders	Ongoing	Achieved to date
40	Provide funding and oversight to AGS and OPW to deliver the Garda Capital Plan	Q4	
	40.1 New Garda Station O'Connell Street, Dublin 1	Q1	Achieved
	40.8 Continue to work with OPW and AGS to develop and fund future capital projects	Ongoing	Achieved to date

**Goal 2: Improve access to justice and modernise the courts system**

**Objective - Establish a Family Court and a transformed family justice system**

41	Support work towards enactment of the Family Courts Bill 2022 which provides for the creation of new dedicated Family Courts within the existing court structures	Q4	
	41.1 Engage with the Courts Service to implement changes to be provided for in the Family Courts Bill.	Ongoing	Achieved to date
42	Progress the implementation of the Family Justice Strategy actions for 2023	Q4	
	42.1 Support the work of the Family Justice Implementation Group	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	42.2 Begin reviewing the minimum standards and recommended training for those working in the family justice system (commence Q2 2023, ongoing for delivery date).	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	42.3 Commence review of the enforcement of maintenance orders.	Q1	Achieved
	42.4 Submit proposals for reform to the Minister	Q2	Achieved
	42.5 Commence an examination of the role of expert reports in the family law process, including their commissioning, availability, content and use	Q1	Achieved

43	Continue to work with the lead Department on legislation on international surrogacy and donor-assisted human reproduction	Ongoing	Achieved to date
44	Following analysis of the public consultation and research conducted on the issue of parental alienation, make recommendations on the matter to the Minister	Q1	Achieved
<b>Objective - Modernise the courts and legal system to improve the fair and speedy conduct of court proceedings</b>			
45	Reform of the Abhaile Scheme	Q4	
	45.1 Bring recommendations to Government on the future of the Abhaile Scheme in conjunction with the Department of Social Protection	Q2	Achieved
46	Publish General Scheme of the Criminal Legal Aid Bill to transfer the operation of the criminal legal aid scheme to the Legal Aid Board and otherwise update and modernise the law on criminal legal aid.	Q3	
	46.1 Publish the General Scheme	Q2	Achieved
	46.2 Work with OPC to draft the Bill	Q2	Achieved to date
47	Bring into effect a new regulation to provide for civil legal aid for participants in the assisted decision making court process and for wards of court	Q2	Achieved to date – anticipated to be completed Q3
48	Support the work of the Civil Legal Aid Review Group and consider the recommendations of the Review Group.	Q2, Q4	Achieved to date
49	Undertake necessary steps under Protocol 21 to ensure Ireland can participate in Regulation (EU) 2022/850 on a computerised system for the cross-border electronic exchange of data in the area of judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters (e-CODEX system) and to advance Ireland's participation in the digitalisation of civil and commercial and criminal law with a view to facilitating greater digital judicial cooperation.	Q4	
	49.2 Provide update to Minister on opting in to e-CODEX	Q2	Achieved
50	Publish the Court Proceedings (Delays) Bill	Q1	Achieved

52	Consider LSRA report on barriers to becoming a solicitor or barrister	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - The LSRA continues to finalise its report
55	Undertake necessary steps (drafting, engagement with Office of Parliamentary Counsel, Minister's Office) to ensure a Statutory Instrument under regulation 6 of the European Union (Hague Maintenance Convention) Regulations 2019 is made. When in force such a SI is evidence that certain states are bound by the 2007 Hague Maintenance Convention and is evidence of the making, under the Convention, of declaration, reservation or specifications and of their contents by the states concerned.	Q2	Achieved
<b>Objective - Modernise the operation of the judiciary to enable it to work more effectively; and reform the process for appointing judges</b>			
57	Support the progress to enactment of the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill and attend to commencement matters	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Report Stage in Seanad complete with amendments from the Seanad to be considered by the Dáil
58	Support the establishment of the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC), including the appointment of the Director and Lay Members.	Q3	
	58.1 Establish an implementation committee and commence delivery of implementation plan.	Q1	Achieved
59	Finalise and agree key performance indicators with the Courts Service to measure the impact of the modernisation programme and the implementation of the Final Report of Judicial Planning Working Group	Q4	
	59.1 Establish a Working Group	Q1	Achieved
	59.2 Develop Key Performance Indicators	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Final agreement on KPIs to be reached with Judiciary and Courts Service in July
60	Oversee and monitor the implementation of the Judicial Planning Working Group (JPWG) recommendations	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	60.1 Bring proposals to Government for approval of the JPWG recommendations and to publish JPWG and OECD Reports	Q1	Achieved
	60.2 Establish JPWG Implementation Group	Q1	Achieved

	60.3 Agree JPWG Implementation Plan with Government and provide quarterly updates to the Minister	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Implementation Plan being finalised with key stakeholders to submit to Government in Q3.
	60.4 Bring proposals to Government on the appointment of Judges as required	Ongoing	Achieved to date
<b>Objective - Support our economy and society through regulatory, licensing and civil law reform</b>			
61	Support the establishment of the Gambling Regulatory Authority	Q4	
	61.1 Provide programme management services to oversee and coordinate the multiple work streams and other strategic activities to support the establishment of the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland	Ongoing	Achieved
62	Bring to Government proposals regarding the future of censorship of publications board and Censorship of Publications Appeal Board.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - proposals will be submitted to Government in Q3
63	Support the appointment of two additional commissioners to the Data Protection Commission (DPC)	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Sanction obtained, to be scheduled for Public Appointment Service competition
65	Progress the Civil Law and Courts (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill through the remaining stages of the legislative process to enactment	Q2	Achieved
66	Progress Property Services Regulation (Amendment) Bill to enhance compliance with relevant EU law and resolve EU-PILOT (2016) 8426	Q4	
	66.1 Engage with stakeholders on required changes	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Consultations continuing on technical aspects
68	Finalise General Scheme of Defamation (Amendment) Bill for Government approval to draft	Q1	Achieved
	68.1 Engage with OPC to progress drafting of Bill	Q2, Q3	Achieved to date
69	Support the Sale of Alcohol Bill to enactment	Q4	

	69.1 Consider the PLS report of the Oireachtas Committee on the General Scheme of the Sale of Alcohol. Consult and liaise with the OPC in relation to drafting the legislation.	Q2, Q3	Achieved to date
70	Contribute to passing of primary and secondary legislation to allow Minister to set indexation rate and following consultation with Working Group, advise the Minister on an appropriate indexation rate for Periodic Payment Orders.	Q1, Q2	Not Yet Achieved - The Department continues to research alternative approaches to indexation, pending State Claims Agency data provision
<b>Objective - Support the Dublin Coroner to conclude the Stardust Inquests and all coroners to do their jobs</b>			
72	Carry out a review of the Coronial Service, including consultation on the future of the Service, legislating for the recruitment of salaried coroners and a Chief Coroner, and engaging with all relevant actors in the delivery of a sustainable pathology service to support the work of the Coroners	Q4	
	72.1 Undertake a Coronial Reform Stakeholder Engagement Process	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Engagement with Coroners commenced with stakeholder consultation to take place in Q3
<b>Objective - Support the reduction of legal costs and the length of legal proceedings and tackle the high cost of insurance</b>			
73	Support the establishment of a Planning and Environmental Court	Q1	Achieved to date
76	Amendment of the Occupiers' Liability Act to revise Duty of Care in line with the policy review paper	Q2	Achieved
77	Establish and support an expert group on the setting of the discount rate (Q1) and consider recommendations of expert group and make regulations to take account of them (Q2)	Q1, Q2	Achieved to date - Expert Group established
78	Implement recommendations of the Review of the Administration of Civil Justice in line with the Implementation Plan on Civil Justice Efficiencies and Reform Measures	Ongoing	
	78.1 Finalise independent economic research on models to control legal costs	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - awaiting independent economic research report

	78.2 Carry out legal evaluation/assessment of independent economic research on models to control legal costs	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - awaiting independent economic research report
79	Review the Peace Commissioner appointment process	Q3	
	79.1 Terms of Reference agreed, consultation and research commenced	Q1	Achieved
	79.2 Consultation & research completed. Drafting of report commenced	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Research complete, consultation with stakeholders commenced in July to be followed by drafting of report
80	Consider Private Members Bills as they arise. Brief the Minister and prepare Memorandums to Government as required .	Ongoing	Achieved

### Goal 3: Strengthen community safety, reduce reoffending, support victims and combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence

Objective - Combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence and support victims of crime			
81	Implement the Zero Tolerance National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	81.1 Report to Government on progress of Zero Tolerance National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence	Q2, Q4	Achieved
	81.2 Report to the Minister on a quarterly basis on the delivery of the DSGBV Change Programme to include progress on provision of refugee and safe homes accommodation including Wexford, Meath and Dundalk for 2023	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	81.3 Coordinate and provide oversight on the implementation of the Zero Tolerance National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and report to the Minister quarterly and to Cabinet Committee as required.	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	81.4 Bring heads of DSGBV Bill to Government which will establish a national DSGBV Agency	Q1	Achieved

	81.5 Publish Bill	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Drafting of Bill finalised, expected to be published in Q3
	81.9 Launch Phase 2 of Intimate Image Campaign with focus on threatening to share intimate images without consent.	Q2	Achieved
	81.10 Launch Phase 2 of Victims of Crime Campaign which will be a major expansion of awareness raising measures on issue.	Q2	Achieved
	81.12 Progress the national campaign to develop a national shared understanding of the meaning and importance of consent in sexual relationships.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - The Department supported Dublin Rape Crisis Centre to undertake research into the topic of consent and is using these findings to develop and create effective messaging to launch a national campaign on consent in late Q3/Q4.
82	Support the Sex Offenders (Amendment) Bill 2021, which strengthens monitoring of sex offenders in the community, to enactment.	Q2	Achieved
85	Publish Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill 2022 and support progress through the Oireachtas.	Q2	Achieved
	85.1 Consider Justice Committee Pre-Legislative Scrutiny Report and recommendations	Q1	Achieved
	85.2 Publish Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill	Q2	Achieved
86	Prepare a new National Action Plan on Human Trafficking and support establishment of a new National Referral Mechanism.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - revised delivery date Q3
89	Complete examination of report on Familicide and prepare an action plan for enhanced support for families and other actions in this area	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Report published 31st May. Implementation plan with the relevant groups to be completed.
90	Work with the CSO to publish the first Sexual Violence Survey	Q1, Q2	Achieved

**Objective - Deliver restorative justice safely and effectively**

91	Continue to promote and support the provision of restorative justice at all stages of the criminal justice system	Q2	Achieved
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**Objective -Divert young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour**

92	Support the Criminal Justice (Engagement of Children in Criminal Activity) Bill 2023 through the Oireachtas	Q4	
	92.1 Publish Bill	Q1	Achieved
	92.2 Support Bill to progress through the Oireachtas to enactment	Q4	Not Yet Achieved
93	Continue evidence informed implementation of Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 supported by REPPP research	Ongoing	Achieved to date

**Objective -Drive community participation in a new approach to make communities safer, and work across government and with State agencies to support this goal**

95	Launch Community Safety Innovation Fund 2023	Q1	Achieved
96	Prepare for the national rollout of Community Safety Partnerships in 2024	Q3	
	96.1 Develop and provide on boarding/support (including Governance arrangements) for Director	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Sanction requested, once obtained it will be scheduled for Public Appointment Service competition
	96.2 Complete evaluation of Community Safety Partnerships	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - evaluations ongoing
97	Drive community participation in a new approach to make communities safer, and work across government and with State agencies to support this goal	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	97.1 Support and work with Dublin City Council to ensure that the Cherry Orchard implementation group works with the local community to deliver improvements to the Cherry Orchard area.	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	97.2 Support and work with Dublin City Council to ensure the implementation of the report on Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview in North Dublin City	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	97.3 Publish Drogheda Implementation Progress Report	Q1	Achieved

**Objective - Implement Supporting a Victim's Journey: A plan to help victims and vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases**



99	Reform of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal Scheme	Q4	
	99.1 Reform of Scheme, subject to Government approval, to introduce transitional arrangement for delayed applications in light of Bowes & Brophy judgment	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Proposals to be brought to Government in Q3
	99.2 Implement Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal Scheme Reforms	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Proposals to be brought to Government in Q3
101	Provide for promotion and awareness of the Victim Charter	Ongoing	Achieved
<b>Objective -Lead the development and implementation of strategies and actions to reduce offending and bring greater coherence and shared purpose to the criminal justice sector</b>			
102	Progress Action 12 of Review of Policy Options for Prison and Penal Reform 2022-2024 - To take a comprehensive approach to the development of the next Irish Prison Service Capital Strategy, ensuring the availability of modern detention facilities with adequate capacity	Q4	
	102.1 Consider options to deliver additional prison spaces in the short to medium term (3-5 years)	Q2	Achieved
103	Bring a memo to Government to establish a taskforce to improve education and upskilling across the criminal justice system, starting with prison education. The task force will also consider youth justice issues, will agree a work programme, and be co-chaired at Ministerial level in both Departments	Ongoing	Achieved
<b>Objective - Publish the legislation to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture</b>			
104	Review and report to the Minister on the existing functions, powers, appointment procedures and reporting processes of Prison Visiting Committees	Q1	Achieved
105	Publish the Inspection of Places of Detention Bill to enable ratification of UN Optional Protocol to UN Convention on Torture (OPCAT) and support the Bill's progress through the Oireachtas	Q4	
	105.1 Publish the Bill	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Bill being drafted with OPC
<b>Objective -Reduce re-offending rates for those convicted of crime</b>			
107	Develop and establish a Penal Policy Consultative Council to consider matters relating to penal policy and to provide advice to the Minister as appropriate.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved

109	Develop protocols to guide client entry and exit and conclusion of JARC programmes as well as potential establishment of additional JARC programmes as a dynamic response to local crime patterns.	Q2	Achieved
110	Complete review of the Fines (Payment and Recovery) Act 2014 and begin implementation of agreed actions	Q2	Achieved
111	Complete policy review of the Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions) Bill 2014 incorporating consideration of a statutory basis for prison as a sanction of last resort	Q4	
	111.1 Publish policy review (Community Sanctions Bill)	Q2	Achieved - to be published

## Goal 4: Deliver a fair immigration system for a digital age

Objective - Communicate effectively with our service users, recognising and understanding their diversity and supporting them to engage effectively with us

113	Maintain the 25% increase in processing achieved in key ISD functions in 2022. IPO to increase outputs by over 25% in 2023	Ongoing	<p>Achieved to date- IPO first-instance decisions is 33% ahead of target (3,862 against a target of 2,900)</p> <p>Citizenship is 30% ahead target (10,338 against a target of 7,976)</p> <p>EUTR is 11% behind target (4,034 decisions against a target of 4,548)</p>
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Objective - Develop a fully digital, customer-centric immigration service

114	Identify and increase number of immigration applications which can be completed online	Q2	Achieved
116	Commence the implementation of the ISD modernisation strategy	Ongoing	Achieved
	116.1 Investigate and implement changes to process, technology and culture which will accelerate the delivery of a fair immigration service for all	Ongoing	Achieved to date

	116.2 Review and redesign processes in Immigration Services to improve the speed and quality of service delivery	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	116.3 Collaborate with colleagues to introduce both a robust, digital and automated customer service function and a technology platform on which to manage immigration services going forward.	Ongoing	Achieved to date
117	Continued development and completion of six online forms in 2023	Ongoing	Achieved to date
<b>Objective - Ensure that effective controls are exercised at our borders in line with our international obligations and to maintain our national security</b>			
119	Review the policy of holding immigration detainees in prisons	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - revised delivery date Q3
120	Maintain the integrity of border controls at Dublin Airport	Ongoing	Achieved to date
121	Complete first instance consideration and issue decision in respect of all non-complex cases under the Regularisation scheme for long term undocumented migrants	Q1	Achieved
<b>Objective - Protect the fairness and enhance the efficiency of our immigration system through new strategic policies and legislative proposals</b>			
122	Assess impact of the Catherine Day programme in relation to International Protection	Q1	Achieved
123	Finalise the Strategic Plan for International Protection Office Modernisation in 2023-2024	Q1	Achieved
124	Implement actions to ensure a fair and balanced rules based International Protection system	Ongoing	
	124.1 Ensure accelerated/priority International Protection cases receive a first instance decision within 3 months	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	124.2 Introduce an expanded and enhanced quality assurance process for first instance International Protection decisions	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	124.3 Ensure continued focus on removals, voluntary returns and deportations	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	124.4 Identify additional measures that can be put in place to prevent travel (working with relevant stakeholders) by those with no permission to enter Ireland	Ongoing	Achieved to date

	124.5 Streamline case processing and transfer/removal protocols to make effective use of the Dublin Convention and inadmissible returns legislation	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	124.6 Secure Additional Resources to support IPO process improvements	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	124.7 Produce consolidated web portal including information on international protection and removals, addressing statistical trends and plain language descriptions	Q2	Achieved
125	Maximise the impact of the Ukrainian response team by:	Ongoing	
	125.1 Timely processing of all Temporary Protection applications	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	125.2 Where volume allows, undertake processing activities in respect of appropriate ISD workflows	Ongoing	Achieved to date
126	Provide quality and timely advice on opt-in to EU measures relating to asylum matters, including measures under the Common European Asylum System	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	126.1 Continue to participate in the negotiation of EU measures related to asylum and migration in particular, the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration	Ongoing	Achieved to date
	126.2 Provide quality and timely advice on opt-in to EU measures related to asylum, in particular, the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration.	Ongoing	Achieved
127	Advise on the opt-in position on the recast Single Permit Directive and agree implementation plan	Ongoing	
	127.1 Establish the Interdepartmental Working Group on the Single Permit Process.	Q1	Achieved
	127.2 Prepare an implementation plan for consideration by Government on the single permit process and the Single Permit Directive	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - An Inter-Departmental Working Group has been established, work is advanced and ongoing. The expectation is that an implementation plan will be finalised in the autumn for consideration by Government.
128	Review of the impact of the Access to Labour Market improvements introduced in 2021	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - revised delivery date Q3

Objective - Restructure our immigration services to better serve our customers and our country			
129	Implement change strategy for modernisation programme	Q2	Achieved to date - the change programme started in Q2, with workshops and presentations to teams. The procurement process is also underway.
130	Advance implementation of the Commission on future of Policing in Ireland recommendation to transfer remaining immigration duties from GNIB to DoJ	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Development of draft roadmap is being progressed.
	130.1 Agree roadmap for transfer of Registration and Border Management functions, with a focus on identifying early deliverables	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Development of draft roadmap is being progressed.

## Goal 5: Accelerate innovation, digital transformation and climate action across the justice sector

Objective - Develop innovation and leadership strategies for the justice sector			
131	Publish and implement Innovation Strategy for the Justice Sector	Q4	
	131.1 Publish Cross Sectoral Innovation Strategy	Q1	Achieved
	131.2 Identify Strategic Innovation Competencies and prepare training material	Q2	Achieved
132	Develop a Change Management Framework for the Department	Q1	Achieved
133	Support establishment of appropriate governance and oversight structures for implementation of CTI strategy	Q1	Not Yet Achieved - Revised delivery date Q4
Objective - Dramatically increase digital services throughout the justice sector to support the modernisation of An Garda Síochána, the Courts Service, the Department of Justice itself, including our immigration services			
134	Select and implement interoperable technologies to deliver robust, secure and modern digital services across the department and its agencies	Q4	

	134.1 Draft and publish Request for Tender to market to select a platform and implementation partner to deliver a robust, scalable, digital automated Customer Service solution	Q1	Achieved
	134.2 Draft and publish Request for Tender to market to identify an appropriate strategic platform and implementation partner for ISD Modernisation	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Pre Qualification Questionnaire published to the market end June
	134.3 Evaluate Proposed solutions and select most appropriate responses	Q2, Q3	Not Yet Achieved - Will commence following tenders received in Q3

**Objective - Implement plans and policies across the sector - including the management of vehicle fleets and estates - to support the achievement of Climate Action Plan goals**

135	Update on progress of Justice Sector PPP Projects	Ongoing	Achieved to date
136	Develop a Climate Action Roadmap for the Department with specific actions to meet climate and energy efficiency targets.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Climate Action Roadmap near completion with revised delivery date Q3
	136.1 Develop and publish Department plan	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - Climate Action Roadmap near completion with revised delivery date Q3
	136.2 In conjunction with Governance Functions, monitor implementation of climate actions and energy in the Justice Sector.	Ongoing	Achieved to date
137	The Department will prepare and implement a Smarter Travel Action plan to encourage a move away from car as primary travel means.	Q2	Not Yet Achieved

**Objective - Develop innovation and leadership strategies for the justice sector**

138	Enhance climate impact of projects in the DOJ Project Portfolio through introducing measurement of impact of actions to drive overall carbon footprint reduction	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - revised delivery date Q4
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**Objective - Develop innovation and leadership strategies for the justice sector**

139	To draft a full Customer Service Action Plan (CSAP) covering a period of 3 years, which will include more significant engagement with staff and users	Q4	
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	139.1 Carry out a consultation process with users and staff to inform KPIs for the plan	Q1	Not Yet Achieved - revised delivery date Q4
	139.2 Issue Customer Satisfaction Survey process to measure satisfaction levels	Q2	Not Yet Achieved - revised delivery date Q4
	140.4 Commence a project (to conclude in Q2 2024) to allow for the automated transfer of relevant Court List data from the Courts Service to An Garda Síochána	Q4	Not Yet Achieved