



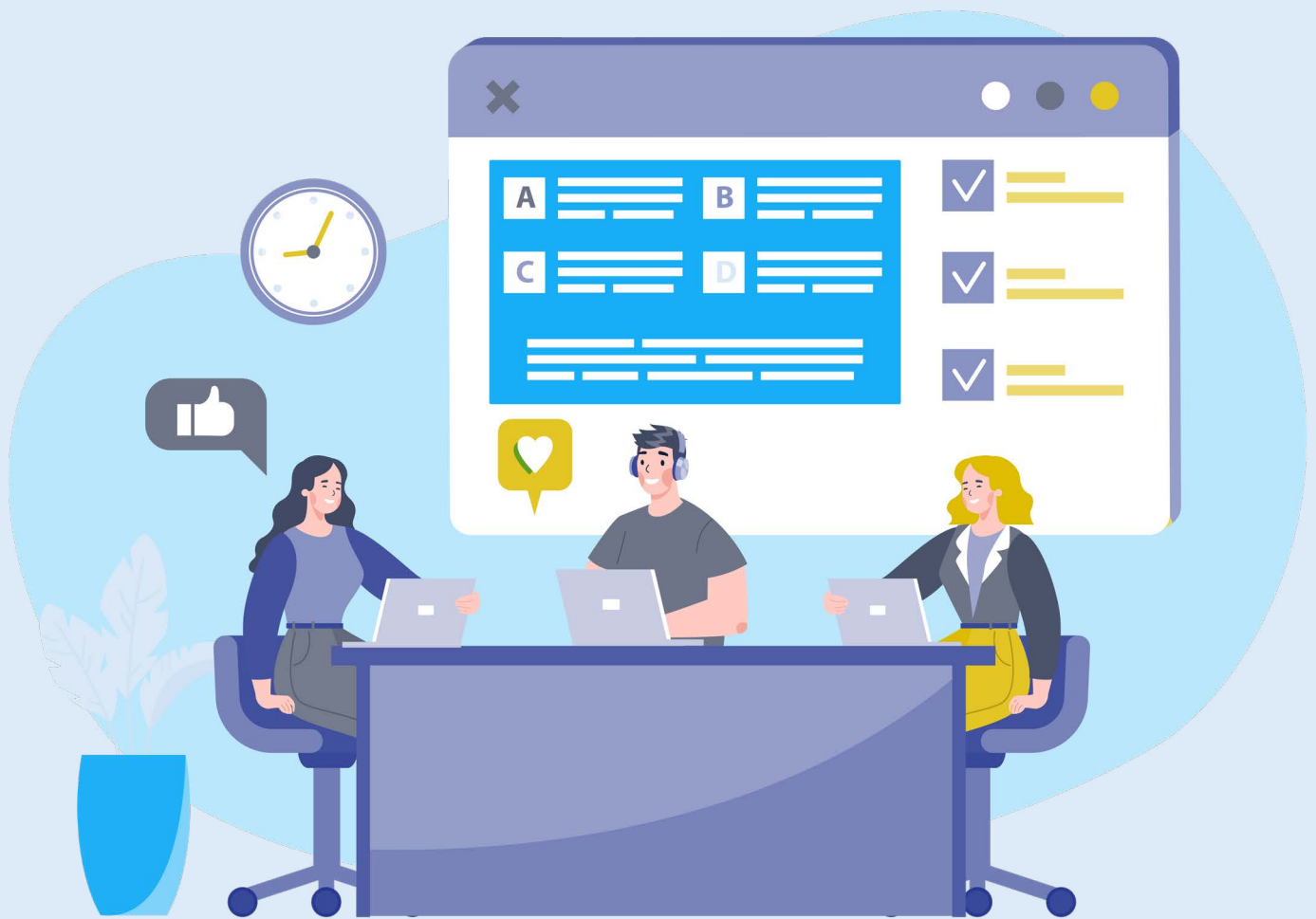
# GARDA PUBLIC ATTITUDES SURVEY 2023



**AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA**

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# FOREWORD

The 2023 Garda Public Attitudes Survey represents the third year since the resumption of traditional face-to-face interviewing, following a break in series in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Since then, the sample size of the adult survey (18 years and over) has increased from approximately 6,000 to over 7,600 and 2023 saw the largest sample of 16 and 17-year-olds (834) since the resumption of the survey in 2015.

These increases reflect the importance placed on the results of the survey by An Garda Síochána. It is a vital tool used to monitor perceptions of the Irish public in areas such as fear of crime, trust in the Gardaí and satisfaction with Garda service. Insights into the legitimacy of An Garda Síochána, as viewed by the communities we serve, are invaluable as we strive to improve our service to all and build on areas in which we perform well. Furthermore, the survey captures the perceptions of a sample of victims of volume crime - a cohort well placed to provide feedback on aspects of the service we provide - as well as 16 and 17-year-olds, a group with whom positive interactions now can have far-reaching benefits into the future. It is encouraging, therefore, to see some of the positive views and high levels of trust in the organisation expressed by 16 and 17-year-old respondents.

Insights from the survey help to inform strategy and policing plans, which in turn impact resource allocation and on-the-ground decision making. With the introduction of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 and

its attendant commitments in terms of strategy formulation, our reliance on the Public Attitudes Survey is set to continue.

In 2023, as seen in previous years, crime in local communities was viewed as less of a problem than national crime. Unsurprisingly then, the priorities for the majority of respondents in terms of the crimes on which An Garda Síochána should focus were those with wide societal impact - sexual offences, domestic abuse and human trafficking, in addition to assaults and illegal weapons. Drugs offences ranked highly for those who considered local crime a serious problem - a reflection of the deep harm done by these offences in communities around Ireland. As evidenced by the many successful drugs operations and seizures in 2023 and to date in 2024, collectively we continue our commitment to fighting these crimes and those who perpetuate the drugs problem in our communities.

Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities and trust in the Gardaí, remained positive in 2023. Both measures are, however, negatively impacted by increased levels of fear of crime and its impact on quality of life, both of which showed increased levels in 2023 - a situation to be monitored in the 2024 survey. The survey also reveals that non-Irish nationals have higher levels of satisfaction and more positive perceptions of the organisation, than Irish nationals. The survey identified areas on which continued focus is required, such as improving awareness of Garda presence within communities.

This in turn should contribute to increased feelings of safety, a key priority for An Garda Síochána.

Satisfaction rates among *victims of crime* with the service they received from Gardaí were maintained in 2023. Additional insights gleaned from a revised questionnaire tell us that Garda helpfulness, friendliness and follow-up contact with victims contribute hugely to satisfaction levels - the former an area in which we continue to do well, while there have been inroads made into improving information provision in the aftermath of reporting a crime.

Perceptions about the Garda organisation were positive (particularly its community and human rights focus), as were views on expected treatment by Gardaí in terms of respect and fairness. There was a slight increase in agreement levels that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves - a welcome

development given the emphasis placed on improving diversity within the organisation in recent recruitment campaigns and one on which we hope to build in the coming years.

The organisation's Operating Model continues to be implemented in divisions around the country. The impact of this will be monitored closely and the 2024 Public Attitudes Survey will be critical in measuring any notable impact on the ground that may be attributable to this.

Our mission of Keeping People Safe can only be realised with your support and engagement. Feedback from the Irish public is so important to guide our strategies and assess impact; to all those who took the time to participate in the survey, we extend our thanks and appreciation once again.




**Sara Parsons,**  
**Director,**  
**Garda Síochána Analysis Service**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2023 Garda Public Attitudes Survey captured the views of 7,682 adults (aged 18 years and older), and 834 young people (aged 16 and 17 years), living in Ireland. Respondents were surveyed on a range of topics related to perceptions of crime and victimisation, policing and An Garda Síochána. Fieldwork was conducted by Ipsos B&A between February and December 2023. While results are comparable to 2021 and 2022, and to the years pre-Covid, no results are presented for 2020 during which an online survey was conducted.

## CRIME AND THE IRISH PUBLIC

<p><b>PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME</b></p> 	<p><b>Respondents continued to view national crime as a more serious problem than local crime.</b> However, looking at the last five-year period, when ‘a very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem are combined, the percentage of respondents who viewed national crime as serious decreased by 6 percentage points since 2019, to 72 percent. In 2023, the percentage of those respondents who viewed local crime as ‘not a problem’ decreased marginally from 2022 (44% vs. 45%), but remained greater than 2019 (32%).</p>
<p><b>POLICING PRIORITIES</b></p> 	<p><b>Sexual offences continued to be ranked as the highest priority for An Garda Síochána (91% of respondents).</b> ‘Domestic abuse’ (90%), ‘assaults’ and ‘human trafficking’ (86% respectively) and ‘illegal weapons’ (82%) also ranked highly. ‘Drugs offences’ ranked highly for those who considered <i>local crime</i> to be ‘a very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem (82%). Equally, ‘drugs offences’ ranked higher for those with ‘a lot of fear’ of crime - ahead of ‘illegal weapons,’ ‘robberies’ and ‘burglaries.’</p>
<p><b>WORRY ABOUT VICTIMISATION AND FEAR OF CRIME</b></p> 	<p>The percentage of respondents who ‘do not worry’ about victimisation for themselves or someone with whom they live stood at 42 percent, and 44 percent respectively. Respondents were most likely to worry about becoming the victim of ‘property theft or damage,’ (41%) compared to ‘personal injury’ (32%) or ‘cyber/online crime,’ (35%), although in terms of worry about someone with whom they live being the victim of crime, ‘personal injury’ featured also (38% for both ‘personal injury’ and ‘property theft or damage’).</p> <p>Eleven percent of respondents reported having ‘a lot of fears’ of crime - 8 percentage points higher than in 2019. Equally, those with ‘some fears’ increased from 25 percent in 2019, to 37 percent in 2023. Mirroring this increased fear, those who reported that fear of crime has ‘no impact’ on their quality of life <i>decreased</i> year-on-year from 65 percent in 2019, to 57 percent in 2023.</p>

# THE IRISH PUBLIC AND THEIR VIEWS TOWARDS AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

## SATISFACTION IN AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA



**Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities remained high in 2023, at 73 percent, though this is a 2% decrease from 2022.** Levels have been showing a downward trend since 2019, when they stood at 80 percent. Views of national and local crimes' seriousness, as well as fear of crime (both showing increases in 2023), negatively impact satisfaction levels - the former particularly evident at a local level (e.g. 84% satisfaction when local crime was seen as 'not a problem,' compared to 54% when viewed as 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem).

## TRUST IN AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA



**Eighty-nine percent of respondents reported mid to high trust in An Garda Síochána in 2023.** Mid-high trust levels have not fluctuated notably in the last five-year period. However, *high* trust has seen a year-on-year decrease, from 50 percent in 2019, to 44 percent in 2023. When perceptions of the seriousness of national and local crime increase, trust decreases. Equally, increased levels of *fear of crime* negatively impact trust in An Garda Síochána.

## PERCEPTIONS OF AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA



**Views about Gardaí and the Garda organisation remained positive in 2023, particularly those measures related to interpersonal and community relations.** Agreement levels that Gardaí are friendly and helpful stood at 91 percent; community-focused (75%), and human-rights-focused (82%). Measures related to the organisation and performance were less favourable (modern and progressive (69%); well-managed (60%); effective in tackling crime (64%)). These three have shown decreases since 2021 (6%, 9% and 8% respectively).

Agreement levels that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves, stood at 56 percent - 3 percentage points greater than in 2022 (53%). Respondents in Dublin were less likely to agree (48%), although this figure improved since 2022, when it stood at 41 percent.

# SERVICE DELIVERY PERCEPTIONS

## AWARENESS OF GARDA PRESENCE



**Awareness of Garda presence has decreased yearly since 2021 (49%), with 41 percent reporting awareness in 2023.**

Awareness was lowest in Dublin (35%), and highest in Connaught or Ulster (49%). In terms of *how* this presence was perceived, 40 percent of respondents reported occasionally seeing Gardaí in cars, compared to 8 percent on foot and 4 percent on bicycle. Seventy-two percent reported that they never see Gardaí on foot.

## PERCEPTIONS OF ADEQUACY OF GARDA PRESENCE



**In 2023, there was a 3 percentage point decrease in those who considered Garda presence as 'about right,' since 2022 (42% vs. 45%).** Some of the reasons cited for Garda presence not being enough were 'never or rarely see Gardaí or a lack of Gardaí (58%) or 'only see Gardaí in cars' (40%).

## CONTACT WITH AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA



**Of the 1,376 respondents who had *some* contact with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey, 14 percent reported that this was self-initiated, while 4 percent reported Garda-initiated contact.** Of those who had self-initiated contact, 75 percent reported being satisfied with the service they received. This figure was 74 percent for those who had Garda-initiated contact.

## TREATMENT BY AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA



**Respondents' views on whether they would be treated with respect by Gardaí, and that the Gardaí treat everyone fairly no matter who they are were largely positive (92% and 77% agreement respectively - excluding 'don't know' responses).**

Agreement levels with the statement about respectful treatment have remained above 90 percent over the last five-year period, while agreement levels with the statement about fair treatment have ranged between 75 percent and 86 percent.

There was some reduction in agreement levels across other key statements since 2022, while others remained the same:

- 69% agreed the Gardaí in this area can be relied on to be there when needed (72% in 2022).
- 73% agreed Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (74% in 2022).
- 61% *disagreed* that community relations with the Gardaí are poor (70% in 2022).
- 76% agreed that Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people (same as in 2022).



## A DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

### (Sex/Age/Nationality)

**Non-Irish nationals held more positive views than Irish nationals across a number of areas. This group were more likely to view crime (both locally and nationally) as less of a problem, and equally had lower levels of fear of crime. Satisfaction with Garda service was higher for this group also, and their perceptions of An Garda Síochána were more positive than Irish nationals, particularly evident in their belief that the organisation is well-managed (76% agreed, versus 58% for Irish nationals). Further areas where the views of non-Irish nationals were more positive than Irish nationals were in the perception that they would be treated fairly, and that Gardaí can be relied on when needed.**

As in previous years, respondents in older age groups were more likely to view the national crime problem as serious, than those in younger groups. Those aged 18-24 years were more likely to consider local crime as 'not a problem,' than those in other age groups. Regardless of sex, age or nationality, *sexual offences* continued to be given the highest priority by respondents, with those aged 18-24 years also citing domestic abuse as their top priority (i.e. the crime type they want prioritised by Gardaí). Females, older respondents (55+) and Irish nationals reported greater levels of fear of crime, while 18-24 year olds were the most likely to report that fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life.

Respondents aged 18-34 years reported the greatest satisfaction with Garda service to local communities (77% when 'very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' were combined). Satisfaction was greater for non-Irish nationals (84%), than Irish nationals (72%). Levels of high trust in the Gardaí increased with age, with 18-24 year olds reporting the lowest levels of high trust, at 30 percent. Views about An Garda Síochána across demographic categories were positive, with those aged 65 years and older, and non-Irish nationals holding the most positive views of the organisation. As age increased, agreement levels

that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves, also increased, with those aged 65 years and older the most likely to hold this view (61%).

Eighteen to 24-year-olds (55%) reported the most awareness of Garda presence in their local areas, compared with other age groups. Non-Irish nationals and males also reported more awareness. Following from this, older respondents, Irish nationals and females were more likely to consider that Garda presence in their communities was 'not enough.'

Across all demographic categories, agreement levels with the statement that *Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason*, was high. In terms of being treated fairly by Gardaí, older respondents were more likely to agree, as were non-Irish nationals, and males. As with the overall sample, views on the reliability of Gardaí and Garda-community relations were generally positive across all demographic groups, with older respondents holding the most positive views in most areas.

## Victims of Crime

In the 2023 Garda Public Attitudes Survey, the victimisation rate was 5.9 percent (respondents who had been victims of volume crime in the 12 months preceding the survey). Seventy-five percent reported their most recent crime to Gardaí. Victim satisfaction with the service received from Gardaí remained the same as in 2022, at 53 percent. Two new questions were added to the survey in 2023 - what factors contributed to both victim satisfaction and dissatisfaction? Respondents cited the following in terms of satisfaction:

43%	Gardaí being friendly and helpful
42%	Was contacted by Gardaí after the incident
30%	Investigating Garda available when needed

When victims were dissatisfied with the service received, reasons cited were:

<b>35%</b>	Poor response times
<b>33%</b>	Gardaí did not arrest offender
<b>30%</b>	No property recovered

There was a decline in service in 2023 in terms of provision of certain information (being given the name of the investigating Garda, the Pulse number and the details of victims' services/ helplines), while no notable change was evident in terms of speediness of response and being given details of the Garda station.

There was some improvement in perceptions in terms of the *adequacy* of information provided - 47 percent felt the information they received was 'about right,' (an increase from 43% in 2022), while 23 percent reported receiving no update on the progress of their investigation (26% in 2022).

### Young People (aged 16 and 17 years)

**The majority of 16-17-year olds held very few fears about crime, and expressed satisfaction with Garda service. Trust in the Gardaí was high, with young people holding positive views of the Garda organisation, and the majority believing they would be treated with respect and fairly if they had contact with Gardaí for any reason.**

The views of 835 16 and 17-year-olds were captured in the 2023 survey - the largest sample of young people since the resumption of the survey in 2015. Perceptions of young people about the seriousness of national and local crime were similar to adults, with national crime considered more serious. Similarly, in terms of the crime types young people felt should be prioritised by Gardaí, sexual offences, domestic abuse, assaults and human trafficking were highlighted. However, drugs offences were far less of a priority, than for adults (69% vs. 86%).

Young people worried less about victimisation, with cyber/online crime being the most worried about (32%), compared to personal injury (23%) and property theft or damage (21%). Sixty-nine percent of young people reported having 'very few fears' or 'no fears' about crime, while 63 percent reported fear of crime had 'no impact' on their quality of life.

Sixteen and 17-year-olds expressed high levels of satisfaction and trust in An Garda Síochána - 82 percent were satisfied with Garda service to local communities (with 'don't know' responses excluded), while 90 percent expressed mid to high trust in the Gardaí (those expressing 'high trust' stood at 38%). Young people held positive views about An Garda Síochána. Agreement levels, excluding 'don't knows', were:

<b>80%</b>	Community-focussed
<b>71%</b>	Well-managed
<b>76%</b>	Modern and progressive
<b>67%</b>	Effective in tackling crime
<b>84%</b>	Friendly and helpful
<b>82%</b>	Human-rights focussed

Fifty-two percent of young people reported awareness of Garda presence in their areas, while 63 percent felt this presence was 'about right' (36% for adults). Views about expected treatment by Gardaí were positive - 87 percent agreed they would be treated with respect; 71 percent felt the Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (excluding 'don't knows').

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

The publication of the 2023 Garda Public Attitudes Survey (PAS) is the third instalment of our usual face-to-face annual survey, which saw a break in series in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. It is a rolling social survey that gathers the perceptions of adults in Ireland aged 18 years and older, together with the views of a smaller cohort of 16 and 17-year-olds, towards crime and policing in Ireland. In 2023, the sample size of adults was 7,682, while 834 16 and 17-year-olds participated. Fieldwork was conducted between February and December 2023 (more details on the methodology may be found later in this chapter and in Appendix 1).



## 1.1 The 2023 survey gathered the views of the Irish public on a range of topics, including:

- The seriousness of the national and local crime problem, and the policing priorities on which An Garda Síochána should focus, as well as an assessment of fear of crime and worry about victimisation.
- Satisfaction with the service provided by An Garda Síochána, trust in the Gardaí as well as views on the Garda organisation and expected treatment by Gardaí
- Perceptions of victims of crime were also gathered - what was their experience following the reporting of their crime to Gardaí?

## 1.2 Methodology

In 2023, the market research company *Ipsos B&A* conducted the fieldwork for the PAS on behalf of An Garda Síochána. As in previous years, extensive consultation and preparatory work was conducted prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. This included a review of the PAS questionnaire, to which no notable changes were made in 2023, except for the addition of two questions seeking to gain a better understanding of the experience of victims of crime when reporting to the Gardaí (these changes will be highlighted in the body of the report).

In recent years, since the Covid pandemic, the sample size of young people aged 16-17 years has increased year-on-year. As mentioned, while in 2023 the views of 834 young people were gathered, it is expected that the desired 1,000-strong young person survey will be achieved from 2024 onwards. This reflects a corresponding increase in the adult sample size, which was introduced in 2021.

### 1.2.1 Sample Design

The Garda Public Attitudes Survey involves face-to-face interviews with participants. These are undertaken using the CAPI methodology - *Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing*.

As in previous years, the 2023 sample was quota-controlled by sex, age and social class within each of An Garda Síochána's 19 divisions<sup>1</sup>. It was also controlled by geographical region, as opposed to Garda region. Interviewing was conducted continuously between February and December 2023 - one interview per household in most cases, with interviews with 16-17-year-old participants conducted in homes where a main interview had already taken place (with parental consent). 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.'

As in previous years, Ipsos B&A used a multi-staged quota-controlled sampling technique, randomly selecting starting points within geographically stratified, primary sampling units. The steps involved in this were:

- Stratifying the sample by each Garda division and utilising purposive sampling to ensure approximately 400 interviews per division was achieved.
- The sample was further stratified within each division, 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).

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<sup>1</sup> An Garda Síochána's new Operating Model of policing is currently being rolled out on a national basis. While its implementation was not complete at the time of surveying, it had been expanded to 19 divisions in 2023 which corresponds with the sampling conducted during the fieldwork in 2023. Since 2024 the 21-division model has been rolled out and subsequent sampling has occurred to ensure that subsequent divisional analysis aligned to this model.

The number of sampling points per quarter was 190, with 10 interviews conducted at each sampling point. Respondents were selected based on quotas for sex, age and social class in line with the census profile within each Garda Division.

- To ensure that much of the sampling process was removed from the interviewer, a randomly selected starting point was assigned to each. He/she began at this location - 10 interviews were required within each ED, in accordance with demographic controls for that region, drawn from Central Statistics Office estimates.

To gather the views of a cohort of victims of crime about the service they received from Gardaí respondents were asked whether they had been a victim of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey interview - known as the reference period. It is important to note that the victimisation<sup>2</sup> section does not capture data on all crimes: crimes of a sexual nature are excluded from the survey.

### 1.2.2 The Sample Profile

Respondents were selected according to quotas based on sex, age and social class, in line with the 2016 census profile (this ensured further representativeness) - these were applied on all adults aged 18 years and older:

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


**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


Demographic quotas were set within each of An Garda Síochána's 21 Garda divisions, accounting for differing divisional profiles. While weights on sex, age, social class and nationality were applied to the overall sample, the sample was further weighted to ensure the 21 Garda divisions were represented in the correct proportions. This ensures the sample is nationally representative. As in previous years, the 16 and 17-year-old sample remained unweighted (see table 2 for adult sample characteristics).


<sup>2</sup> This includes being a victim of burglary, theft, robbery, criminal damage and/or assault.


**Table 2: Sample Profile 2023**

Sex 	
Male	49%
Female	51%


Age 	
18 - 24	12%
25 - 34	16%
35 - 44	20%
45 - 54	18%
55 - 64	15%
65+	19%


Social Class 	
AB	12%
C1	34%
C2	20%
DE	29%
F	6%

Region 	
Dublin	28%
Leinster (excluding Dublin)	28%
Munster	26%
Connaught or Ulster	17%

Area 	
City	19%
Other Urban	46%
Rural	35%

Nationality 	
Irish	87%
UK	2%
Polish	2%
Indian	1%
Lithuania	1%
Brazil	1%
Romanian	1%
Latvian	1%
Other	6%

Ethnicity 	
White Irish	87%
Other white	8%
African + Other Black	1%
Chinese + Other Asian	2%
Other	2%

Religion 	
Roman Catholic	72%
Church of Ireland	1%
Other Christian	4%
Other	3%
No religion	15%
Refused	5%

## 1.3 Report Layout

Chapter two explores perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem in Ireland, respondents' policing priorities and levels of fear of crime and worry about victimisation. Satisfaction with Garda service and trust in Gardaí, as well as perceptions of the Garda organisation, are explored in chapter three. Chapter four examines elements of service delivery, as well as expected treatment by Gardaí. The main themes are explored by demographics in chapter five. The remaining chapters explore the views of victims of crime and high-level findings from the young persons' sample of 16 and 17-year-olds.

# CHAPTER TWO

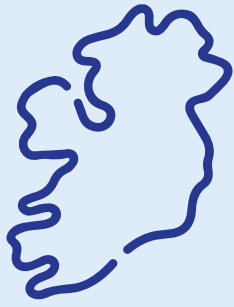
## CRIME AND THE IRISH PUBLIC

### 2.1 Perceptions of Crime and Policing Priorities

### 2.2 Worry about Victimisation and Fear of Crime







As in previous years,

## **NATIONAL CRIME**

continues to be viewed as  
more serious than

## **LOCAL CRIME**

## **SEXUAL OFFENCES**

continue to be considered the crime  
type on which An Garda Síochána  
should focus

**91%**

of respondents held  
this view in 2023.

Domestic abuse was the  
next highest priority at

**90%**



Most respondents reported  
having 'no fears' or '  
very few fears' about crime

**53%**

This has decreased by

**10%**

since 2022

For the majority of respondents,  
fear of crime had no impact  
on quality of life

**57%**

This chapter examines respondents' views about the seriousness of national and local crime, as well as the policing priorities they feel should be An Garda Síochána's focus. It further explores respondents' level of fear of crime, their worry about victimisation and the extent to which this fear and worry impacts their quality of life, if at all.



## So what does the survey tell us?

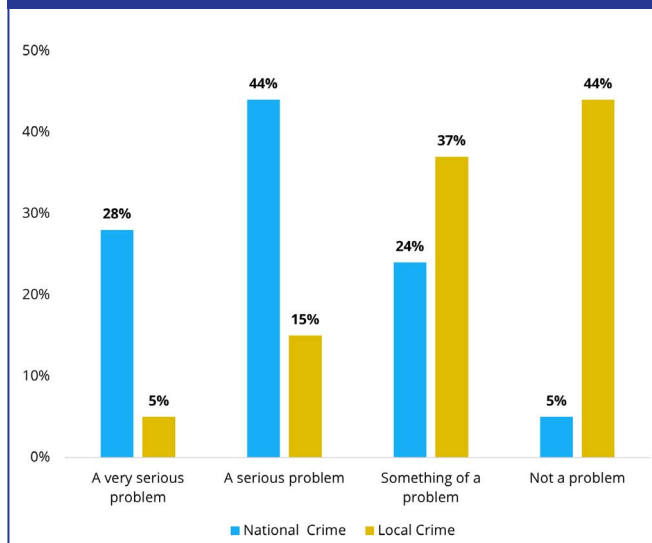
With no change to previous years, respondents continued to view national crime as more of a problem than crime in their local areas. A clear illustration of this may be seen when we consider those respondents who viewed crime in their local area as ‘not a problem’ (44%), compared to those who considered *national* crime as ‘not a problem’ (5%). ‘Sexual offences’ and ‘domestic abuse’ are the crime areas to which An Garda Síochána should give the highest priority, with this view unchanged when perceptions of crime were considered on a national and local level. Drugs offences featured highly when local crime was considered ‘a very serious problem’ (82% of respondents gave this a high priority). The majority of respondents reported having ‘no fears’ or ‘very few fears’ about crime (53%). However, this has decreased by 10 percentage points since 2022. Fifty-seven percent reported that fear of crime has no impact on their quality of life. Again however, this measure is showing a decrease year-on-year since 2019, when the figure stood at 65 percent.

## 2.1 Perception of Crime and Policing Priorities

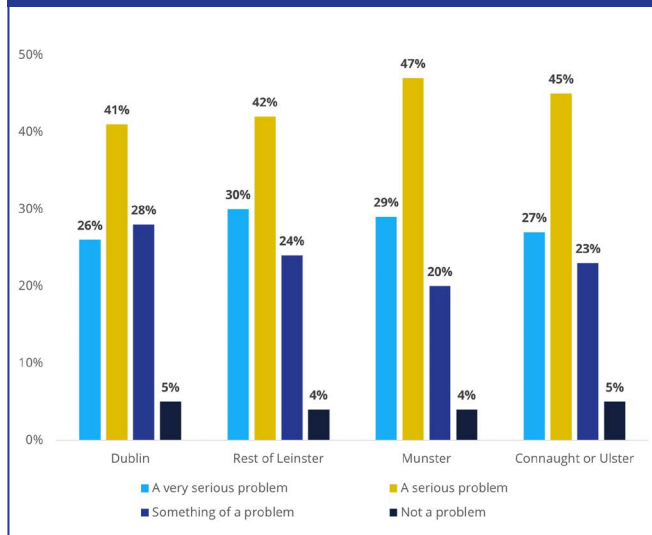
### 2.1.1 The Irish public’s perceptions of national and local crime in Ireland in 2023

Continuing a trend seen in previous survey sweeps, in 2023 national crime was viewed by respondents as more serious than local crime (figure 1). Seventy-two percent of respondents considered national crime to be ‘a very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem, whereas 20 percent held this view about local crime. The proportion of respondents who viewed national crime as ‘not a problem’ stood at 5 percent, compared to 44 percent for local crime. Similar results were seen when geographical regions were examined (figures 2 and 3).

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

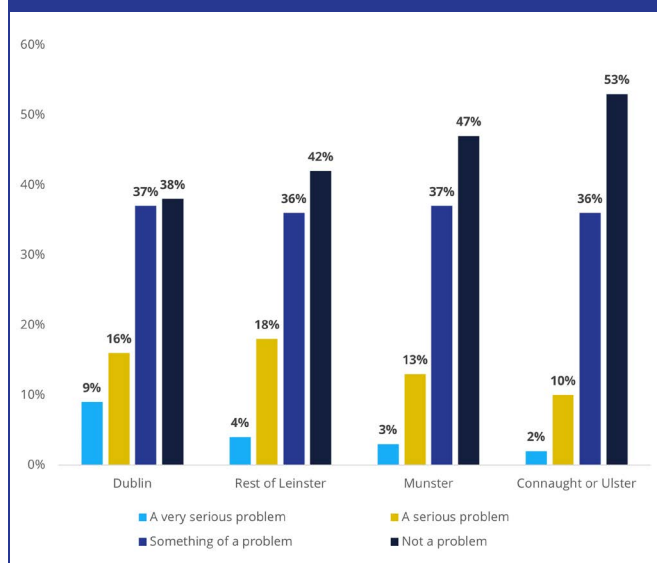


**Figure 2: Perception of Seriousness of National Crime by Region**

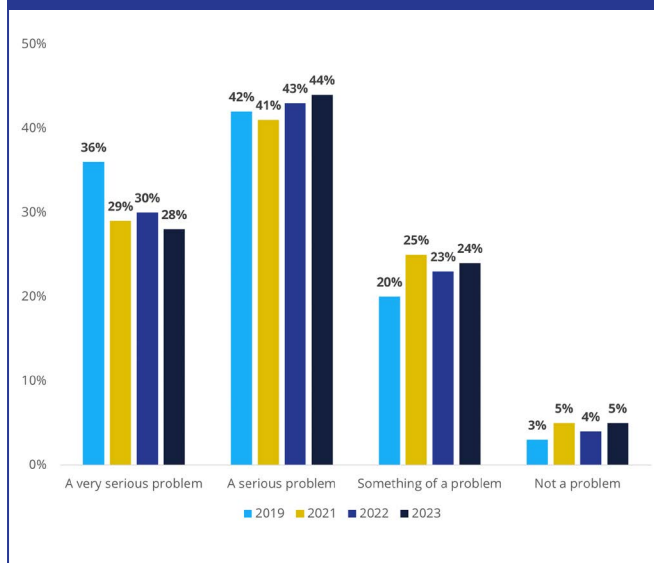


Examining regional views of the seriousness of the national crime problem, figure 2 shows that the proportion of respondents who viewed national crime as ‘a very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem ranged between 67 percent (Dublin) and 76 percent (Munster). Similar to the national picture however, *local* crime was viewed as far less serious across the regions, with those considering it ‘not a problem’ ranging between 38 percent in Dublin and 53 percent in Connaught or Ulster. Respondents in Dublin (25%) were more likely to consider local crime ‘a very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem, compared to 22 percent in ‘the rest of Leinster’, 16 percent in Munster, and 12 percent in Connaught or Ulster (see figure 3).

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



**Figure 4: Perceptions of National Crime 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**

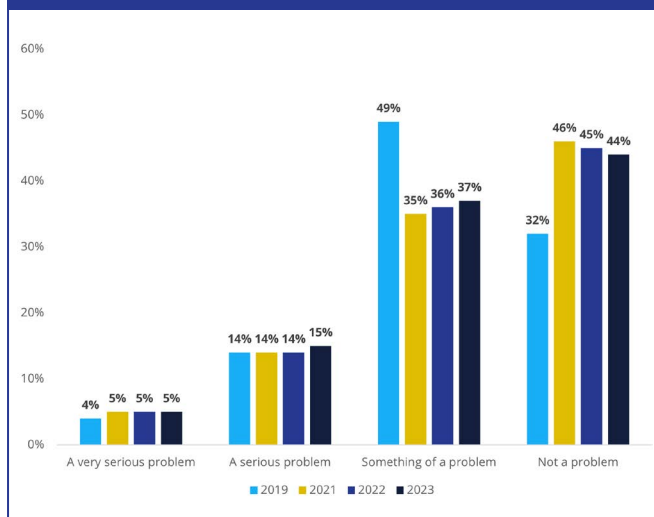


## 2.1.2 How have perceptions of national and local crime changed over the last 5 years?

Figure 4 examines changes in perceptions of national crime over the last 5-year period, with 2020 being excluded from analysis as the online survey conducted in that year is not directly comparable to this face-to-face survey. Perceptions that national crime is ‘a very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem combined decreased from 78 percent in 2019, to 72 percent in 2023 (70% in 2021, and 73% in 2022). When local crime is considered, those who viewed this as ‘not a problem’ increased from 32 percent in 2019, to 44 percent in 2023 (12 percentage points).

Equally, those who considered local crime ‘something of a problem’ decreased 12 percentage points from 49 percent in 2019, to 37 percent in 2023. Views that local crime is ‘a very serious’ or ‘serious’ problem did not fluctuate to a great extent between 2019 and 2023, remaining between 18 and 20 percent (figure 5).

**Figure 5: Perceptions of Local Crime 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**



## Policing Priorities

### 2.1.3 Respondents' policing priorities for An Garda Síochána in 2023

The survey asks respondents to choose the crime area to which they think Gardaí should give the most priority (high, medium and low priority). The policing priorities of 'domestic abuse,' 'hate crime' and 'road safety,' that were added to the potential crime priority list in 2021, saw their third year of data collection. As in 2022, 'domestic abuse' featured highly, with 90 percent of respondents stating that this should receive high priority from Gardaí. As in previous years however, 'sexual offences' received the highest priority (91% of respondents), with 'assaults' and 'human trafficking' also featuring in the top four.

Similar to previous survey sweeps, 'traffic' and 'public order' offences were given high priority by the lowest percentage of respondents (38% and 54% respectively). Despite this, 'road safety' was given a high priority by 63 percent of respondents (see table 3).

**Table 3: Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána 2023**

Policing Priorities	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Sexual Offences	91%	5%	3%
Domestic Abuse	90%	7%	3%
Assaults	86%	11%	3%
Human Trafficking	86%	9%	5%
Illegal Weapons	82%	12%	6%
Robberies	76%	21%	3%
Burglaries	75%	22%	4%
Drug Offences	75%	20%	5%
Hate Crime	75%	19%	6%
Fraud	69%	26%	5%
Criminal Damage	65%	30%	5%
Road Safety	63%	31%	6%
Public Order Offences	54%	36%	10%
Traffic Offences	38%	46%	16%



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

The high priority respondents stated for each crime type was cross-tabulated against national and local crime. As table 4 illustrates, perceptions of crime being 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem had no notable effect on the crime types on which Gardaí should focus. 'Sexual offences' and 'domestic abuse' continued to be prioritised by the majority in both cases, followed by 'assaults' and 'human trafficking'.

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

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
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Assaults</b>	4	3	3	4	3	3	3	4
<b>Human Trafficking</b>	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	3
<b>Illegal Weapons</b>	5	5	5	5	7	5	5	5
<b>Robberies</b>	7	6	7	6	6	7	6	6
<b>Burglaries</b>	8	7	8	9	8	7	8	8
<b>Drug Offences</b>	5	8	9	7	5	5	6	9
<b>Hate Crime</b>	9	9	6	7	10	9	8	6
<b>Fraud</b>	10	10	9	11	10	10	10	10
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	11	11	11	10	9	11	11	11
<b>Road Safety</b>	12	12	11	12	12	12	12	12
<b>Public Order Offences</b>	13	13	12	13	13	13	13	13
<b>Traffic Offences</b>	14	14	13	14	14	14	14	14

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

The crimes which received the highest priority remained the same when considered against fear of crime. However, it is interesting to note that 'drugs offences' were selected as needing a high priority (fifth placing) by respondents who had 'a lot' of fear of crime - ahead of 'illegal weapons', 'robberies' and 'burglaries' (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
Assaults	3	3	4	4
Human Trafficking	4	3	3	3
Illegal Weapons	6	5	5	5
Robberies	7	6	6	6
Burglaries	8	6	8	6
Drug Offences	5	6	9	6
Hate Crime	9	9	7	9
Fraud	11	10	10	10
Criminal Damage	10	11	11	11
Road Safety	12	12	12	12
Public Order Offences	13	13	13	13
Traffic Offences	14	14	14	14

## 2.2 Worry about Victimisation and Fear of Crime

As in previous years, in order to gain an understanding of the publics' level of fear of crime and worry about victimisation, four measures were used:

- Perceived likelihood of the respondent becoming a victim of crime.
- Perceived likelihood of someone the respondent lives with 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

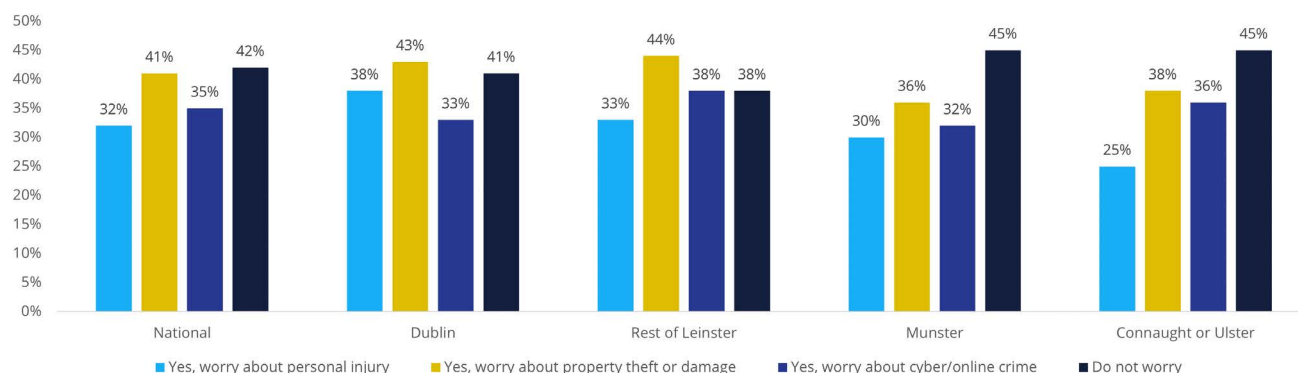
Respondents were asked about their perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, both in relation to themselves and someone they live with<sup>3</sup> (i.e. becoming a victim of 'personal injury', 'property theft or damage', or 'cyber/online crime'). Nationally, it can be seen that 42 percent of respondents did not worry about victimisation for themselves, while 44 percent did not worry about someone with whom they live becoming a victim of crime (figures 6 and 6(a))<sup>4</sup>. Across the crime types, respondents were more likely to worry about being the victim of 'property theft or damage'. This was reflected across the regions also. When worry about someone they live with was considered on a national level, both 'personal injury' and 'property theft or damage' were the crime types that presented the most worry (38% respectively).

<sup>3</sup> In 2022, in order to gain a better understanding of respondents' perceived likelihood of becoming a victim of crime, a question change resulted in the respondents being asked about this likelihood for themselves and for someone they live with. This continued in 2023. A further amendment to the answer options in 2023 means that data is not comparable to 2022 findings, with the exception of the 'do not worry' answer option.

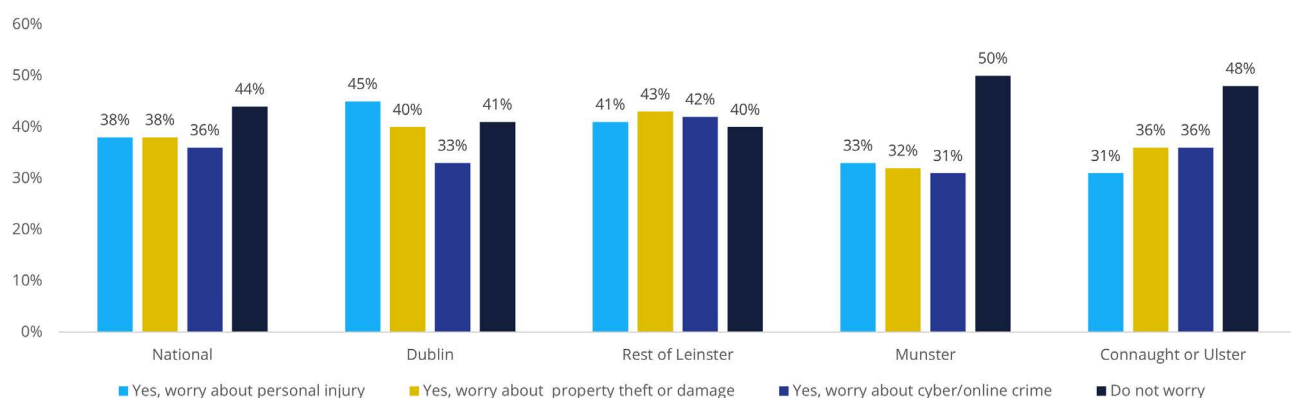
<sup>4</sup> In 2022, these figures were 49 percent, and 46 percent.

However, in Dublin, respondents were more likely to worry about someone they live with being the victim of 'personal injury' (45%), than 'property theft or damage' (40%) or 'cyber/online crime' (33%). Worry about 'personal injury' was lowest in Connaught or Ulster, both for respondents themselves (25%), and someone they live with (31%).

**Figure 6: Perceived Likelihood of Victimisation (Respondent Themselves), Nationally and Regionally**



**Figure 6(a): Perceived Likelihood of Victimisation (Someone Respondent Lives with), Nationally and Regionally**



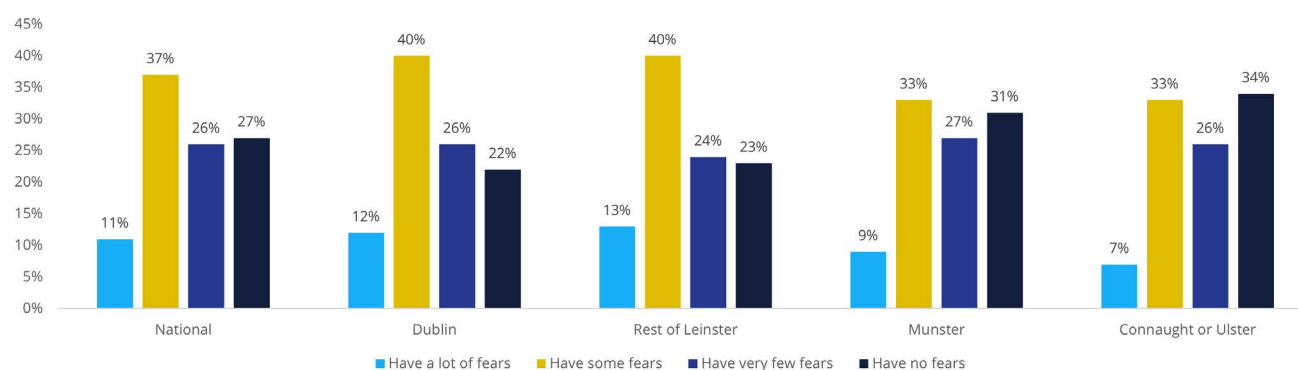
## 2.2.2 Level of fear of crime

In terms of fear of crime, in 2023, 11 percent of respondents reported having 'a lot of fears,' while 37 percent had 'some fears'. Over half (53%) reported having 'very few' fears or none at all. Regionally, as figure 7 illustrates, respondents in Connaught or Ulster held the lowest levels of fear of crime, with 60 percent reporting having 'very few fears' or none at all.

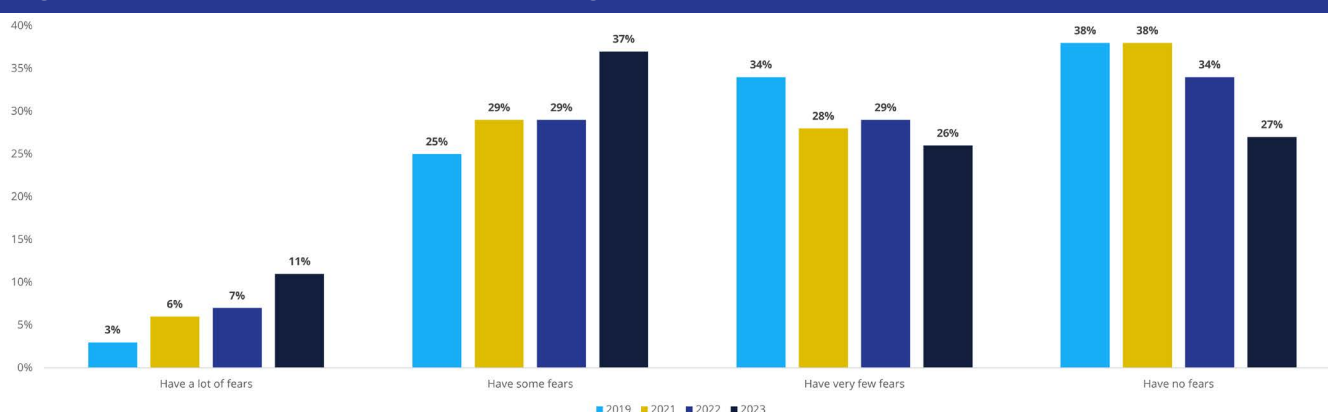
Respondents in Dublin (52%) and the rest of Leinster (53%) were more likely to report having 'a lot of fears' or 'some fears' about crime, than those in Munster (42%) and Connaught or Ulster (40%).

When we examine differences in the last 4-year timeframe (figure 8), it can be seen that there has been a 20 percent increase in the percentage of respondents who reported having 'a lot' or 'some' fears about crime from 28 percent in 2019, to 48 percent in 2023.

**Figure 7: Level of Fear of Crime Nationally and Regionally**



**Figure 8: Fear of Crime 2019- 2023 (excluding 2020)**

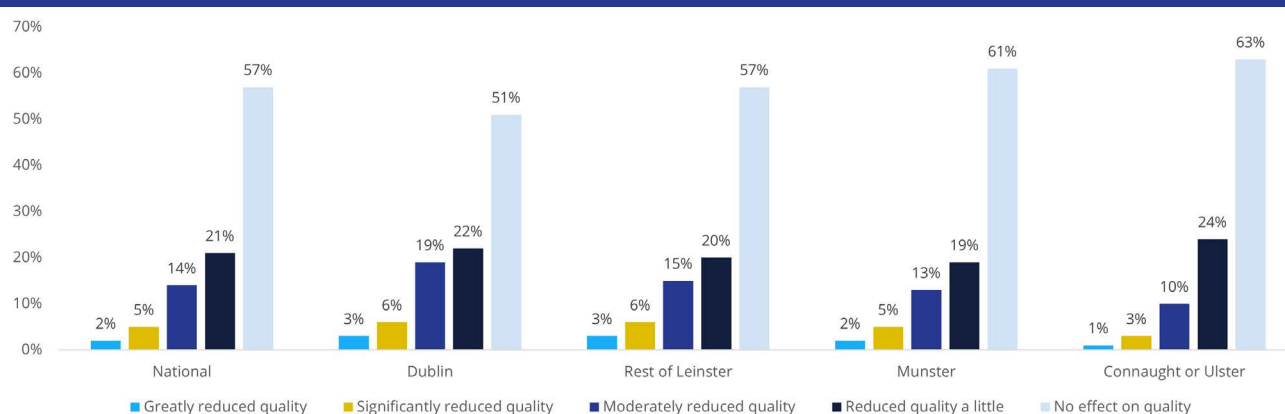


### 2.2.3 How does fear of crime impact on quality of life?

For the majority of respondents, both nationally (78%) and across the regions, fear of crime did not impact on their quality of life, or did so 'a little' (73% in Dublin; 77% in the Rest of Leinster; 80% in Munster and 87% in Connaught or Ulster). As in previous years, respondents in Dublin were less likely to report fear of crime had no impact, with respondents in Connaught or Ulster more likely to hold this view (see figure 9).

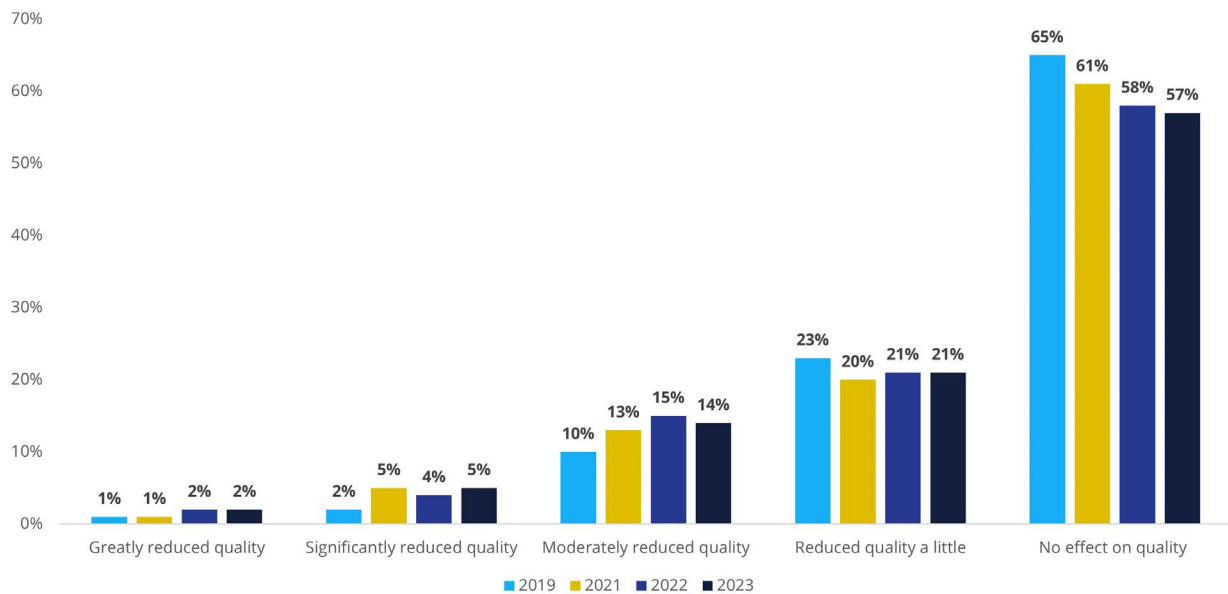
Continuing the trend reported on in 2022, which showed a year-on-year decrease since 2018 in the proportion of respondents who reported that fear of crime has no impact on their quality of life, 2023 saw a 1 percentage point decrease from 58 percent in 2022, to 57 percent. This is 8 percentage points lower than in 2019, when the figure was 65 percent (figure 10).

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





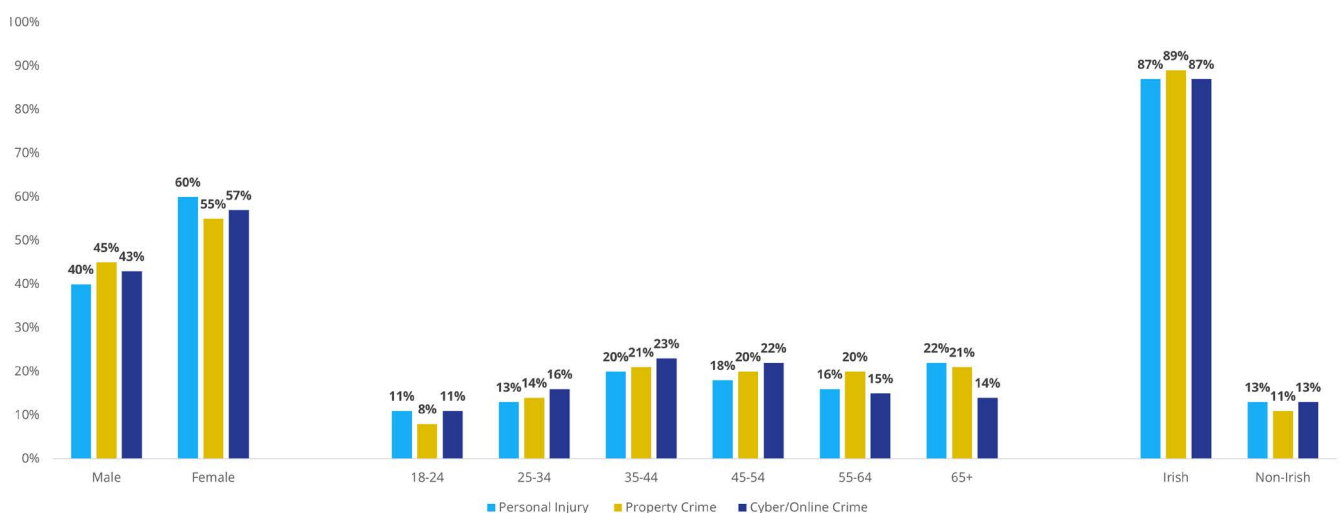
**Figure 10: The Effect of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**



#### 2.2.4 Worry about victimisation, fear of crime and impact of fear on quality of life - a closer look at respondents

When we examine respondents who worry about themselves, for each of the crime types specified, we see that females are more likely to worry about all crime types than males, although there is a 20 percentage point difference for personal injury, and for property crime - 10%. Also those aged 35-44 years, those in social class C1<sup>5</sup> (see table 1 for more details), respondents in urban areas and Irish respondents were more likely to worry about victimisation (see figures 11(a) and (b) for further information).

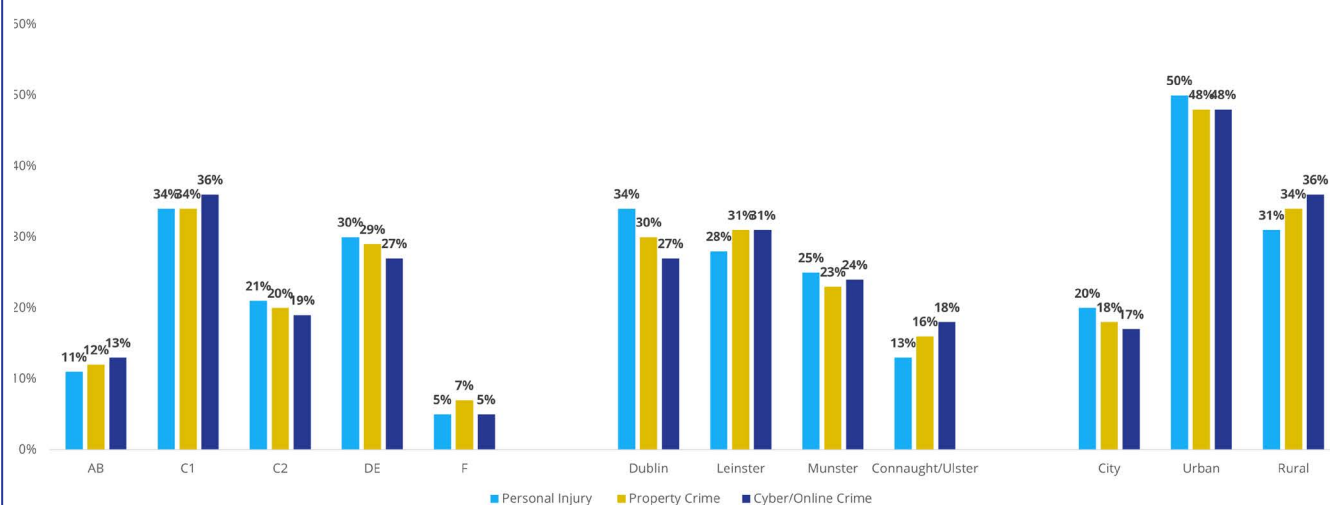
**Figure 11(a): A Comparison of Respondents who worry about Personal Injury, Property and Cyber/Online Crime by Sex, Age and Nationality**



<sup>5</sup> Social Class C1 includes supervisory or clerical, junior manager, nurse, teacher, sales representative, shop owner and student.

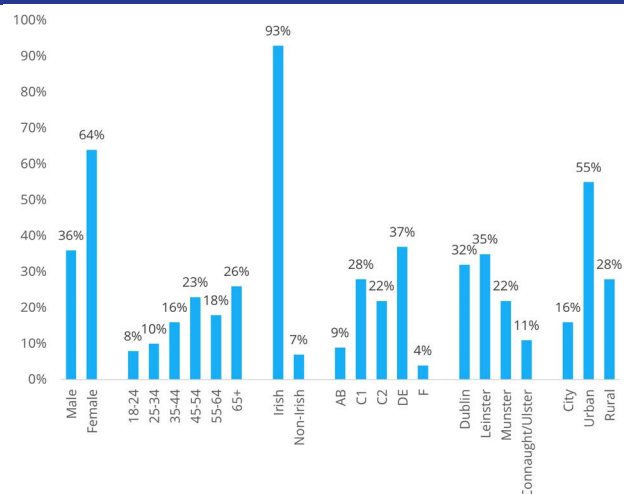


**Figure 11(b): A Comparison of Respondents who worry about Personal Injury, Property and Cyber/Online Crime by Social Class, Region and Area**

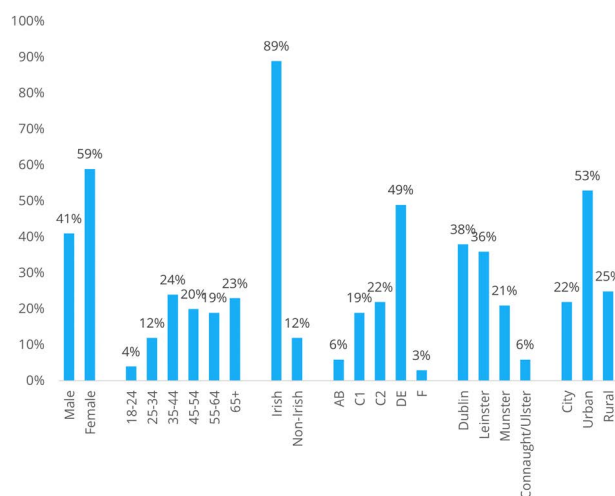


For respondents who had 'a lot of fears' about crime (n=805), there was a greater percentage of Irish nationals (93%) and females (64%). Those aged 65 years and over (26%) featured more than other age cohorts. Respondents in social class DE and urban dwellers represented larger proportions also (see figure 12(a)). In terms of respondents who reported significant or great impact of fear of crime on quality of life (n=577), those in age brackets 35-44 and 65+ represented greater proportions, as did those living in Dublin and the 'rest of Leinster' (see figure 12(b)).

**Figure 12(a): A Closer look at Respondents who have 'A Lot of Fear of Crime' by Sex, Age, Nationality, Social Class, Region and Area**



**Figure 12(b): A Closer look at Respondents for whom Fear of Crime has 'Significantly or Greatly impacted their Quality of Life' by Sex, Age, Nationality, Social Class, Region and Area**

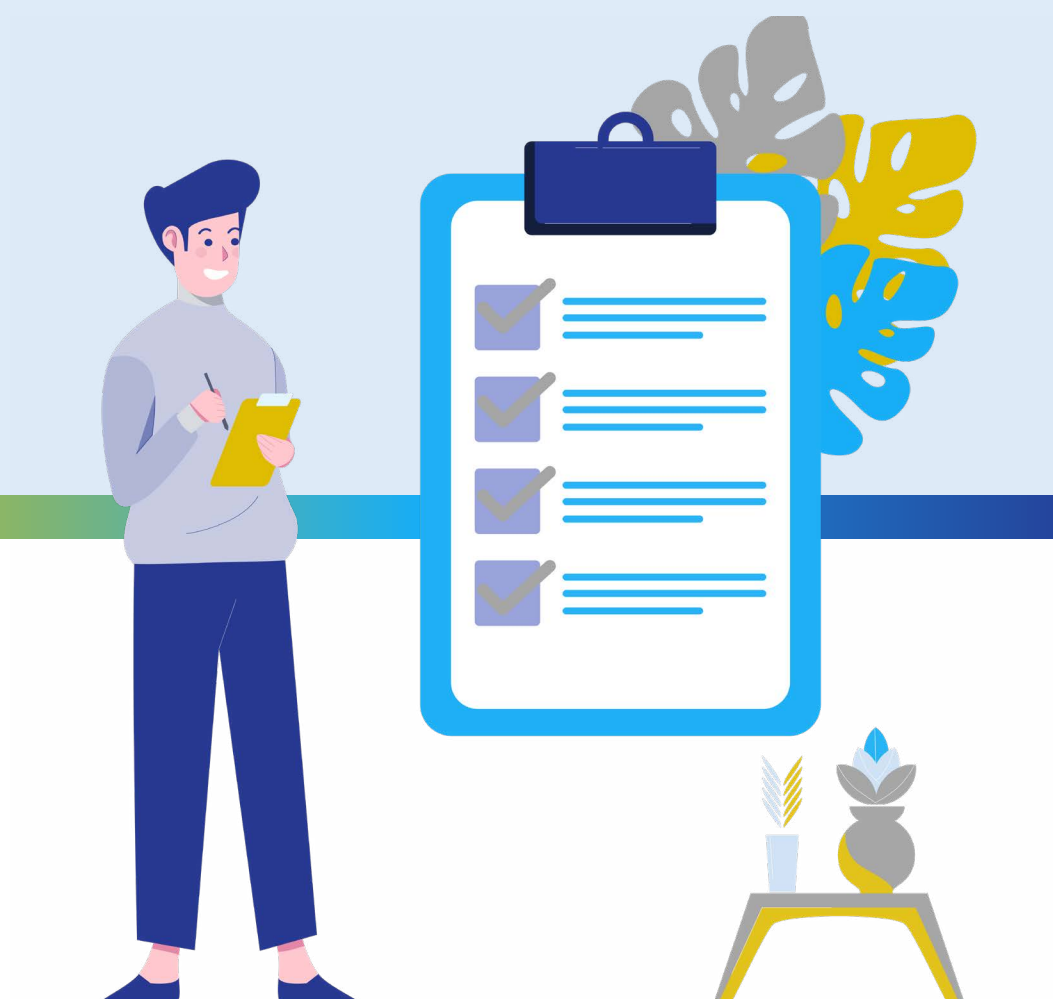


# CHAPTER THREE

## VIEWS TOWARDS AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

### 3.1 Satisfaction and Trust in An Garda Síochána

### 3.2 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána



**73%**

**of respondents expressed satisfaction with Garda service**

**89%**

**expressed mid to high trust in An Garda Síochána in 2023**



## **RESPONDENTS' VIEWS**

**91%**

**An Garda Síochána is friendly or helpful**

**82%**

**Human-rights-focused**

**60%**

**well-managed**

**75%**

**Community-focused**

**69%**

**Modern and progressive**

**64%**

**Effective in tackling crime**

**56%**

**Representative of diverse communities**

The following chapter examines important measures concerned with police legitimacy and service to the Irish public. Among these measures are satisfaction with the service provided to local communities, trust in the Gardaí and views about the Garda organisation (e.g. whether community-focused, human-rights-focused, friendly and helpful and representative of the communities it serves). Other views captured relate to whether Gardaí are effective in tackling crime, and whether the Garda organisation is modern, progressive and well-managed.

## So what does the survey tell us?

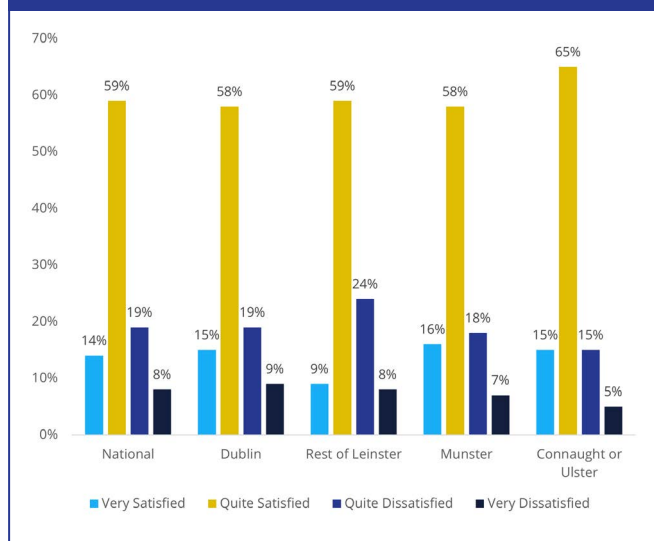
Satisfaction with Garda Service remained high in 2023 at 73 percent, despite showing yearly decreases since 2019. Mid to high trust in the Gardaí also remained positive at 89 percent, although the proportion who reported *high* trust has been decreasing year-on-year, from 50 percent in 2021, to 44 percent in 2023. Perceptions about An Garda Síochána were favourable, with increased numbers of respondents reporting that Gardaí are friendly and helpful, human-rights and community-focused (agreement levels were all above 80%, and showed improvements since 2022). In terms of the Garda organisation, agreement levels with three key statements showed decreases since 2022 - that the organisation is modern and progressive, effective in tackling crime and well-managed (despite this, agreement levels were at 60% or higher for all three). For the third year, views on whether the Service is representative of diverse communities was examined - 56 percent of respondents agreed that it is (53% in 2022).

### 3.1 Satisfaction and Trust in An Garda Síochána

#### 3.1.1 Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities during 2023

Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities remained high in 2023, with 73 percent of respondents reporting being either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied.' Satisfaction was highest among respondents in Connaught or Ulster (80% either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied'). (See figure 13).

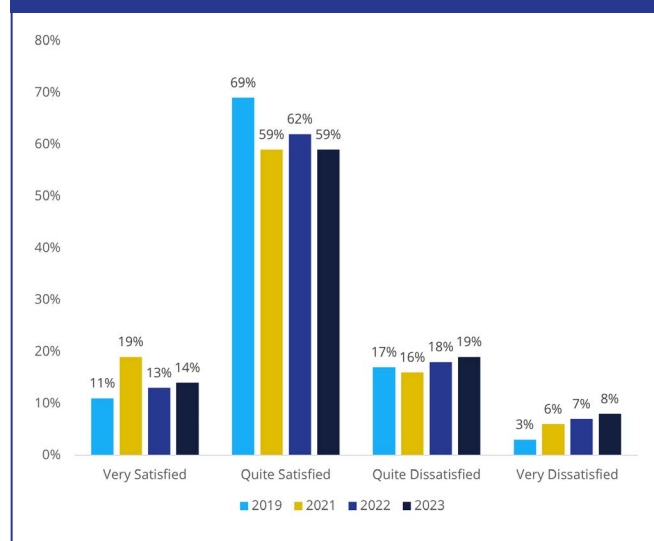
**Figure 13: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Community, Nationally and Regionally**



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

While satisfaction levels with Garda service have remained above 70 percent in recent survey sweeps, they have been decreasing year-on-year from 80 percent in 2019, to 73 percent in 2023 (see figure 14). Similarly, *dissatisfaction* levels have increased 7 percentage points from 20 percent in 2019, to 27 percent in 2023.

**Figure 14: Satisfaction with Garda service to Local Community 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**

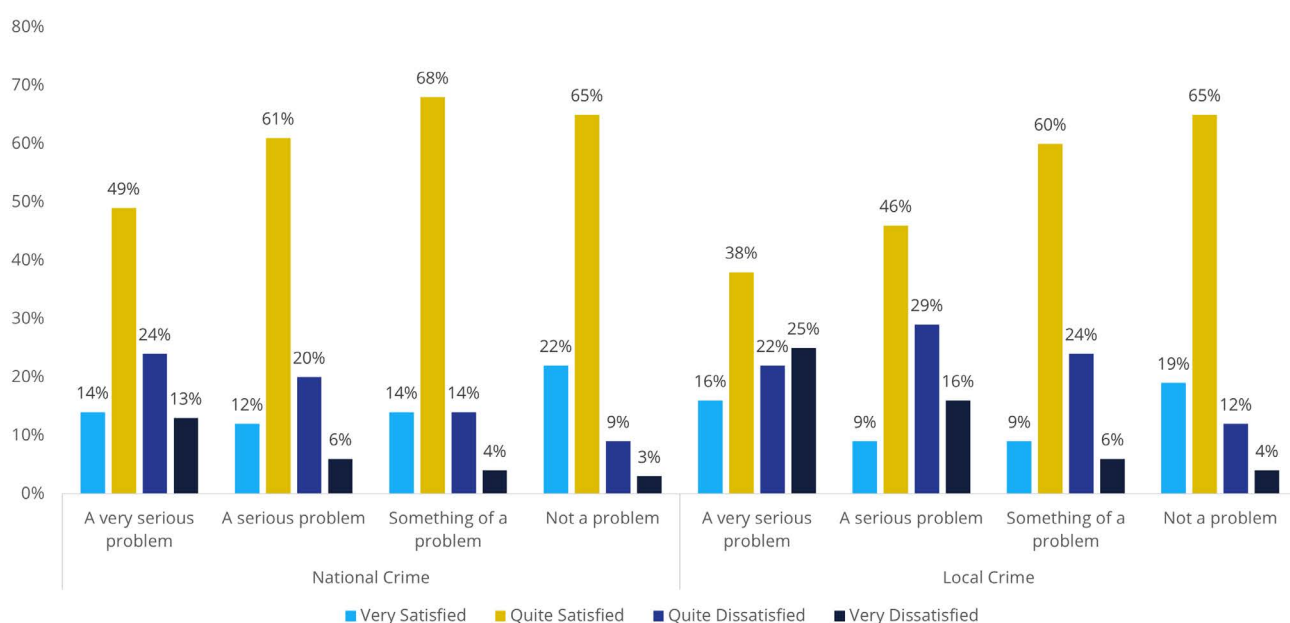


### 3.1.3 Do perceptions of crime impact satisfaction levels?

As seen in previous survey findings, a significant relationship exists between perceptions of the seriousness of the crime problem at a national and local level, and satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities. In general, as views of the seriousness of the national and local crime problem decreased, satisfaction levels increased. This is particularly evident at a local level.

For example, 54 percent of respondents who considered local crime 'a very serious' problem were satisfied with Garda service ('very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied'). The proportion of respondents who were satisfied increased to 84 percent when local crime was viewed as 'not a problem.' A similar trend is seen when national crime is considered (63% of respondents who felt it to be 'a very serious' problem were satisfied with Garda service, compared to 87% who considered it 'not a problem.') (see figure 15).

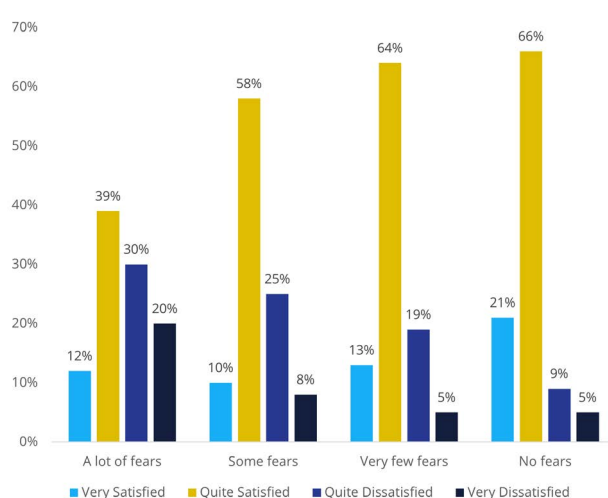
**Figure 15: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities, by Perception of National and Local crime**



### 3.1.4 Satisfaction and fear of crime

As with perceptions of the seriousness of the national and local crime problem, a relationship also exists between respondents' satisfaction with Garda service and their *fear of crime* levels. In general, as fear of crime decreases, satisfaction increases. For example, 51 percent of respondents who reported having 'a lot of fears' about crime were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with Garda service to local communities. This figure increased to 87 percent of respondents who had 'no fears' about crime (see figure 16).

**Figure 16: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities, by Fear of Crime**

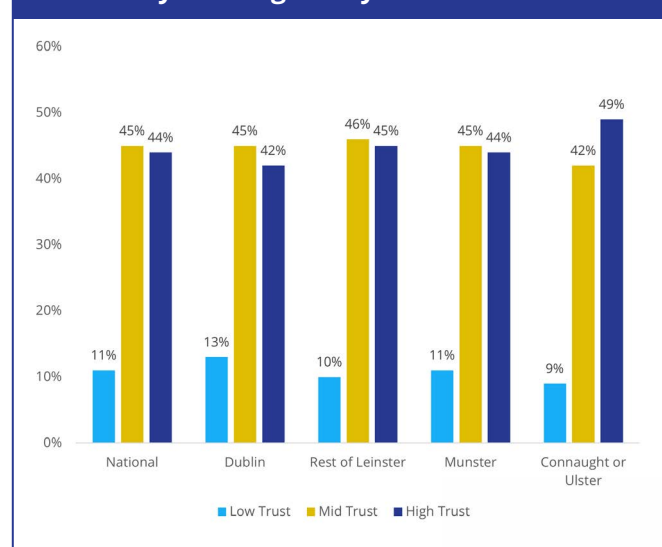


## Trust<sup>6</sup>

### 3.1.5 Levels of trust in An Garda Síochána

An important measure within the PAS is that of trust in An Garda Síochána. As in previous survey sweeps, 2023 saw positive results, with 89 percent of respondents reporting mid to high trust in the Gardaí (national figure). When we examine trust on a regional basis, respondents in the 'rest of Leinster' and Connaught or Ulster expressed the greatest trust (91% mid-high trust in both regions). Respondents in Dublin, while still positive, reported the lowest levels (87 percent mid-high) (See figure 17).

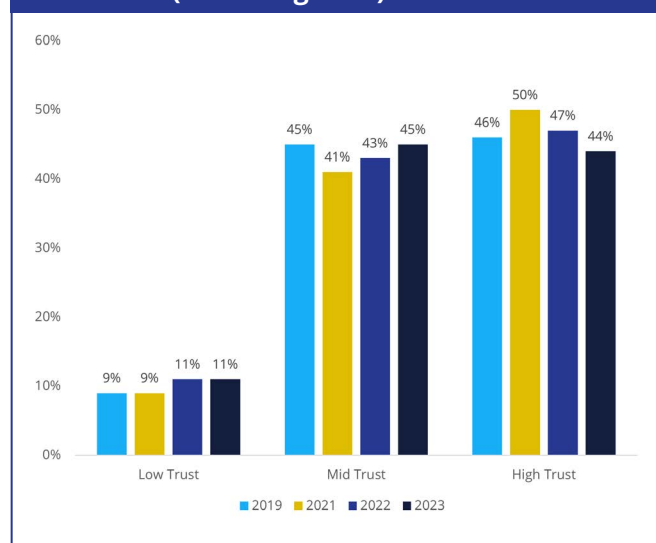
**Figure 17: Trust in An Garda Síochána Nationally and Regionally**



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

As figure 18 highlights, mid to high trust levels in An Garda Síochána have remained consistently high over the last five-year period, despite a 2 percent decrease in 2023, from 91 percent in 2019. However, the proportion of respondents who reported *high* trust in the Gardaí has decreased year-on-year from 50 percent in 2021, to 44 percent in 2023.

**Figure 18: Level of Trust in An Garda Síochána 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**

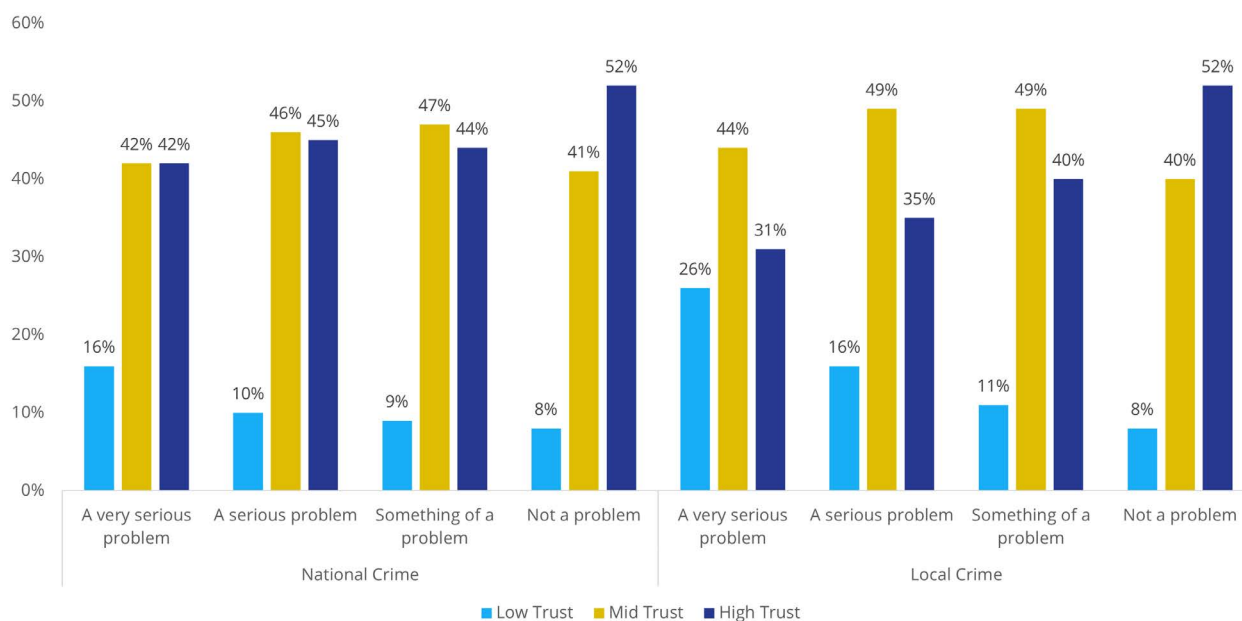


6 The survey examined levels of trust in An Garda Síochána - respondents were asked to assign a rating of between 1 and 10 to their chosen level, the highest level of trust being ten and the lowest, one. Responses were then recoded to 'low trust' (ratings 1, 2, 3, and 4), 'mid trust' (ratings 5, 6 and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

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

As can be seen from figure 19, perceptions of the seriousness of the national and local crime problem have a significant impact on trust in the Gardaí. For example, 26 percent of respondents who considered their local crime problem to be 'very serious' had low trust in the Gardaí, compared to 8 percent of respondents who considered local crime as 'not a problem.' Another illustration of this relationship in terms of *national* crime can be seen when we consider mid to high trust in respondents who considered the national crime problem as 'very serious' (84%), compared to 93 percent who felt it was 'not a problem.'

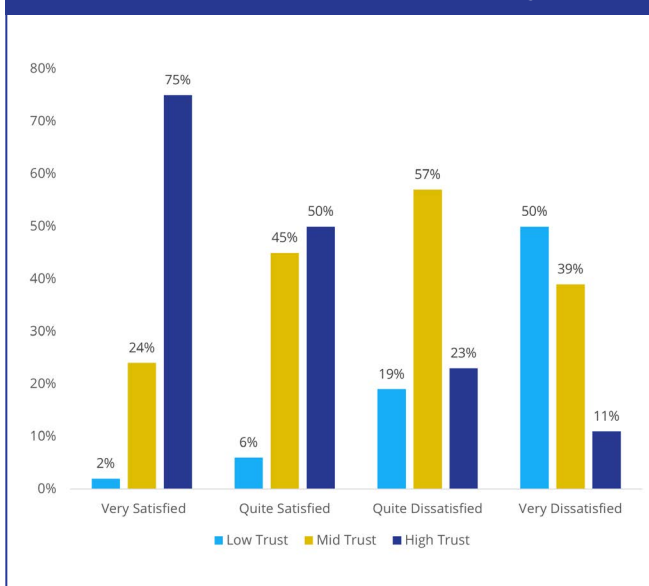
**Figure 19: Trust in An Garda Síochána, by Perceptions of National and Local Crime**



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

A further relationship concerning trust in the Gardaí, and one found in previous survey sweeps, is seen when it is considered against satisfaction with Garda service to local communities. As satisfaction decreases, those expressing high trust decreases also - 75 percent of respondents who were 'very satisfied' with Garda service to their local communities reported high trust in the Gardaí, compared to 11 percent of respondents who were 'very dissatisfied.' Similarly, as satisfaction decreases, the proportion of respondents who report low trust in the Gardaí increases (2% for those who were 'very satisfied,' to 50% who were 'very dissatisfied') (see figure 20).

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



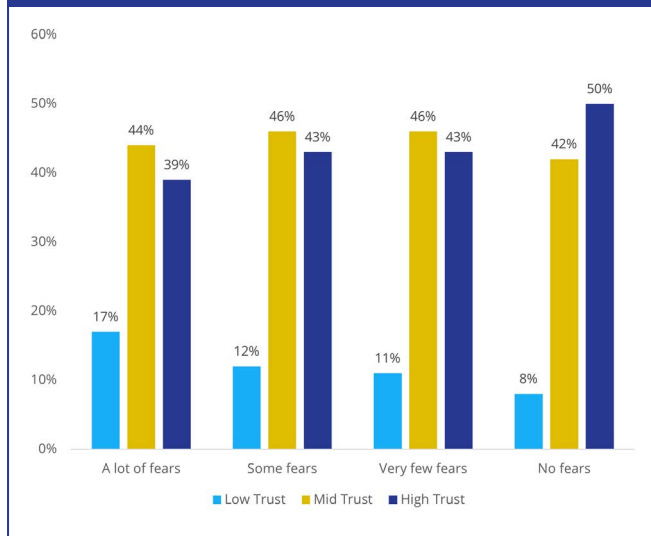
**\*The 2% for 'very satisfied' by low trust represents responses of fewer than 30.**



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

Trust in the Gardaí is also impacted by fear of crime, as illustrated in figure 21. For example, 39 percent of respondents with 'a lot of fears' reported high trust, compared to 50 percent with no fears. Similarly, as fear of crime decreases, the proportion of respondents with low trust also decreases.

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



## 3.2 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

In order to gain a better understanding of the Irish public's views of its police service, agreement levels with six key statements about An Garda Síochána are examined within the PAS - whether we are;

- Friendly and helpful.
- Effective in tackling crime.
- Community-focused.
- Modern and progressive.
- Human-rights-focused.<sup>7</sup>
- Well-managed.

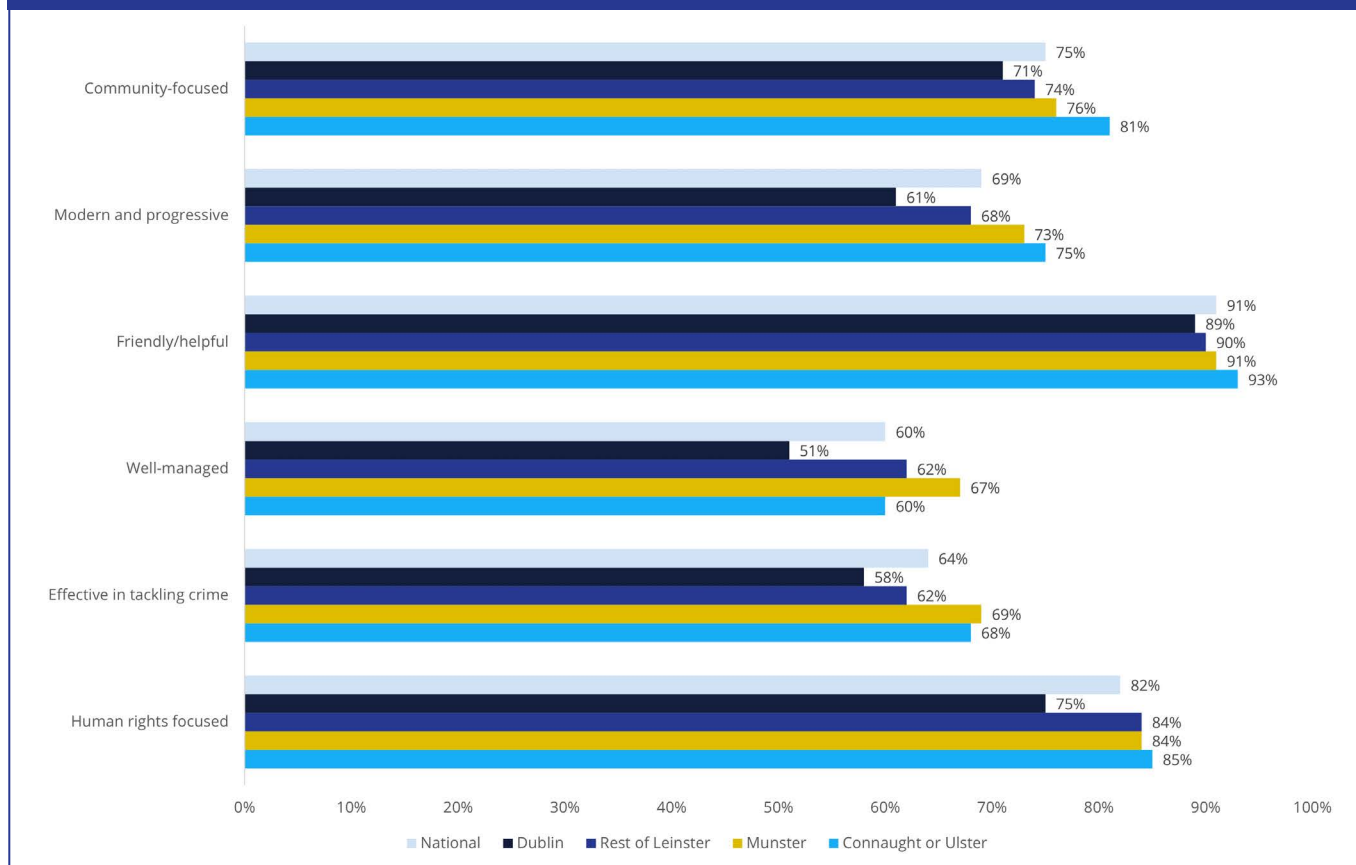
### 3.2.1 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

In 2023, as in previous years, the majority of respondents agreed with the six statements about An Garda Síochána. When national views were considered, respondents held the most positive views about Gardaí being friendly and helpful (91% agreed), human-rights and community- focused (82% and 75% respectively). Views on the remaining measures were less favourable. Sixty-nine percent felt An Garda Síochána is modern and progressive, 64 percent agreed we are effective in tackling crime, while 60 percent held the view that An Garda Síochána is well-managed. On a regional level, respondents in Dublin held the least favourable views, although agreement levels remained above 50 percent in all areas (see figure 22).

<sup>7</sup> 'Human-rights focused' was an option introduced for the first time in 2021, with 2023 being the third year of data collection.



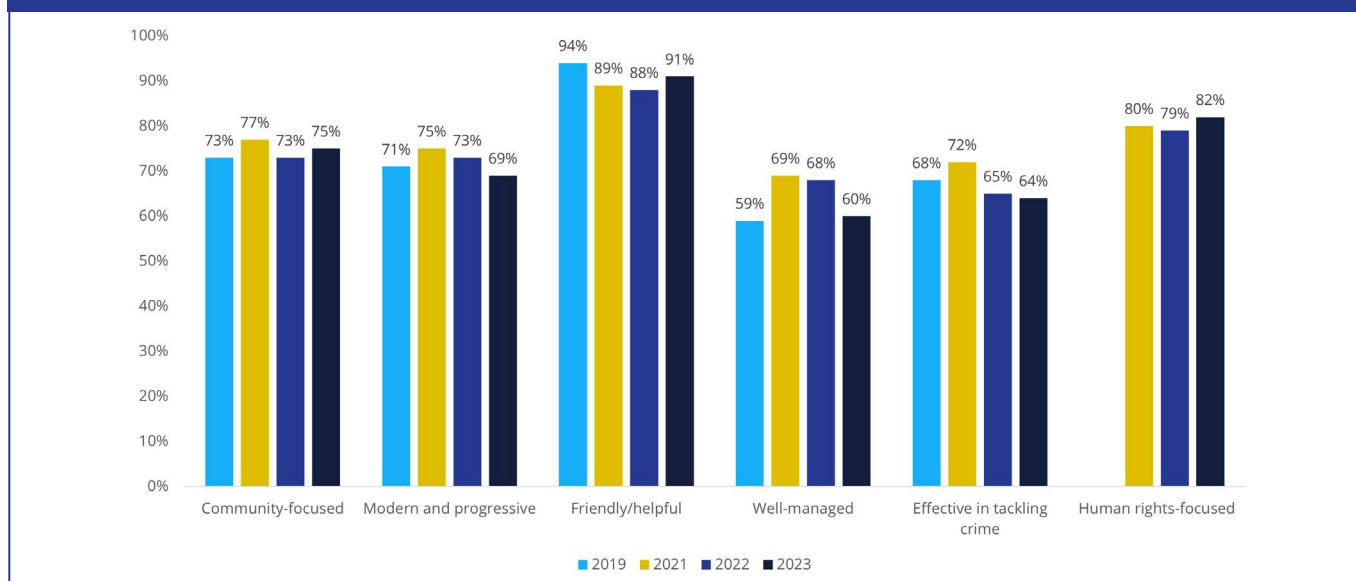
**Figure 22: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána**



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

With the exception of 2021, agreement levels that Gardaí are effective in tackling crime have decreased year-on-year since 2019 (68%), to 64 percent in 2023. Similarly, agreement levels that the organisation is well-managed, and is modern and progressive, have decreased each year since 2021. In the remaining areas, (Gardaí are friendly and helpful, community and human-rights-focused), there have been slight fluctuations. However, in 2023, there have been improvements in all three areas since last year's survey (see figure 23).

**Figure 23: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**



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

Table 6 illustrates a relationship that exists between views about An Garda Síochána and perceptions of the seriousness of the national and local crime problem. In terms of national crime, as perceptions of the seriousness of crime decreased, agreement levels with the six statements increased - i.e. views became more positive. For example, for those who considered national crime as 'a very serious' problem, 56 percent agreed that An Garda Síochána is well-managed.

This increased to 82 percent who felt national crime was 'not a problem.' Similarly, in terms of *local* crime, across all six statements, as perceptions of the seriousness of crime decreased, agreement levels increased. This is particularly evident when considering agreement levels with the statement that the Gardaí are community-focused - when local crime was seen as 'a very serious' problem, 59 percent of respondents agreed, compared to 81 percent who felt it was 'not a problem' (see table 6).

**Table 6: Views of Crime by 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
Community-focused							
70%	74%	81%	86%	59%	64%	74%	81%
Modern or progressive							
67%	68%	69%	80%	62%	64%	65%	73%
Friendly or helpful							
86%	92%	92%	92%	82%	86%	90%	93%
Well-managed							
56%	59%	63%	82%	55%	51%	57%	66%
Effective in tackling crime							
59%	63%	69%	82%	53%	53%	60%	72%
Human rights-focused							
79%	83%	83%	87%	73%	74%	80%	86%

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

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána in all areas were negatively impacted by increased levels of fear of crime and lower trust in the Gardaí<sup>8</sup>. This is clearly seen in table 7, and has been evidenced in previous survey sweeps. When fear of crime is considered, agreement levels with whether the Garda organisation is well-managed and effective

in tackling crime illustrate this correlation clearly (49% of respondents with ‘a lot of fears’ about crime view the organisation as well-managed, compared to 71% with no fears; 52% with ‘a lot of fears’ agreed we are effective in tackling crime, versus 73% with no fears). Taking trust in the Gardaí as another example, those with low trust were less likely to consider An Garda Síochána as human-rights-focused (34%), compared to 95 percent with high trust.

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

Fear of Crime				Trust		
A lot of fears	Some fears	Very few fears	No fears	Low Trust	Mid Trust	High Trust
Community-focused						
64%	72%	76%	82%	27%	71%	90%
Modern or progressive						
60%	64%	69%	77%	32%	60%	85%
Friendly or helpful						
88%	90%	90%	93%	53%	91%	98%
Well-managed						
49%	55%	60%	71%	20%	52%	78%
Effective in tackling crime						
52%	58%	68%	73%	20%	55%	84%
Human rights-focused						
76%	81%	80%	86%	34%	79%	95%

### 3.2.5 Diversity in An Garda Síochána

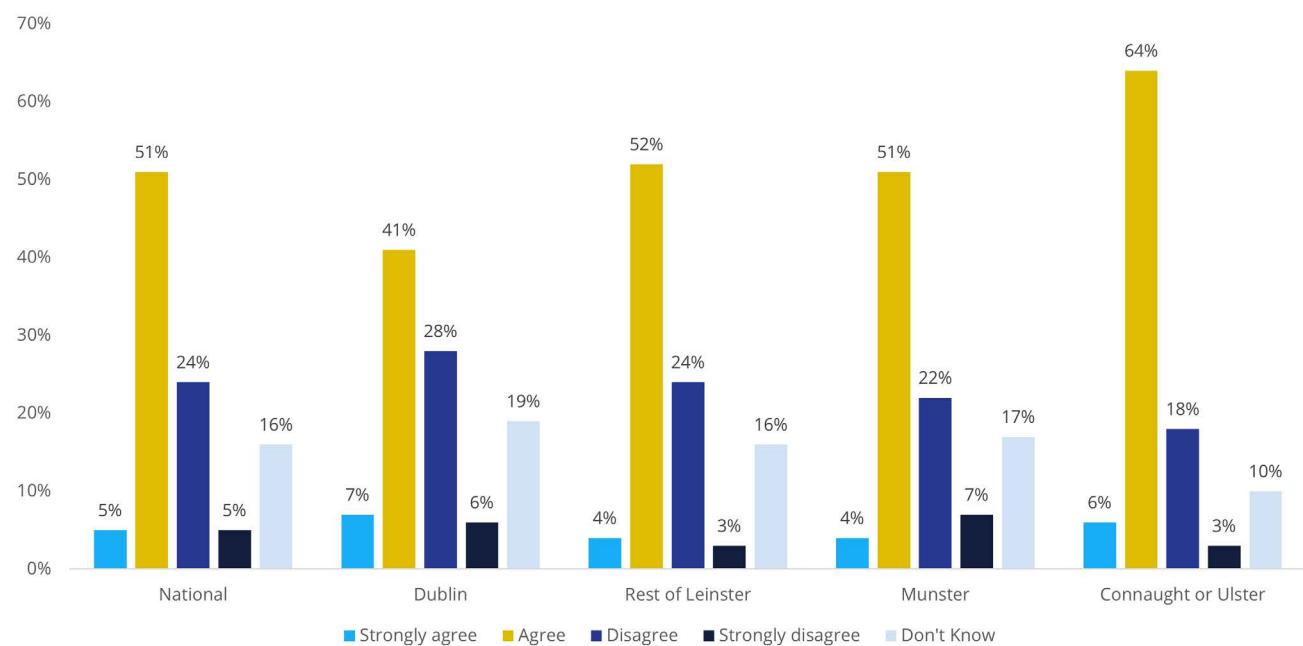
2023 represents the third year of data collection for a question that was added to the Garda Public Attitudes Survey in 2021 - ‘Do you agree or disagree that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves? When ‘strongly agree’ and ‘agree’ are combined, on a

national level, 56 percent of respondents agreed with this statement<sup>9</sup> (up 3 percentage points from 2022, and 2 percentage points from 2021 (54%)). In 2023, agreement levels were highest in Connaught or Ulster (70%), and lowest in Dublin (48%) (See figure 24).

<sup>8</sup> These were all statistically significant.

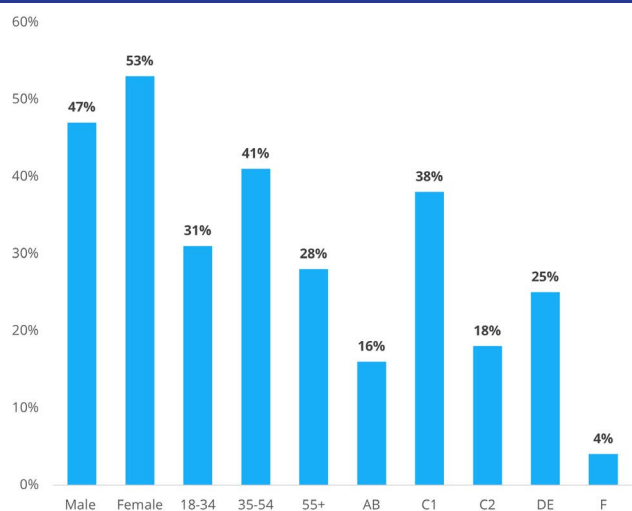
<sup>9</sup> It should be noted that there was a high proportion of ‘don’t knows’ to this question.

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

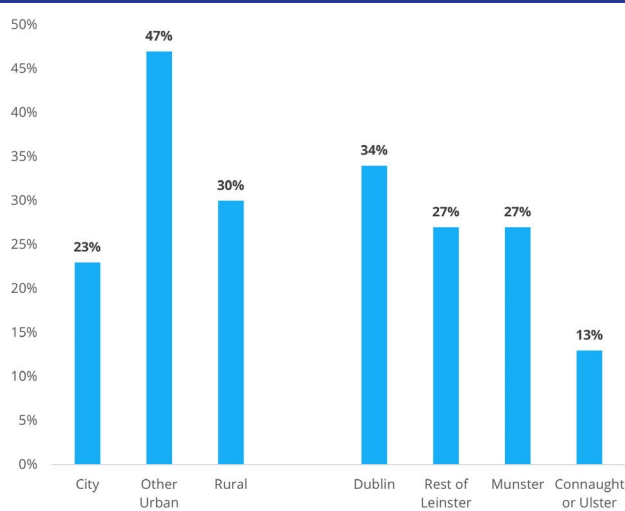


In order to gain some understanding of the differences in perceptions about An Garda Síochána's representativeness of diverse communities, figure 25 illustrates the demographic breakdown of those respondents who *disagreed* with the statement. This cohort represents 28 percent of the overall sample (n=2,183). Of this sample, fifty-three percent of females and those in the 35-54 age bracket (41%), were more likely to disagree that we are representative, than males (47%) and the other age cohorts. Respondents in Dublin (34%) and 'other urban' areas (47%) were the most likely to disagree with the statement (figure 26)<sup>10</sup>.

**Figure 25: Demographic Profile of Respondents who Disagreed An Garda Síochána is Representative of Diverse Communities (n=2,183)**

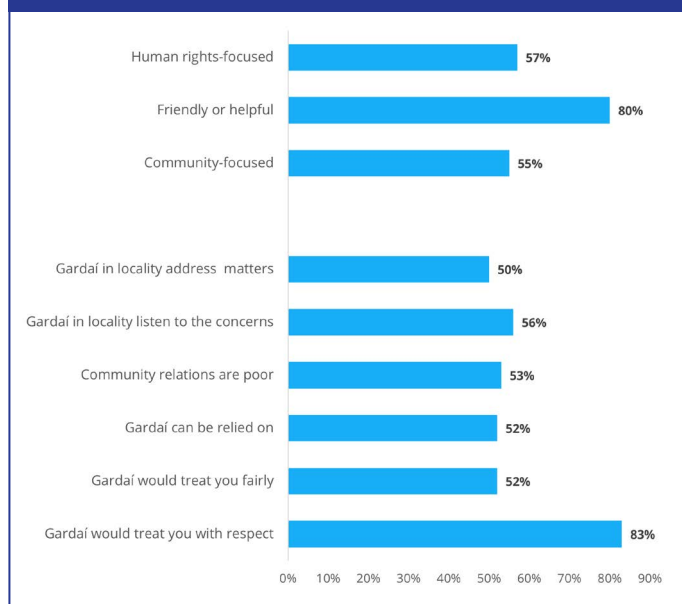


**Figure 26: Respondents who Disagreed An Garda Síochána is Representative of Diverse Communities by Geographical Breakdown**



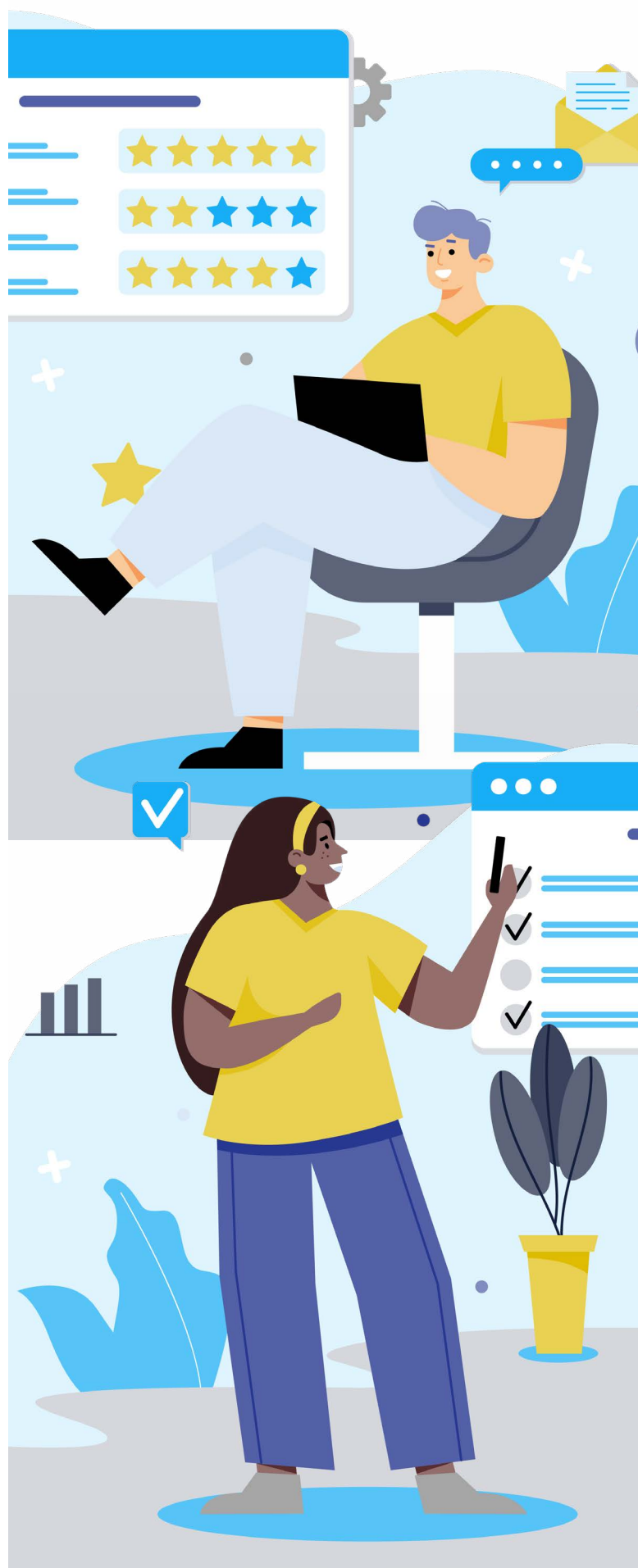
<sup>10</sup> Of the overall sample of Irish respondents (n=6,691), 29 percent disagreed that An Garda Síochána are representative of diverse communities. Of the overall non-Irish sample (n=991), 22 percent disagreed.

**Figure 27: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána and Garda Treatment by Respondents who Disagreed An Garda Síochána is Representative of Diverse Communities**



Disagreement with the statement that An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities negatively impacted views about the organisation and its service delivery in many cases. As figure 27 illustrates, of those respondents who disagreed, 57 percent considered that the organisation is human-rights-focused (for the overall sample this figure was 82%), and 55 percent agreed An Garda Síochána is community-focused (75% for the overall sample). Gardaí continued to be viewed as friendly and helpful by 80 percent of respondents despite them disagreeing that the organisation is representative, and 83 percent felt they would be treated with respect (91% and 92% for the overall sample). Further comparisons are listed below:

- 50% agreed Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (73% overall).
- 56% agreed Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people (76% overall).
- 53% disagreed community relations with Gardaí are poor (61% overall).
- 52% agreed Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed (69% overall).
- 52% agreed Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are (77% overall).



# CHAPTER FOUR

## SERVICE DELIVERY PERCEPTIONS

**4.1 Perceptions of Garda Visibility and Presence**

**4.2 Treatment by An Garda Síochána**



**41%**

**aware of Garda presence,  
a decrease from 49% in 2021**



**20%**

**regularly see Gardaí  
patrolling by car**



**42%**

**held the view that Garda  
presence is 'about right'**

## **RESPONDENTS' VIEWS**

**92%**

**thought they would be  
treated with respect**

**77%**

**felt Gardaí treat everyone fairly  
regardless of who they are**

('strongly agree' and 'agree' combined,  
excluding 'don't know' responses).

Perceptions about Garda service to communities is explored in this chapter, as well as respondents' views on how they would be treated by Gardaí if they had contact with them for any reason.

## So what does the survey tell us?

Awareness levels among respondents of Garda presence have shown yearly decreases since 2021. As in 2021 and 2022, most perceived this presence to be in cars and rarely on foot, although those who stated they regularly see car and foot patrols have decreased in 2023. Fifty-seven percent of respondents felt that Garda presence in their communities is 'not enough' and this has disimproved since 2022, when the figure stood at 54 percent.

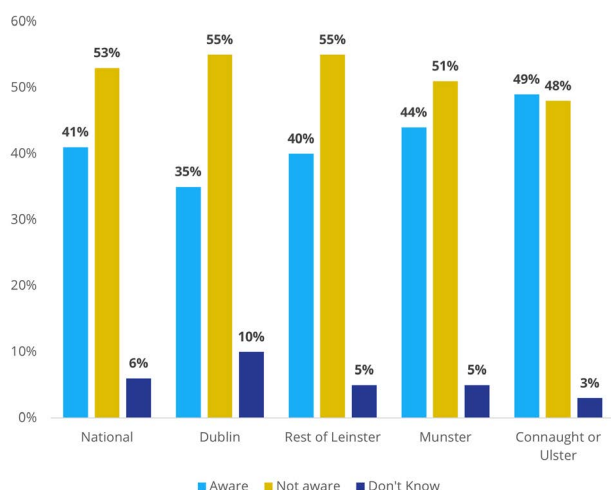
Positive results were seen when views about being treated with respect and with fairness were considered, with the vast majority agreeing with both statements. Equally, views on Garda-community relations and Gardaí addressing concerns in the community were largely positive, as were views about the reliability of Gardaí, although this has shown some disimprovement since 2022.

### 4.1 Perceptions of Garda Visibility and Presence

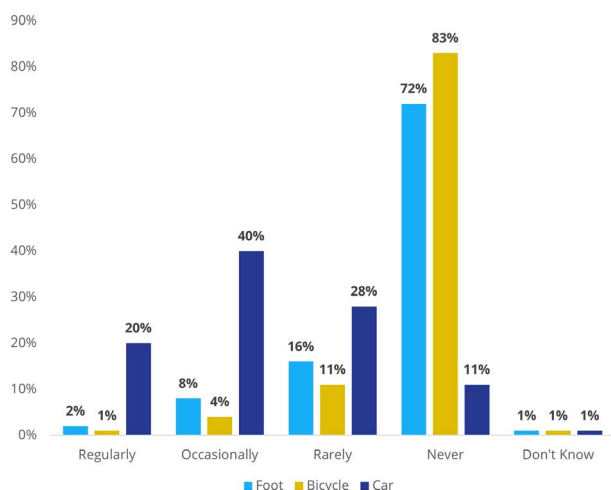
#### 4.1.1 Awareness of Garda presence

As figure 28 indicates, in 2023 on a national level, 41 percent of respondents reported that they were aware of Garda presence, while 53 percent were unaware (6% 'don't know' responses). Across the regions, respondents in Dublin reported the least awareness at 35 percent, with those in Connaught or Ulster the most aware at 49 percent.

**Figure 28: Awareness of Garda Presence Nationally and Regionally**



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

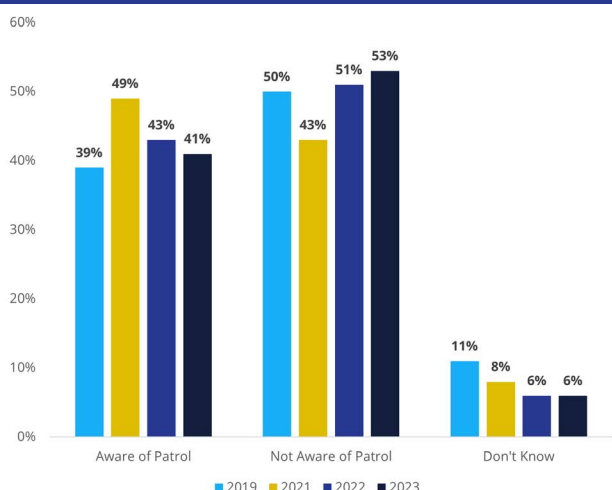


#### 4.1.2 How has awareness of Garda presence changed over the last five years?

There has been a yearly decrease in the proportion of respondents who reported awareness of Garda presence since 2021 (49%), with the 2023 figure being 8 percentage points lower (41%). The high awareness in 2021 could, in part, be due to increased patrols/checkpoints during the Covid pandemic.



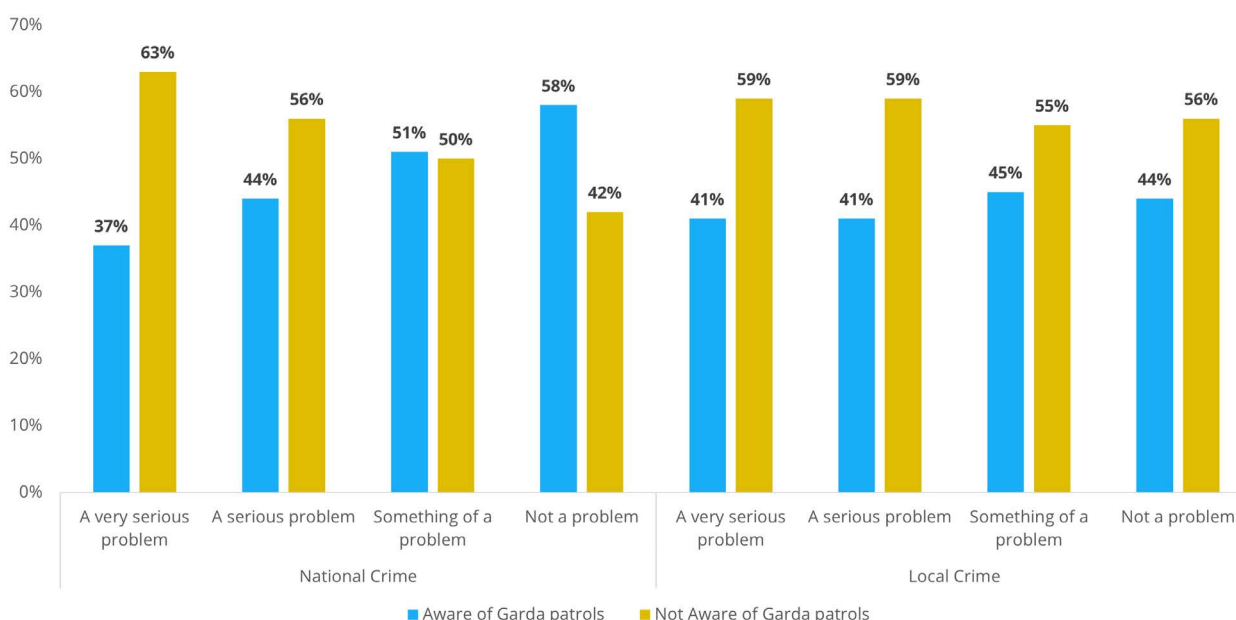
**Figure 30: Awareness of Garda Presence 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**



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

For the most part, and as figure 31 illustrates, as perceptions of the seriousness of both national and local crime decrease, awareness of Garda presence increases. For example, 37 percent of respondents who perceived national crime as 'a very serious problem' reported being aware of Garda presence. This increased to 58 percent for respondents who felt national crime was 'not a problem.' Equally, when local crime was considered 'not a problem,' 44 percent of respondents reported awareness of Garda presence - 3 percentage points more than those who viewed local crime as 'a very serious problem.'

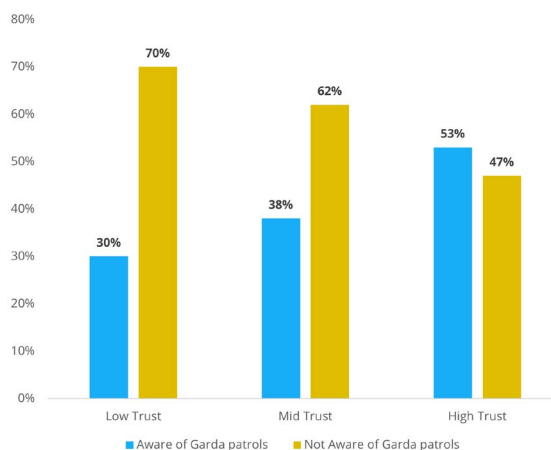
**Figure 31: Awareness of Garda Presence, by Perceptions of National and Local Crime**



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

As seen with many other views of the Irish public, trust levels impact awareness of Garda presence. Respondents with 'high trust' in An Garda Síochána showed the greatest awareness at 53 percent. Those with 'low trust' were less likely to report being aware of such presence (30%) (see figure 32).

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



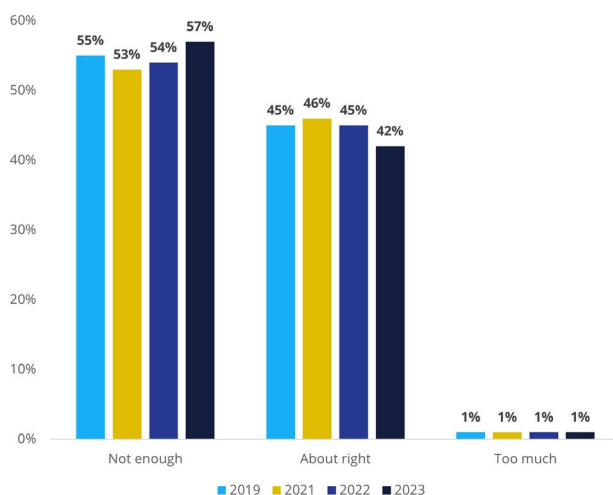
## Views on Garda Presence

### 4.1.5 Perceptions of Garda presence

Respondents were asked whether they consider the Garda presence in their local communities as sufficient. In 2023, 57 percent felt that it was 'not enough,' an increase of 3 percentage points since 2022 (see figure 33). As table 8 highlights, reasons for this were mainly that respondents 'never or rarely see Gardaí, lack of Gardaí' (58%), 'only see Gardaí in cars' (40%), or that they 'do not see them enough or on foot' (26%).

When Garda presence was viewed as 'about right' (42% of respondents), the main reasons cited for this were that 'there is not much crime' (59%), or respondents 'see Gardaí patrolling in cars' (33%) (table 9).

**Figure 33: Perception of Garda Presence in Local Area 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**



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

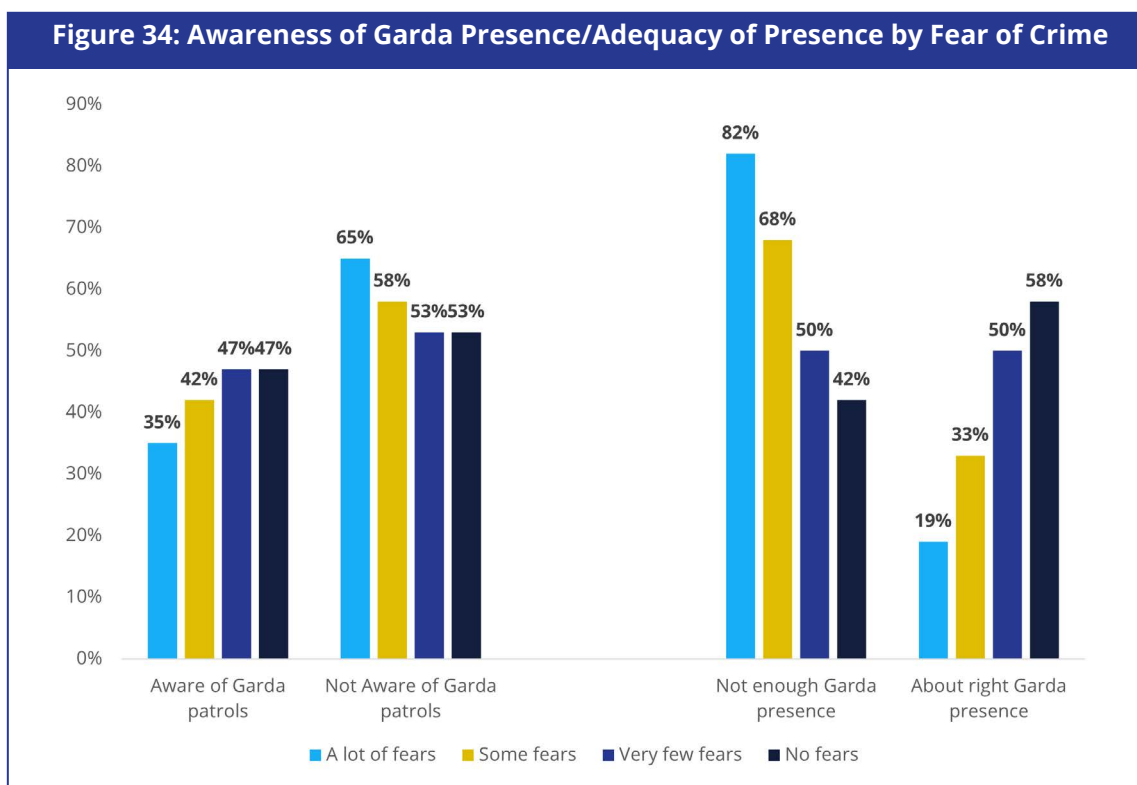
Reasons that local Garda presence is 'not enough'	%
Never or rarely see Gardaí/ lack of Gardaí	58%
Only see Gardaí in cars	40%
Not enough or don't see Gardaí on foot	26%
Only when there's crime and trouble	19%
Used to be more Gardaí	18%
Slow to respond	16%
Garda station closed or open part time	14%
See a crime, but no Gardaí	11%
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	11%
Gardaí should check on the elderly/not enough Gardaí to check on elderly	10%
Gardaí can't do anything	7%
Not enough being done about domestic abuse/no support for domestic abuse	6%
Not enough being done about traffic offences (including speeding)	5%
Rely too much on cameras	4%
Don't Know	2%
Other	9%

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

Reasons that local Garda presence is 'about right'	%
Not much crime	64%
See Gardaí patrolling in cars	30%
See them quite often	25%
Not necessary to see them all the time	17%
Garda station nearby	18%
Crime rates improving	5%
Seeing too many is overwhelming	4%
See Gardaí on foot	2%
Other	6%

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

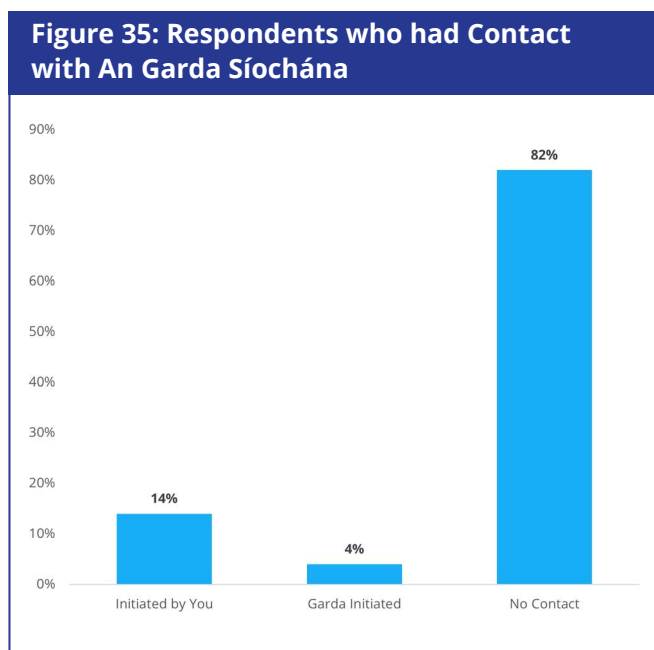
Awareness of Garda presence and perceptions of the adequacy of Garda presence are both negatively impacted by increased levels of fear of crime. As can be seen from figure 34, 35 percent of respondents who had 'a lot of fears' about crime reported awareness of Garda presence. The figure for those with 'no fears' or 'very few fears' both stood at 47 percent. In terms of adequacy of Garda presence, 82 percent of respondents with 'a lot of fears' considered Garda presence as 'not enough,' compared to 42 percent with 'no fears.'



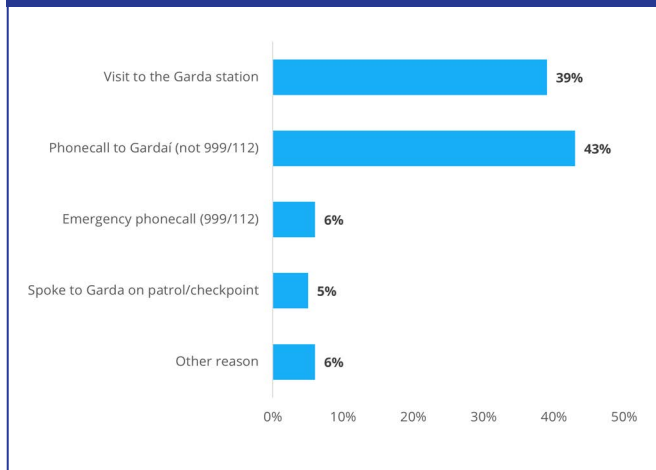
\*In the above chart, the 'too much' response option is not included, as cell counts were less than 30.

#### 4.1.7 Contact with An Garda Síochána

While satisfaction with Garda service to local communities was explored earlier in this report, the survey also explores satisfaction levels with those respondents who had some contact with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey interview. In 2023, the majority of respondents (82%) had no contact with Gardaí in the preceding 12-month period (n=6,306). Of the 18 percent (n=1,376) who had *some* contact, 14 percent reported self-initiated contact, while 4 percent reported Garda-initiated contact (figure 35). Within this cohort of 1,059 respondents who made contact with the Gardaí, 43 percent did so by phone (not 999/112), and 39 percent were in contact with Gardaí through a visit to a Garda station (see figure 36 for a full breakdown).

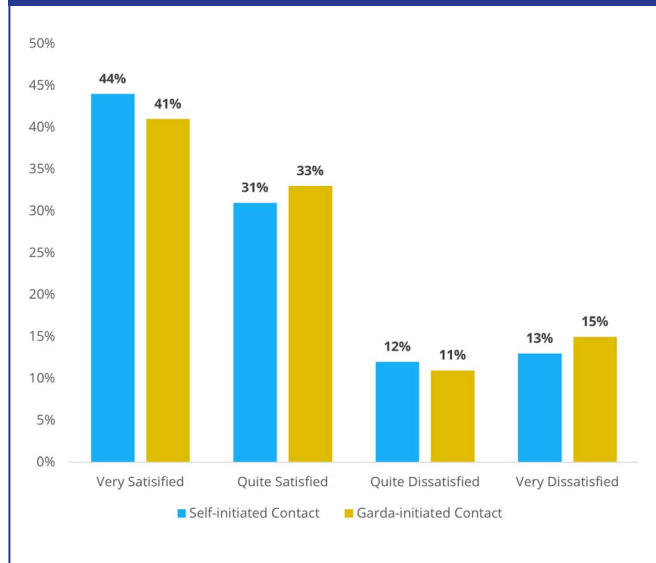


**Figure 36: How Most Recent Contact with An Garda Síochána was Made**

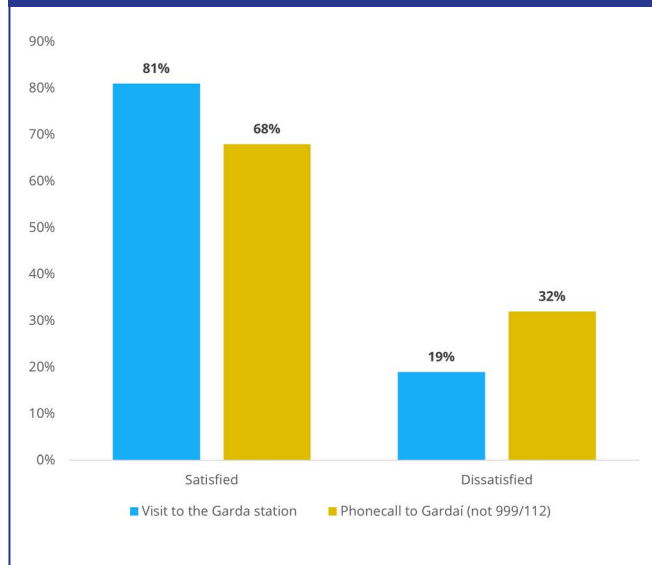


Satisfaction levels among respondents who had self-initiated contact with Gardaí stood at 75 percent ('very satisfied' and 'quite satisfied' combined). When the contact was initiated by Gardaí, satisfaction levels decreased marginally to 74 percent (see figure 37). In terms of the contact medium and satisfaction, when contact was in a Garda station, satisfaction was greater (81% of respondents), compared to 68 percent when the contact was via a phone call (see figure 38 - analysis of the other three contact types was not possible due to low cell counts).

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



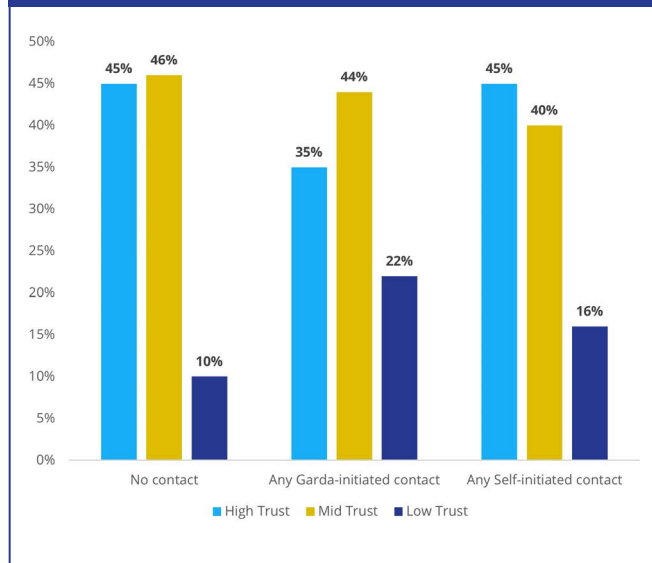
**Figure 38: Satisfaction with Service, by Contact Type**



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

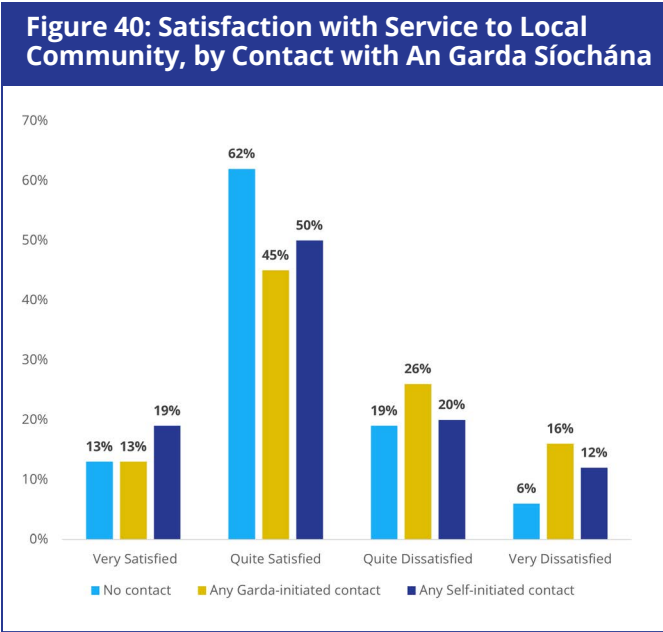
Of those respondents who had some contact with Gardaí in the 12 months preceding the survey, low trust was reported by 22 percent when that contact was Garda-initiated, compared to 16 percent when self-initiated. Equally, there was a greater amount of high trust among respondents who reported self-initiated contact (45%), when compared to those whose contact was Garda-initiated (35%) (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?

As highlighted in figure 40, and seen in previous surveys, respondents who had no contact with An Garda Síochána in the 12 months preceding the survey interview were more likely to report being satisfied with Garda service to local communities (75% when ‘very satisfied’ and ‘quite satisfied’ are combined), compared to those who had self-initiated contacted (69%), or Garda- initiated (58%).



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

Agreement levels with the six key statements about An Garda Síochána were higher across all areas for those respondents who had *no contact* with them in the preceding 12 months (i.e. views were more positive). In five of the six statements, respondents’ views were more favourable if they had self-initiated contact, as opposed to Garda-initiated. The exception related to views about An Garda Síochána being modern and progressive, where agreement levels were almost the same (64% for self-initiated, and 65% for Garda-initiated) (see table 10 for further breakdowns).

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

Perceptions of An Garda Síochána	Type of Contact		
	Any Self-initiated contact	Any Garda-initiated contact	No contact
Community-focused	73%	58%	76%
Modern or progressive	64%	65%	69%
Friendly or helpful	88%	77%	92%
Well-managed	54%	53%	61%
Effective in tackling crime	58%	56%	65%
Human-Rights-focused	79%	69%	83%

## 4.2 - Treatment by An Garda Síochána

Perceptions about expected treatment by Gardaí is an important measure within the Garda Public Attitudes Survey. To assess this, agreement levels with statements related to fair and respectful treatment are measured, as well as the level of Garda service to local communities in terms of the reliability of Gardaí, Garda-community relations and whether Gardaí listen to, and address, areas of concern within communities.

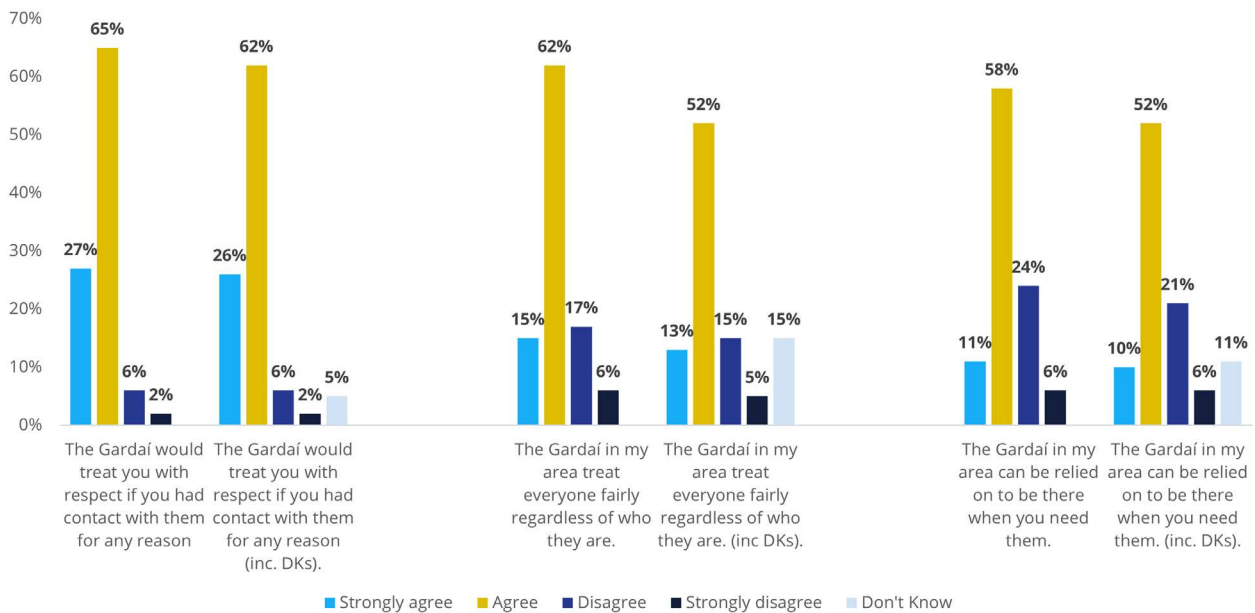
### 4.2.1 Treatment by An Garda Síochána

As illustrated in figure 41, in 2023 agreement levels that Gardaí would treat you with respect and fairly were favourable (92% and 77% respectively when ‘strongly agree’ and ‘agree’ were combined, excluding ‘don’t know’ responses).

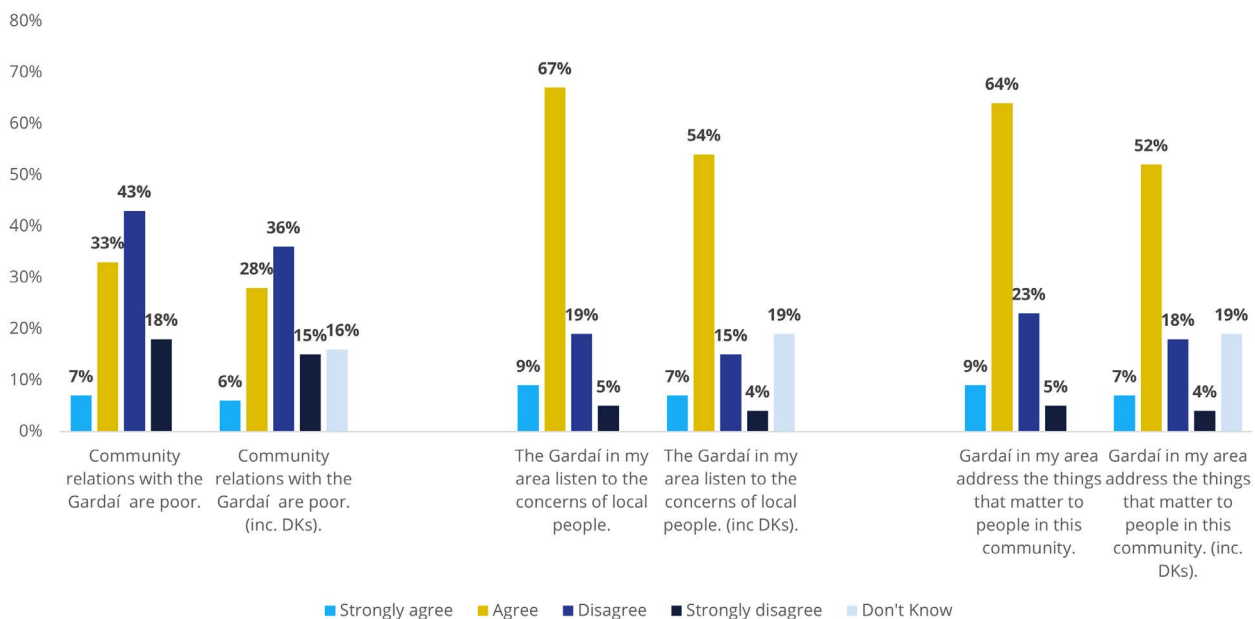
Agreement levels with the other statements were also largely positive (see figures 41 and 42 for complete analysis, - all perceptions of expected treatment response are presented both including and excluding 'don't know' responses):

- The Gardaí in my area can be relied on to be there when you need them (69% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed').
- Community relations with the Gardaí are poor (61% 'strongly disagreed' or 'disagreed').
- Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people (76% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed').
- Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (73% 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed').

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



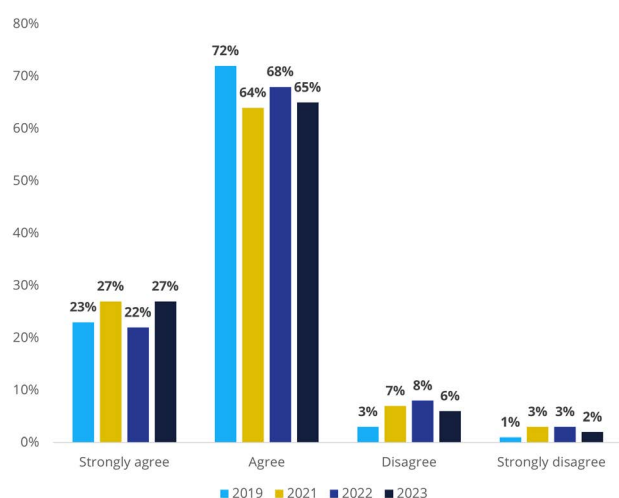
**Figure 42: Equality of Treatment by An Garda Síochána Statements (Part 2)**



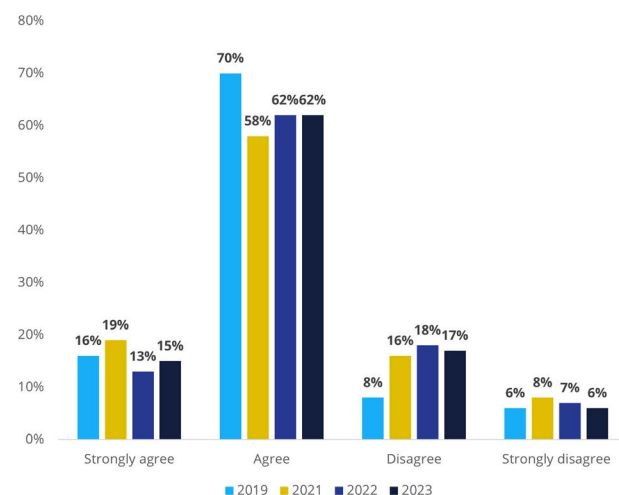
## 4.2.2 How have perceptions of Gardaí changed over the last number of years?

The final section of this chapter examines changes in agreement levels with the six key statements as reported on in section 4.2.1, over the last five-year period. Continuing to exclude 'don't know' responses, it can be seen from figure 43 that agreement levels with the statement that 'Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason' have remained at or above 90 percent each year since 2019. While agreement levels are lower with the statement that 'Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are', they have remained positive ranging from 75 percent in 2022, to 86 percent in 2019, and up to 77 percent in 2023 (figure 44).

**Figure 43: The Gardaí would Treat you with Respect if you had Contact with them for any Reason, 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**



**Figure 44: The Gardaí in this Area Treat Everyone Fairly Regardless of who they are, 2019 - 2023 (excluding 2020)**



Agreement levels with the following statements have seen no notable differences since 2022:

- Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people (76% in both 2022 and 2023 - down from 86% in 2019).
- Gardaí address things that matter to the local community (74% in 2022 and 73% in 2023 - up from 65% in 2019).

Agreement levels with the statement that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed have decreased year-on-year since 2019 (76%), to 69 percent in 2023. In terms of whether respondents feel Garda-community relations were poor, this has increased from 31 percent in 2019 to 40 percent in 2023. (See table 11).



**Table 11: Views on Service Delivery, 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**

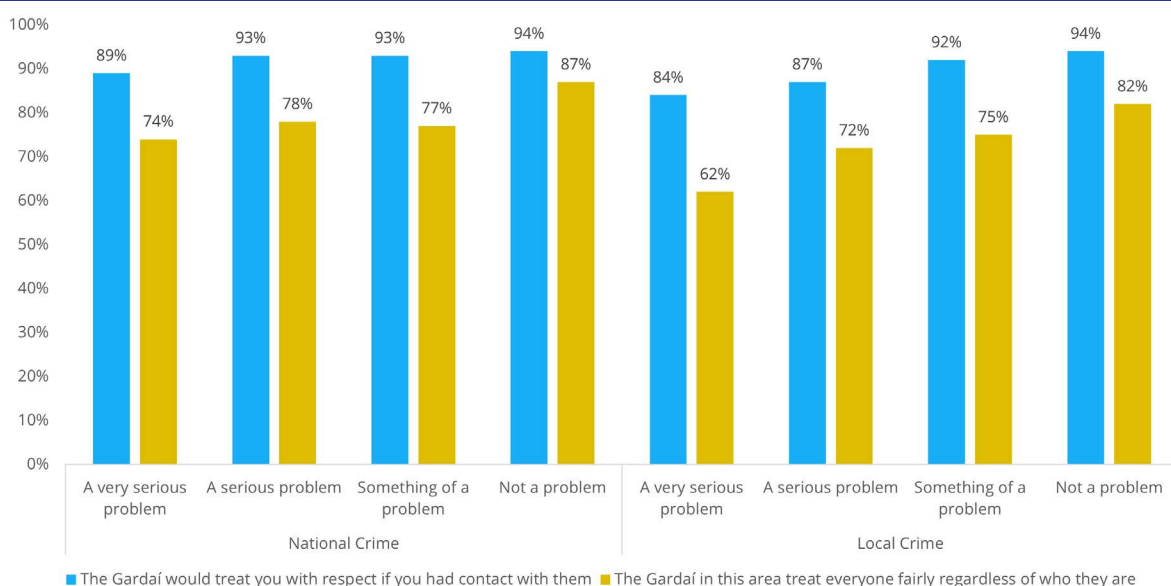
The Gardaí can be relied on to be there when you need them				
	2019	2021	2022	2023
Strongly agree	12%	17%	11%	11%
Agree	64%	60%	61%	58%
Disagree	17%	17%	21%	24%
Strongly disagree	6%	6%	7%	6%
Garda Relations with the local community are poor				
	2019	2021	2022	2023
Strongly agree	5%	7%	7%	7%
Agree	26%	27%	34%	33%
Disagree	47%	38%	42%	43%
Strongly disagree	23%	29%	18%	18%
Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people				
	2019	2021	2022	2023
Strongly agree	14%	15%	8%	9%
Agree	72%	65%	68%	67%
Disagree	10%	15%	19%	19%
Strongly disagree	4%	5%	5%	5%
Gardaí are dealing with the things that matter to the local community				
	2019	2021	2022	2023
Strongly agree	18%	14%	8%	9%
Agree	47%	63%	66%	64%
Disagree	29%	17%	20%	23%
Strongly disagree	7%	6%	6%	5%

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

As seen in previous years, as perceptions of the seriousness of national and local crime decrease, views on whether Gardaí would treat you with respect and whether they treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are become more favourable. For example, 89 percent of respondents who viewed the national crime problem as 'very serious' agreed that Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason, compared to 94 percent of respondents who viewed national crime as 'not a problem.'

Equally, 62 percent of respondents who viewed *local* crime as 'very serious' agreed that the Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, compared to 82 percent who considered local crime as 'not a problem' (see figure 45).

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

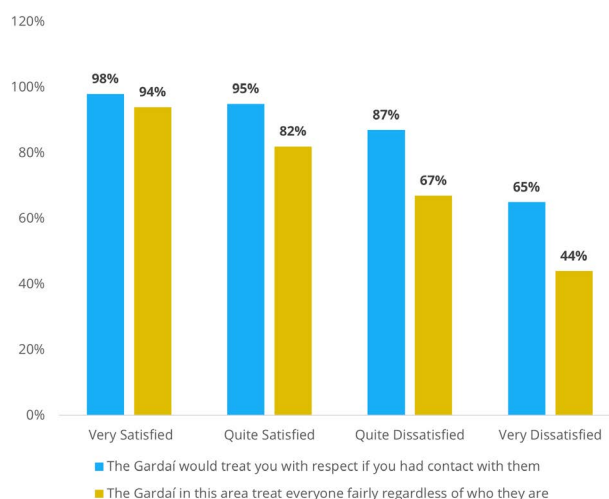




#### 4.2.4 How do satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities impact on views of treatment by An Garda Síochána?

As seen in figure 46, there is a clear relationship between satisfaction with Garda service and agreement levels with the statements concerning respectful and fair treatment by Gardaí - as satisfaction decreases, respondents were less likely to agree that Gardaí would treat you with respect, or treat everyone fairly. This relationship is clearly illustrated when we consider the statement regarding fair treatment. Of those respondents who were 'very dissatisfied' with Garda service, 44 percent agreed that Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are. This figure increased to 94 percent for those who were 'very satisfied' with Garda service. A similar strong relationship can be seen when the statement about respectful treatment is considered.

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



# CHAPTER FIVE

## A DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT



This chapter explores the main themes of the report thus far by examining differences across sex, age and nationality. Statistically significant findings are highlighted in the text, with asterisks within tables representing the main driver of statistically significant findings. Appendix two offers further insight through an exploration of the themes by social class grouping and urban/rural divide.

## So what does the survey tell us?

National crime was viewed as more serious by older respondents, than those in younger groups. Those aged 18-24 years old viewed both national and local crime as less of a problem than older cohorts.

Fear of crime among respondents aged 55 years and older was greatest, and impact of this fear on quality of life was also more pronounced in older groups. Satisfaction in An Garda Síochána was greatest in those aged 18-34 years, while non-Irish nationals were more likely to report this, than Irish nationals. 'High trust' was greatest in those aged 65 years and older, and lowest among 18-24 year olds. Despite this, younger respondents reported greatest awareness of Garda patrols and were more likely to report that Garda presence in their communities was 'about right.' Overall, those aged 65+ and non-Irish nationals had the most positive views of An Garda Síochána, in terms of expected fair and respectful treatment, reliability of Gardaí and Garda-community relations.

## 5.1 Perceptions of Crime



**Females were more likely to view the national crime problem as 'very serious' or 'serious,' compared to males. There was less of a disparity when local crime was considered.** For example, 76 percent of women viewed *national crime* as 'very serious' or 'serious,' compared to 68 percent of males (a statistically significant finding). For *local crime* these figures were 21 percent and 19 percent respectively.



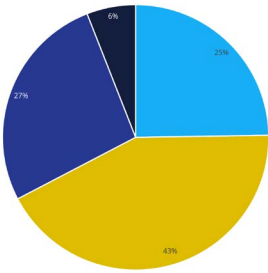
**Perceptions of the seriousness of the national crime problem increased with age, while variances across the ages in terms of local crime were not pronounced.** Those aged 65 years or older were more likely to consider *national crime* a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem (85%), compared to other age groups (and 13% greater than the national figure). Those aged 18-24 years and 25-34 years (62% respectively) were the least likely to hold this view (10% lower than the national figure). Similarly, those aged 18-24 years were more likely to consider *local crime* as 'not a problem,' compared to other age groups, while those in the age bracket 45-54 years were more likely to consider it 'something of a problem.'



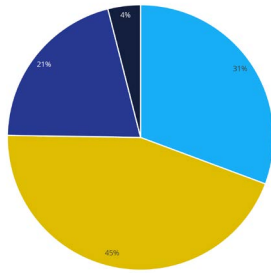
**Non-Irish nationals were far less likely to consider national and local crime as a problem, than Irish nationals.** Forty-nine percent of non-Irish nationals considered *national crime* as a 'very serious' or 'serious' problem, compared to 75 percent of Irish nationals (this was 23% lower than the national figure of 72%). Equally, in terms of *local crime*, 57 percent of non-Irish nationals considered it 'not a problem,' compared to 42 percent of Irish nationals - both statistically significant findings.

## SEX

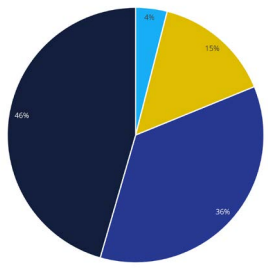
Perceptions of National Crime - Males



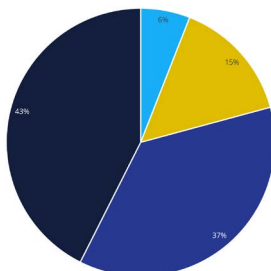
Perceptions of National Crime - Females



Perceptions of Local Crime - Males

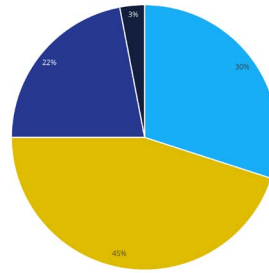


Perceptions of Local Crime - Females

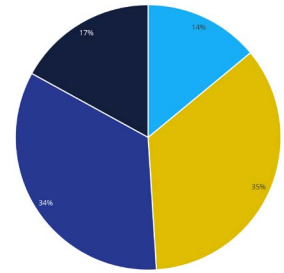


## NATIONALITY

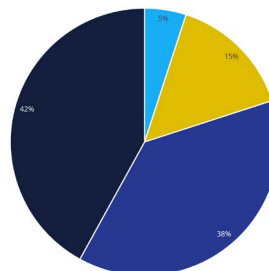
Perceptions of National Crime - Irish



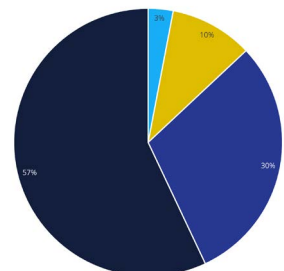
Perceptions of National Crime - Non-Irish



Perceptions of Local Crime - Irish

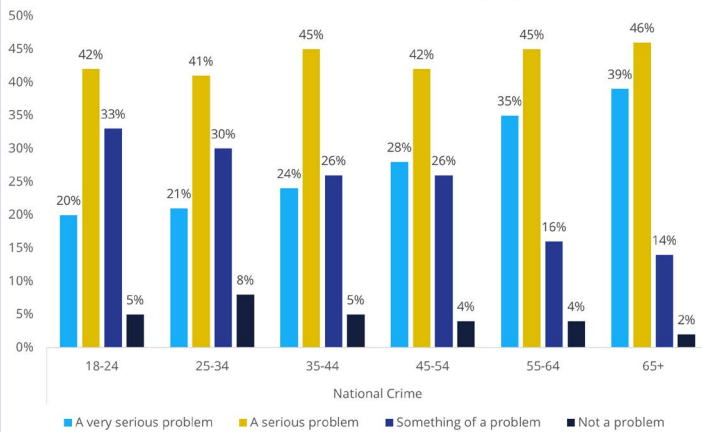


Perceptions of Local Crime - Non-Irish

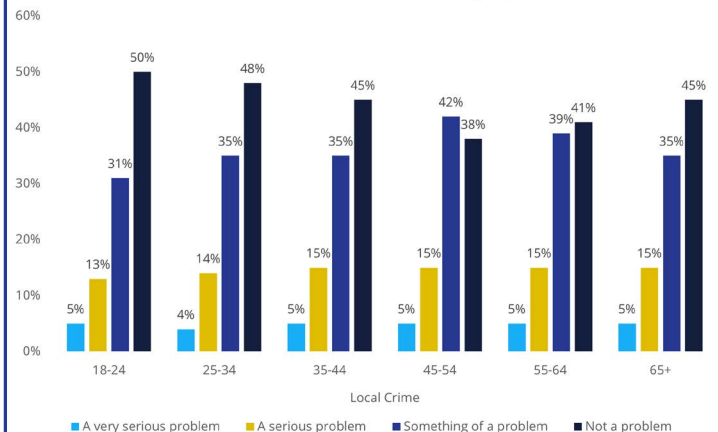


## AGE

Perceptions of National Crime by Age



Perceptions of Local Crime by Age



## 5.2 Policing Priorities<sup>11</sup>

**Across all demographics, respondents generally ranked sexual offences, domestic abuse, human trafficking and assaults as the highest priorities for An Garda Síochána, with sexual offences ranked number one across all groups (sex, age and nationality).**

Those aged 18-24 years also ranked domestic abuse as their top priority, with human trafficking being ranked number 2 by those aged 55-64 years. Traffic offences, public order and road safety (and fraud for those aged 35-44 years), received the lowest priority across the categories.

### Policing Priorities - Sex/Age/Nationality

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Human Trafficking</b>	4	3	4	3	4	3	2	3	3	4
<b>Assaults</b>	3	3	3	4	3	3	5	3	3	3
<b>Illegal Weapons</b>	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	6
<b>Burglaries</b>	6	9	6	6	6	6	8	7	6	5
<b>Drug Offences</b>	7	7	8	7	7	8	7	8	7	9
<b>Robberies</b>	8	6	9	9	9	6	4	6	7	7
<b>Hate Crime</b>	8	7	7	7	7	9	9	10	9	7
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	10	11
<b>Fraud</b>	11	11	11	11	12	11	11	11	11	10
<b>Road Safety</b>	12	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	12	12
<b>Public Order Offences</b>	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
<b>Traffic Offences</b>	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14

<sup>11</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



**Females were more likely to have a fear of crime than males.** When 'a lot of fears' and 'some' fears were combined, 52 percent of females reported fear, compared to 42 percent of males (a statistically significant finding). Similarly, a greater proportion of males (61%) reported that fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life, than females (53%) (4 percentage points lower than the national figure of 57%).



**Respondents aged 55 years and older had the greatest fear of crime** (54% or more reported having 'a lot' or 'some' fears). Those aged 18-24 years (39%) held the least fears. Generally, those in younger age brackets reported the least impact of fear of crime on their quality of life, with 18-34 year olds the most likely to hold this view (between 60% and 63%).



**Non-Irish nationals reported lower levels of fear of crime than Irish nationals.** However, in terms of fear of crime having an impact on quality of life, the differences between Irish and non-Irish nationals was not notable.

### Sex/Age/Nationality - Fear of Crime

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Have a lot of fears	8%	13%	7%	7%	8%	13%	13%	14%	11%	6%
Have some fears	34%	39%	32%	34%	36%	37%	42%	40%	38%	33%
Have very few fears	27%	25%	30%	29%	26%	26%	24%	22%	26%	28%
Have no fears	31%	23%	32%	31%	30%	24%	22%	24%	26%	34%

### Sex/Age/Nationality - Impact of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Greatly reduced quality	2%	3%	—	—	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	—
Significantly reduced quality	4%	7%	6%	4%	5%	5%	6%	7%	5%	5%
Moderately reduced quality	13%	16%	12%	12%	13%	17%	16%	17%	14%	15%
Reduced quality a little	20%	21%	22%	20%	22%	21%	20%	19%	21%	21%
No effect on quality	61%	53%	60%	63%	59%	54%	56%	54%	57%	58%

## 5.4 Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities



**There were no notable differences in satisfaction levels with Garda service to local communities between males and females** (when 'very satisfied' and 'satisfied' were combined, the figures were the same at 73%, and in line with the national figure).



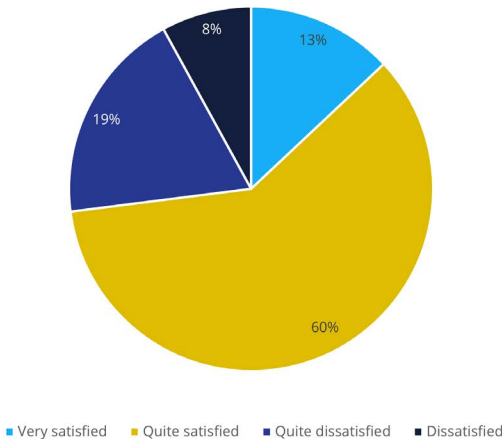
**Continuing to examine this combination for age, those aged 18-34 years, reported the greatest satisfaction levels (77%).** The remaining age groups held similar views.



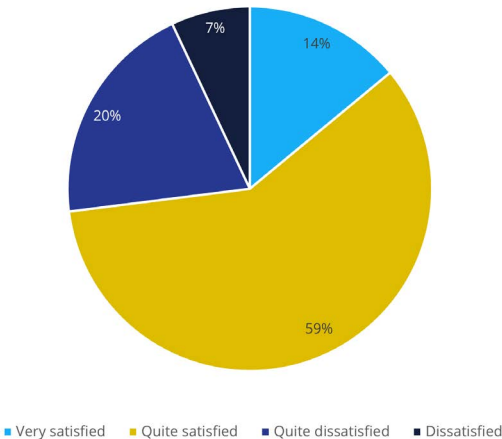
**Satisfaction was highest among non-Irish nationals, compared to Irish nationals** (84% and 72% respectively). Findings related to age and nationality were statistically significant.

### SEX

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána - Males

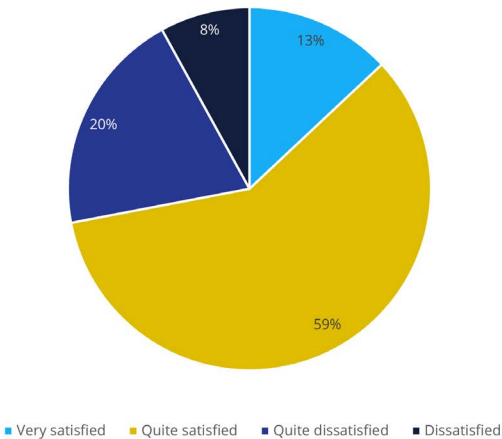


Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána - Females

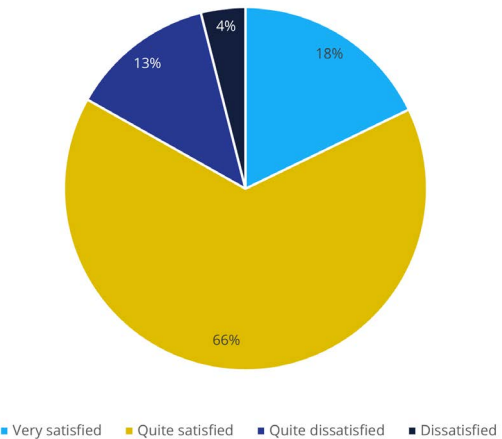


### NATIONALITY

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána - Irish

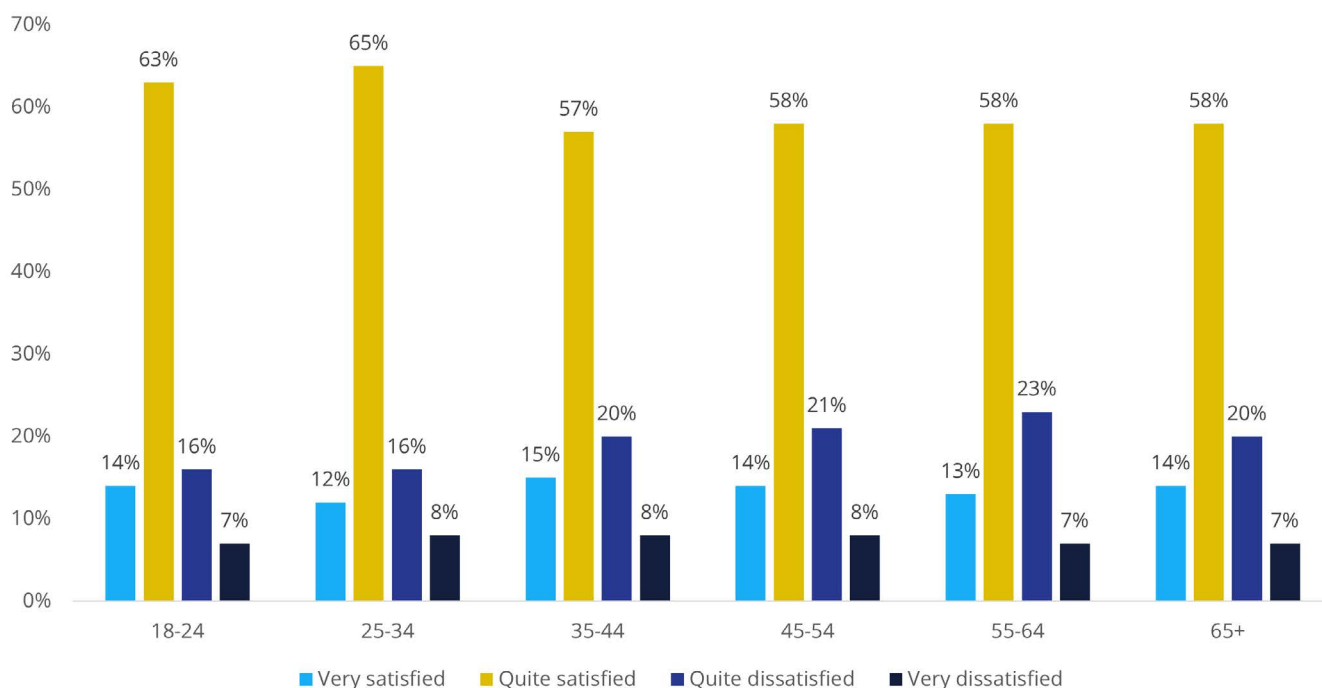


Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána - Non-Irish



## AGE

Satisfaction with An Garda Síochána by Age



## 5.5 Trust in An Garda Síochána



**Females were more likely to have trust in the Gardaí than males** (90% and 88% respectively when mid to high trust were combined) (the national figure was 89%).



**Levels of 'high trust' increased with age.** Those aged 65 years and older reported the greatest levels of 'high trust' (58%), compared to 18-24 year olds (30%). Those aged 35-44 years reported the highest levels of 'low trust' (all findings were statistically significant).

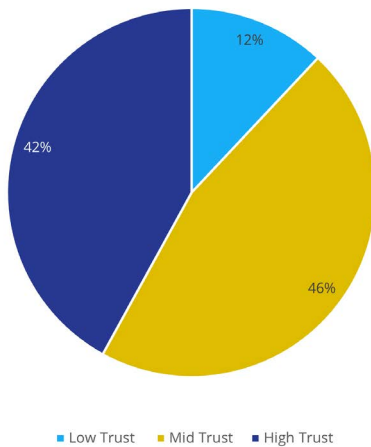


**Trust levels between Irish and non-Irish nationals did not differ notably, and were generally in line with the national figure.**

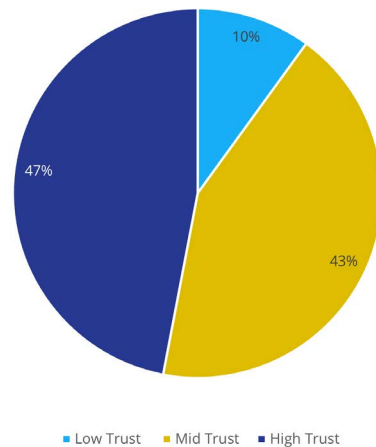


## SEX

Trust in An Garda Síochána - Males

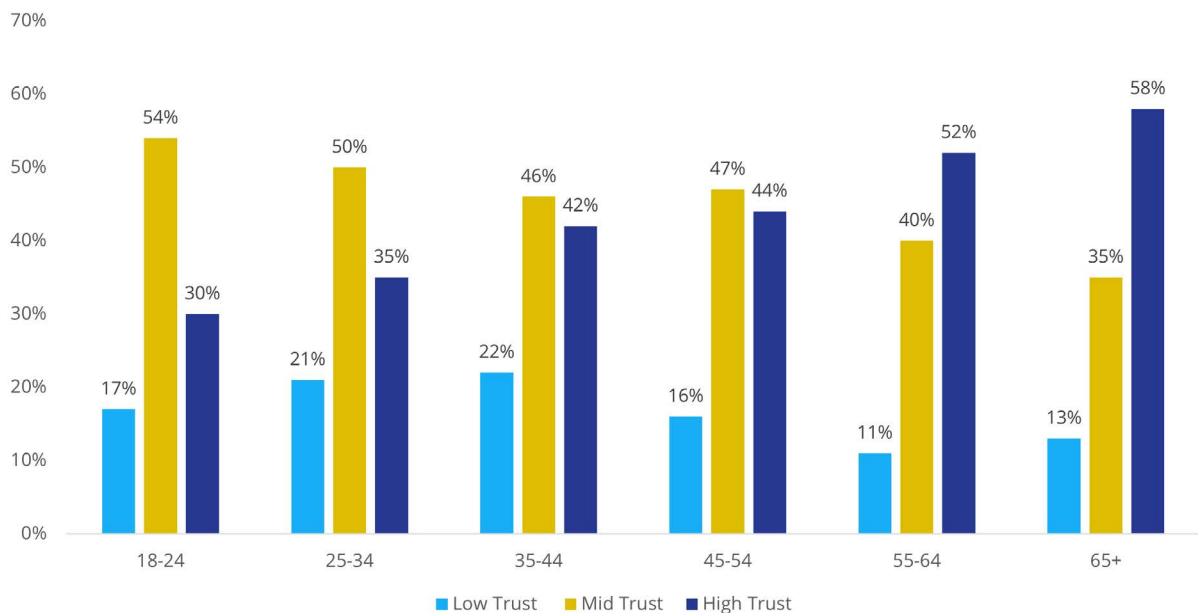


Trust in An Garda Síochána - Females



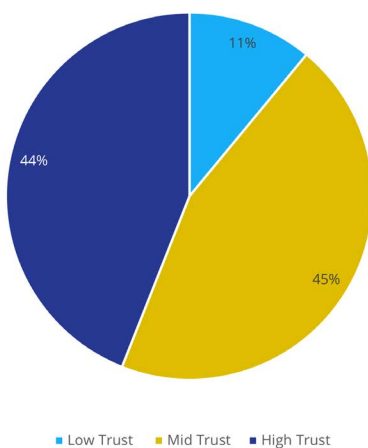
## AGE

Trust in An Garda Síochána by Age

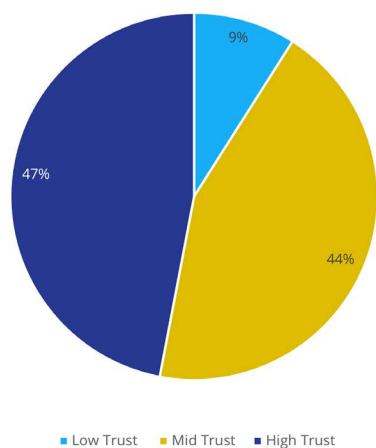


## NATIONALITY

Trust in An Garda Síochána - Irish



Trust in An Garda Síochána - Non-Irish



## 5.6 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána



**Differences in perceptions of An Garda Síochána between males and females were not notable.** Views were positive in all areas, although agreement levels that An Garda Síochána is well-managed, modern and progressive and effective in tackling crime were the lowest for both males and females, when compared to other statements.



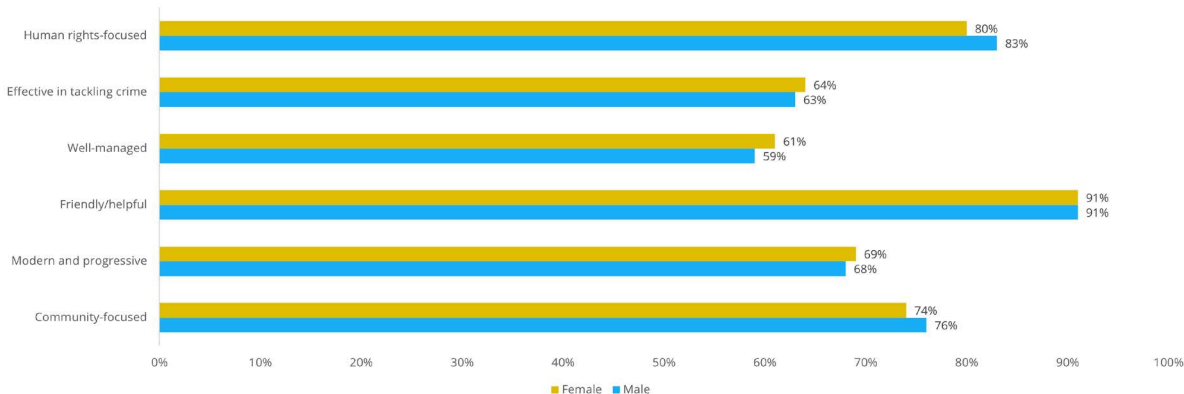
**Respondents aged 65 years and older held the most positive views of An Garda Síochána. For example, 87 percent of this cohort considered Gardaí to be human-rights-focused, compared to 77 percent of 18-24 year olds.** Those aged 35-64 years were least likely to agree that An Garda Síochána is well-managed, with levels between 53 and 56 percent.



**Non-Irish nationals held more positive views than Irish nationals in all areas (a statistically significant finding).** A very evident example of this related to views that An Garda Síochána is well-managed, with 76 percent of non-Irish nationals holding this view, compared to 58 percent of Irish nationals.

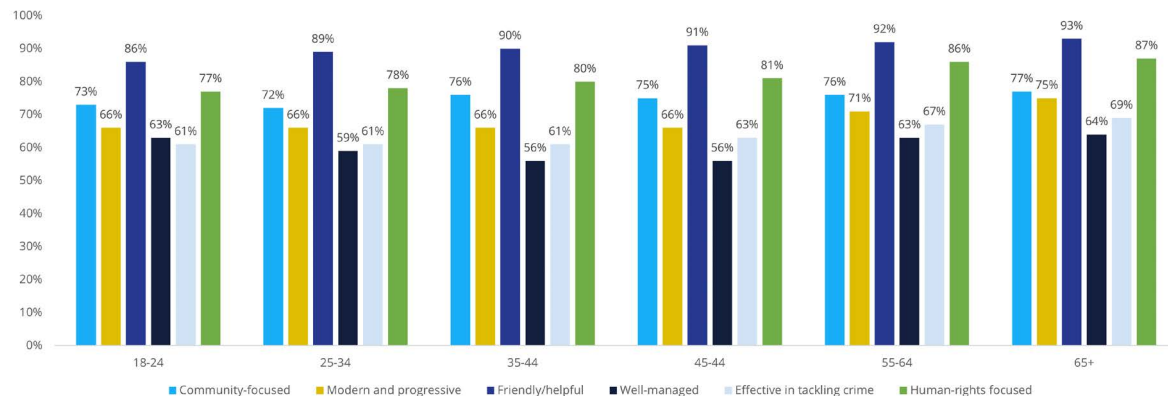
### SEX

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána by Sex



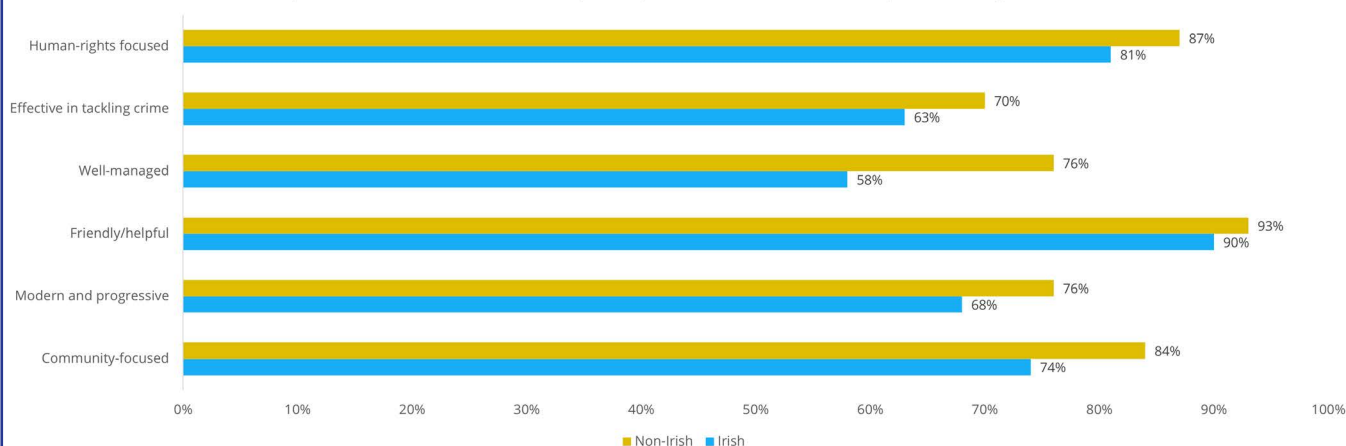
### AGE

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána by Age



## NATIONALITY

Perceptions of effectiveness and capability of An Garda Síochána by Nationality



## 5.7 An Garda Síochána Representative of Diverse Communities?



**Males (58%)** were slightly more likely to agree that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves, when compared to females (53%)



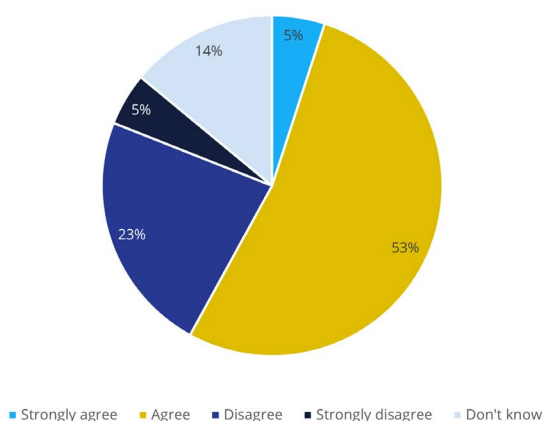
**Generally, as age increased, agreement levels also increased.** Those aged 65 years and older were the most likely to hold this view (61%).



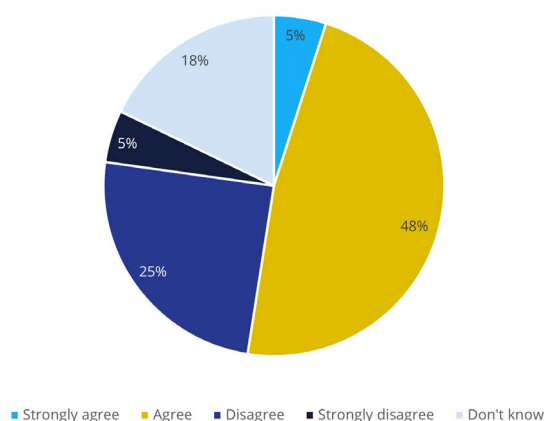
**Non-Irish nationals (60%)** were more likely to believe An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities, than Irish national (55%). All findings were statistically significant.

## SEX

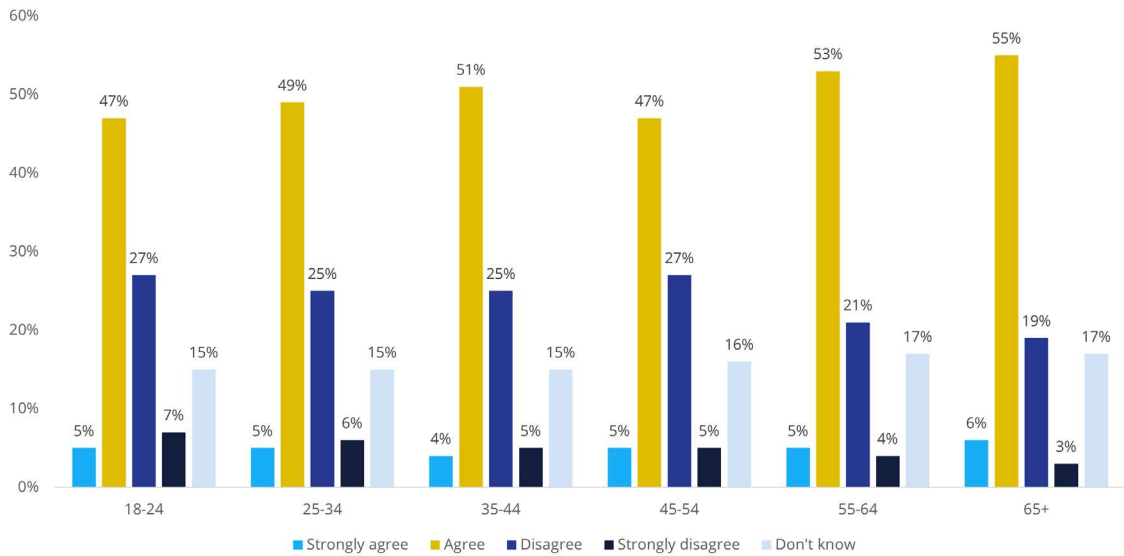
An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Males



An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Females

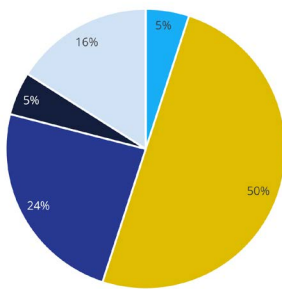


## AGE



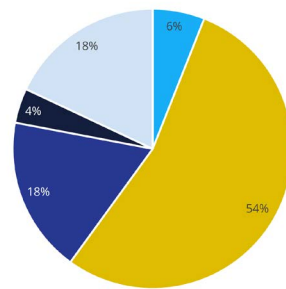
## NATIONALITY

An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Irish



Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities - Non-Irish



Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know



## 5.8 Awareness of Garda Presence

**Younger respondents reported the most awareness of Garda presence in their local areas (particularly 18-24 year olds, at 55%). Non-Irish nationals (49%) were more likely than Irish nationals (43%) to hold this view (both statistically significant findings, and significantly greater than the total sample at 35%).**

Males (45%) were 2 percent more likely to be aware of Garda presence, than females (43% - both figures greater than the national figure of 41%). Respondents aged 55 years and older reported the lowest awareness levels (between 36% and 39%).

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Awareness of Garda patrols in local area by demographics										
Aware of Garda patrols	45%	43%	55%*	49%*	45%	45%	39%*	36%*	43%*	49%*
Not aware of Garda patrols	55%	57%	45%*	51%*	55%	55%	61%*	64%*	57%*	51%*

## 5.9 Perceptions of Garda Presence

**As in 2022, females, older respondents and Irish nationals were more likely to consider that there is 'not enough' Garda presence in local areas.**

Females (60%) were 5 percent more likely to feel Garda presence is 'not enough,' than males (55%), (63% for the total sample). Sixty percent

or more of those aged 45 years and older held this view, while 18-24 year olds (57%) were more likely to consider Garda presence as 'about right,' compared to other age groups. Fifty-nine percent of Irish nationals viewed Garda presence in local communities as 'not enough,' compared to 47 percent of non-Irish nationals. All findings were statistically significant.

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
Perceptions of Garda presence in local area by demographics										
Not enough	55%*	60%*	40%*	47%*	57%	61%*	64%*	66%*	59%*	47%*
About right	45%*	39%*	57%*	51%*	42%	38%*	36%*	34%*	40%*	52%*
Too much	1%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	-

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

**The vast majority of respondents across all demographic groups agreed that Gardaí would treat you with respect should you have contact with them for any reason.**

Those aged 18-34 years old had the lowest agreement levels, although still 88 percent or above. There were no notable differences between males and females (91% and 92% respectively). Similarly, Irish and non-Irish nationals held similar views (92% and 93% respectively).

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí would treat you with respect</b>										
Strongly agree	26%*	28%*	21%*	22%*	27%	27%	29%	35%*	27%	27%
Agree	65%	64%	67%	68%*	64%	66%	66%	60%*	65%	66%
Disagree	7%*	6%*	8%	8%*	8%*	6%	4%*	4%*	6%	6%
Strongly disagree	2%	2%	5%	—	—	—	—	—	2%	—

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

**Women (75%) were slightly less likely to agree that Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are, compared to males (79%). Non-Irish nationals (80%) held more favourable views in this regard, than Irish nationals (76%). Older age groups expressed the highest agreement levels.**

Differences across age cohorts with agreement levels were notable, and of statistical significance. For example, 87 percent of those aged 65 years and older agreed with the statement, compared to 66 percent of those aged 18-24 years. The national figure was 77 percent.

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly</b>										
Strongly agree	16%	15%	11%*	12%*	16%	16%	15%	21%*	15%	17%
Agree	63%	60%	56%*	61%	59%	60%	65%*	66%*	61%	63%
Disagree	16%*	19%*	22%*	20%*	18%	20%*	16%	11%*	18%	16%
Strongly disagree	6%	6%	11%*	6%	7%*	5%*	5%	3%*	6%*	4%*

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

**Non-Irish nationals (78%) were 10 percent more likely to agree that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed, compared to Irish nationals (68%).**

Males (69%) and females (71%) expressed similar views, while respondents aged 65 years and older were more likely to agree with this statement (74%), compared to other age groups. Findings related to nationality and age were statistically significant.

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí in my area can be relied on</b>										
Strongly agree	11%	12%	11%	9%*	11%	12%	8%*	15%*	11%*	13%*
Agree	58%	59%	59%	62%*	55%*	56%*	60%	59%	57%*	65%*
Disagree	25%	23%	22%	23%	26%*	26%	25%	21%*	25%*	18%*
Strongly disagree	6%	7%	8%	6%	7%	7%	7%	5%*	7%*	4%*

## 5.13 Community Relations with the Gardaí

**In terms of disagreement levels with the statement that 'community relations with the Gardaí are poor,' females, older age groups, and non-Irish nationals held higher levels - i.e. their views were more positive.**

Fifty-eight percent of females disagreed that 'community relations with the Gardaí are poor', compared to 58% of males. Across age groups, disagreement levels ranged between 58 percent (18-24 year olds), and 62 percent (45 years and older). Non-Irish nationals held more favourable views (65% disagreed), compared to Irish nationals (60%). All findings were statistically significant.

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>Community relations with the Gardaí are poor</b>										
Strongly agree	6%	8%	8%	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%	7%	5%
Agree	33%*	35%*	34%	35%	35%	31%	32%	33%	34%	30%
Disagree	44%*	41%*	41%	44%	43%	44%	44%	41%	42%*	47%*
Strongly disagree	18%	17%	17%	15%	16%	18%	18%	21%*	18%	18%



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

**Views that Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people were positive across all demographic groups, with non-Irish nationals and those aged 65 years and older holding the most favourable views across the age categories (80% agreed).**

Differences in agreement levels between males and females were not notable. Non-Irish nationals were more likely to agree at 81 percent (76% for Irish nationals), while those aged 18-24 years had the lowest agreement levels, at 74 percent compared to the other age groups. Findings related to age were statistically significant.

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns</b>										
Strongly agree	9%	9%	6%*	8%	9%	11%*	8%	11%*	9%	10%
Agree	67%	68%	68%	66%	67%	66%	69%	69%	67%*	71%*
Disagree	19%	19%	22%	21%*	20%	18%	19%	16%*	19%*	15%*
Strongly disagree	5%	5%	6%	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%	5%	—

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

**Continuing the trends seen in other measures, older respondents and non-Irish nationals, were more likely to agree that Gardaí address things that matter to the local community.**

Males and females held similar views (72% agreement for both). Agreement levels for non-Irish nationals stood at 79 percent, while for Irish nationals this was 72 percent. Respondents aged 18-24 years held the least favourable views, at 67 percent agreement (these findings were statistically significant).

	Sex		Age						Nationality	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-44	55-64	65+	Irish	Non-Irish
<b>The Gardaí in my area address things that matter</b>										
Strongly agree	9%	8%	7%	7%*	8%	10%*	7%	12%*	9%	9%
Agree	63%	64%	60%*	65%	63%	61%*	68%*	65%	63%*	70%*
Disagree	22%	23%	28%*	23%	23%	24%	20%*	19%*	23%*	19%*
Strongly disagree	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%	5%	6%	4%*	6%*	



# CHAPTER SIX

## VICTIMS OF CRIME



**In the 2023 survey, the  
victimisation rate stood at**

**5.9%**

**Satisfaction among victims with how  
Gardaí handled their case stood at**

**53%**

**The victim  
reporting rate was**

**75%**

**47%**  
**felt information received  
was 'about right'**

One of the most important elements of the Garda Public Attitudes Survey is to examine the views of victims of crime who have used the services of An Garda Síochána. This chapter examines the themes of the report through the lens of respondents who have been victims of crime. How does victimisation impact on perceptions of crime, fear of crime, trust in Gardaí and views of the Garda organisation? How satisfied were victims with the service they received from Gardaí? How does victimisation impact on views of expected treatment by Gardaí and views on Garda-community relations?

## So what does the survey tell us?

Victimisation negatively impacts on perceptions across all areas - the seriousness of the national and local crime problem, fear of crime levels and impact of fear of crime on quality of life. When victims of crime were *dissatisfied* with the service they received from An Garda Síochána, this too impacted negatively on trust in Gardaí, on perceptions of the organisation, expected treatment by Gardaí, Garda-community relations and service delivery in general. Drivers of victim dissatisfaction with Garda service in 2023 were poor response times, lack of charges being preferred against offenders, or property not recovered. However, a little over half of victims expressed *satisfaction* with Garda service. Contributing to this were the friendliness and helpfulness of Gardaí and follow-up contact, along with being able to contact the investigating Garda when needed.

## 6.1 Victimisation in Ireland

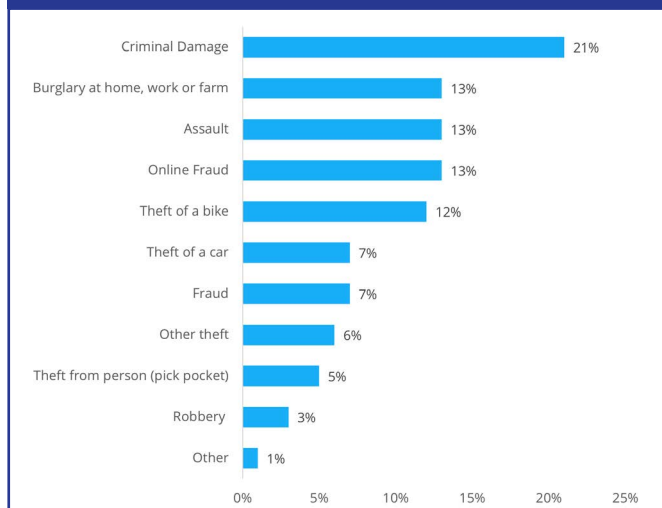
In order to measure the victimisation rate in any given year, the survey gathers data on the percentage of adults, aged 18 years and older, who were victims of at least one crime in the 12 months preceding the survey (regardless of whether they reported the crime to the Gardaí or not). In 2023, the victimisation rate was 5.9 percent (456 victims of crime, out of 7,682 respondents) - slightly higher than in 2022 (5.4%) and lower than in 2021 (6.5%) (see figure 47)<sup>12</sup>. The most common crimes experienced by victims were criminal damage (21%), burglary, assault and online fraud (13% respectively) (see figure 48).

**Figure 47: Victimisation Rate 2019-2023  
(excluding 2020)**



**\*2020 missing due to Covid-19**

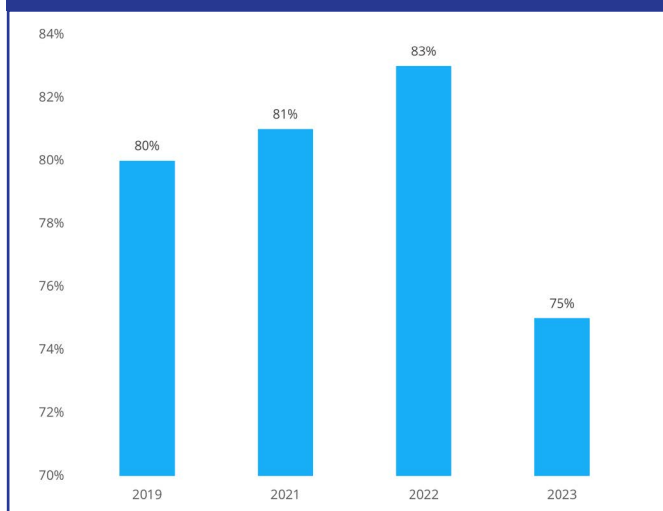
**Figure 48: Most Recent Crime Experienced in the last 12 Months**



### 6.1.1 Reporting victimisation to the Gardaí

Seventy-five percent of respondents who were victims of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey reported their most recent crime to the Gardaí (the lowest reporting rate in recent years) (see figure 49). Reasons stated for *not* reporting their crime were; the respondent 'dealt with it myself' (30%), 'reported it to another authority' (25%), felt Gardaí 'could not do anything about it' (23%), or 'would not do anything about it' (21%). (see table 12). 'Other reasons' (18%) included not wanting to be labelled a 'rat' or were too busy to report the incident.

**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**

	%
Dealt with it myself	30%
Reported it to another authority	25%
Felt Gardaí could not do anything about it	23%
Felt Gardaí would not do anything about it	21%
Incident not serious enough	18%
Did not want to involve Gardaí	9%
Fear of reprisal from perpetrators	9%
No need to make insurance claim	4%
Other reason	18%

### 6.2 Garda service to victims of crime

In order to assess perceptions of Garda service to victims of crime, the survey utilises a number of measures; speed of Garda response, information provision to victims at the time of reporting and in follow-up, satisfaction with Garda service and reasons for both satisfaction and dissatisfaction with this service (two new questions added to the 2023 survey).

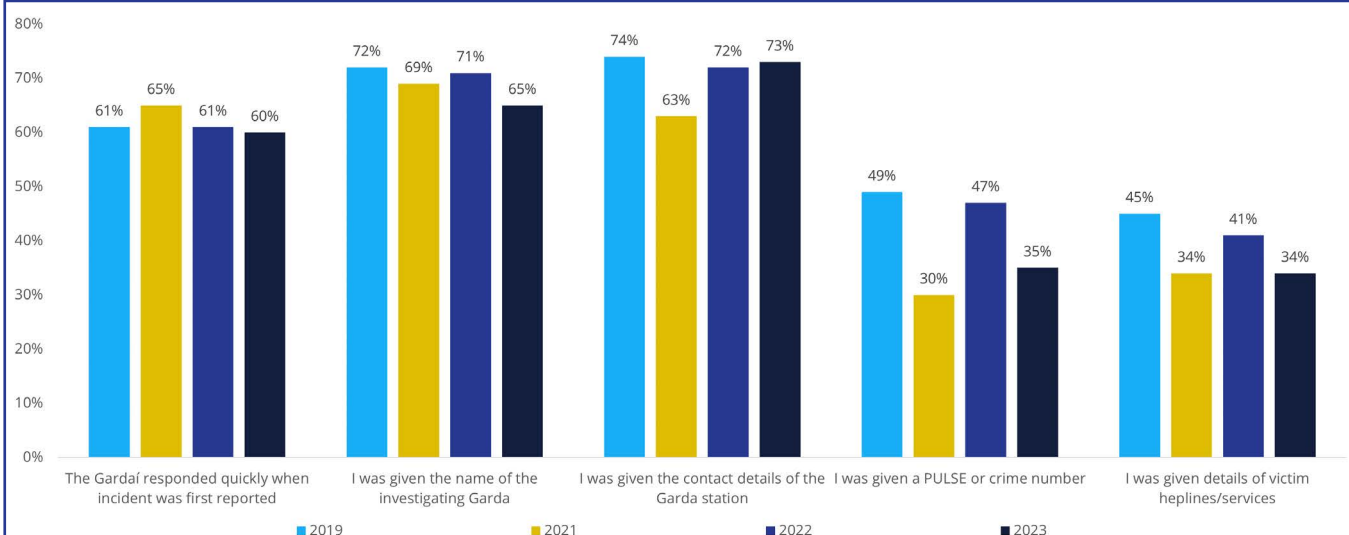
Following improvements in some aspects of Garda service in 2022 from 2021 (i.e. provision of contact details of the Garda station, the incident Pulse number and details of victims' helplines<sup>13</sup> there has been some disimprovement in 2023:

- 65% reported that they received the name of the investigating Garda (71% in 2022).
- 35% reported that they were given the Pulse incident number (47% in 2022).
- 34% reported being given details of victims' helplines/services (41% in 2022).

There have been no other notable changes in the remaining elements of service as outlined in figure 50 (i.e. response times (60%) and being given contact details of the relevant Garda station (73%)).

13 As in 2022, 2023 figures include answers with 'not applicable.'

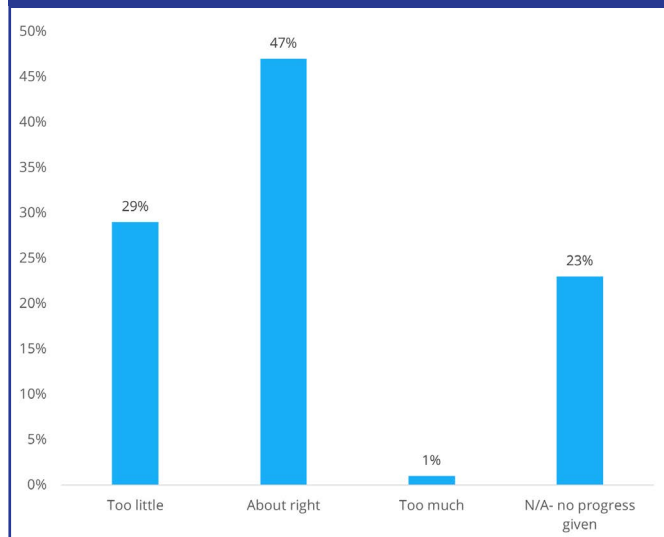
**Figure 50: Garda Service to Victims of Crime 2019-2023 (excluding 2020).**



A question added in 2021 relates to Garda contact after the incident. In 2023, 57 percent of respondents were contacted by phone or in person following the incident (of the 361 victims who answered this question) – showing decreases since 2021 (66%), and 2022 (65%).

The 2023 survey shows improvements in terms of information provision *following* the crime. Forty-seven percent felt this was ‘about right’ (4 percentage points greater than in 2022). Twenty-nine percent felt it was ‘too little’ (30% in 2022), while 23 percent reported receiving no update on their investigation (26% in 2022) (see figure 51).

**Figure 51: Information Provision to Victims to Crime**



A further new question added for the first time in 2023 asked respondents their preferred method of follow-up communication by the Gardaí. ‘Phone call’ was cited by 50 percent of respondents, with 32 percent stating they would like ‘in-person communication’ (7% stated a letter, while 5% cited email, with only 1% choosing the Victim Confidential Online Platform).

### 6.2.1 Satisfaction with Garda service among victims of crime and Contributory Factors

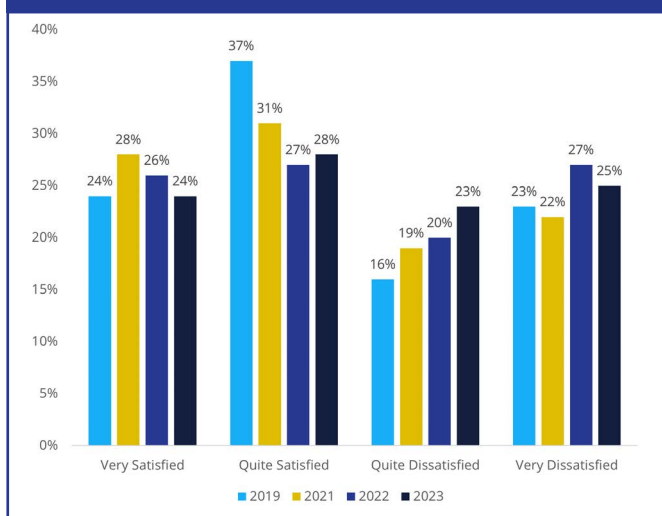
There have been no notable changes in terms of satisfaction among victims with the service they received from Gardaí - as in 2022, 53 percent were either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied.’ Dissatisfaction stood at 48 percent (47% in 2022) (see figure 52).

As outlined in table 13<sup>14</sup>, the main factors that contributed to satisfaction with Garda service were the friendliness and helpfulness of the Gardaí (43%), follow-up contact by Gardaí and availability of the investigating Garda (72% combined). ‘Other reasons’ included Gardaí were knowledgeable and thorough in their approach. Factors such as property being recovered or the offender’s arrest or appearance in court also feature in ‘other reasons’ but not highly

14 This question was a ‘tick all that apply.’ Therefore, figures do not round to 100.

.Dissatisfaction with Garda service, however, was driven by these to a larger extent (no arrest, property not recovered and the offender not being charged were cited by 89% of respondents combined). Poor response times also featured highly with 35 percent of respondents citing this (table 14). 'Other reasons' included ringing the station and no one ringing back, not being able to contact the investigating Garda, and feeling the incident was not fully investigated.

**Figure 52: Satisfaction among Victims of Crime 2019-2023 (excluding 2020)**



**Table 13: Contributory Factors - Satisfaction**

What contributed to your satisfaction	%
Gardaí were friendly and helpful	43%
Was contacted by Gardaí after the incident	42%
Investigating Garda available when needed	30%
Swift response from Gardaí once reported	29%
Was given updates on the investigation	23%
Other	22%

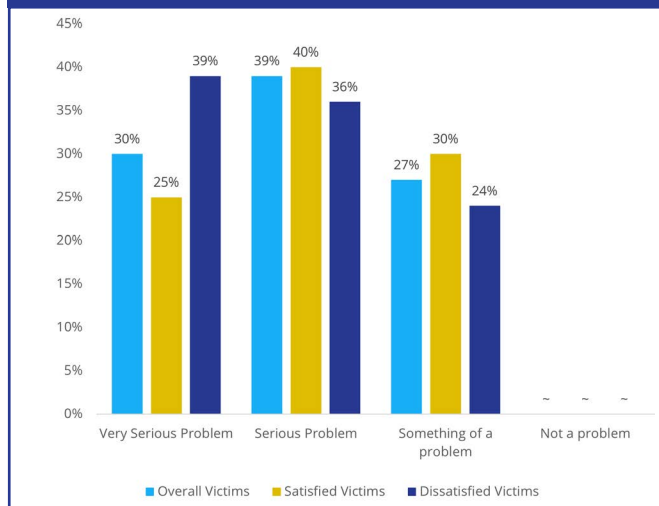
**Table 14: Contributory Factors - Dissatisfaction**

What contributed to your dissatisfaction	%
Poor response time	36%
Gardaí did not arrest offender	33%
Didn't recover my property	30%
Offender was not charged	26%
Was not treated well by Gardaí	23%
Information on case not adequate	23%
Other	38%

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

The following sections examine in more detail the impact of victimisation on perceptions. Figure 53 illustrates that, overall, victimisation contributes to more negative views of the seriousness of the national crime problem (victims of crime were more likely to view national crime as 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem combined (69%). Furthermore, victims who were *dissatisfied* with Garda service were more likely to hold this view (75% of dissatisfied victims viewed national crime as either 'a very serious' or 'serious' problem).

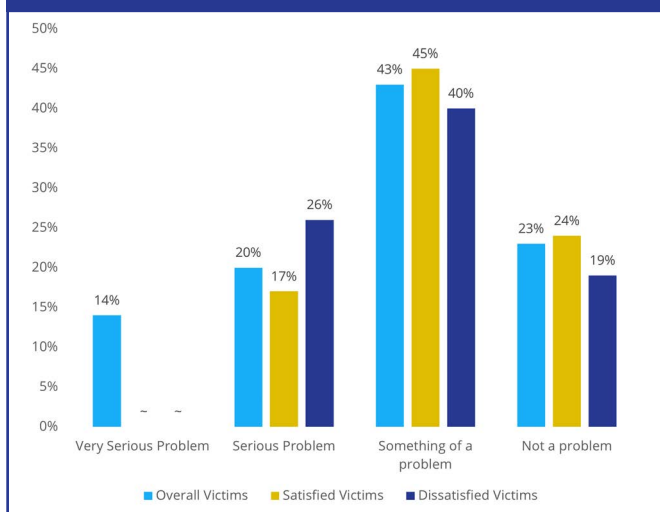
**Figure 53: Perceptions of National Crime by Victim Satisfaction**



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The impact of victimisation on perceptions of *local* crime was less pronounced. Victims of crime who were satisfied with the Garda service they received were less likely to view local crime as a 'serious' problem, than those who were dissatisfied (17% versus 26%). However, satisfied victims (45%) were more likely to view local crime as 'something of a problem,' than dissatisfied victims (40%) (see figure 54).

**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?

In line with the overall sample, crime priorities for victims of crime were 'sexual offences,' 'domestic abuse,' 'human trafficking' and assaults (along with illegal weapons), with non-victims holding similar views (see table 15).

**Table 15: Policing Priorities by Victimisation**

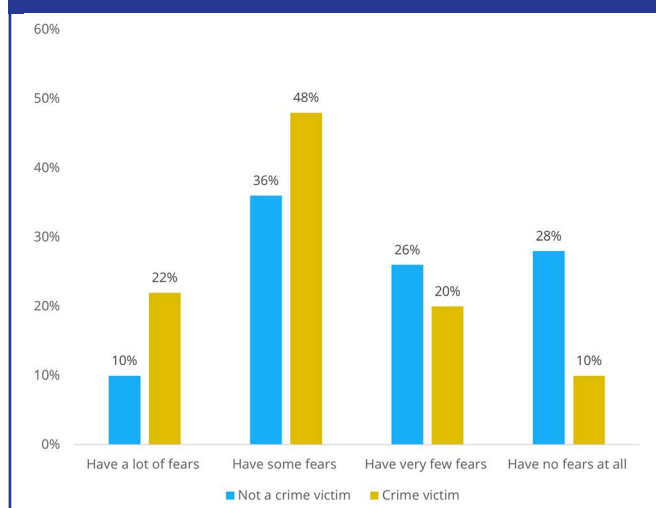
Policing Priorities	Not a crime victim	Crime victim
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	92%	89%
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	90%	88%
<b>Assaults</b>	86%	86%
<b>Human Trafficking</b>	86%	87%
<b>Illegal Weapons</b>	82%	81%
<b>Robberies</b>	76%	75%

<b>Burglaries</b>	75%	74%
<b>Drug Offences</b>	76%	69%
<b>Hate Crime</b>	75%	75%
<b>Fraud</b>	69%	64%
<b>Criminal Damage</b>	65%	61%
<b>Road Safety</b>	63%	56%
<b>Public Order Offences</b>	54%	52%
<b>Traffic Offences</b>	38%	31%

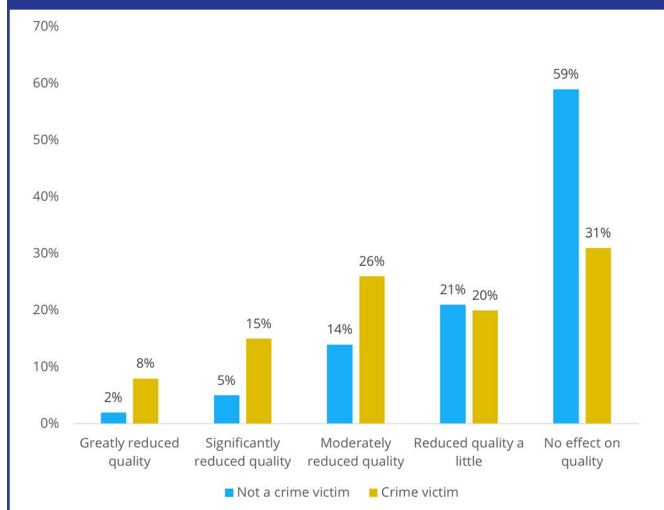
## 6.5 Does victimisation impact fear of crime levels?

As seen in previous surveys, being the victim of a crime impacted negatively on fear of crime levels. When 'a lot of fears' and 'some fears' were combined, 46 percent of non-victims held these fears, compared to 70 percent of crime victims (see figure 55). Equally, non-victims (59%) were more likely to report that fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life, compared to crime victims (30%). Twenty-three percent of crime victims reported that it 'greatly' or 'significantly' reduced their quality of life (7% for non-victims) (see figure 56).

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



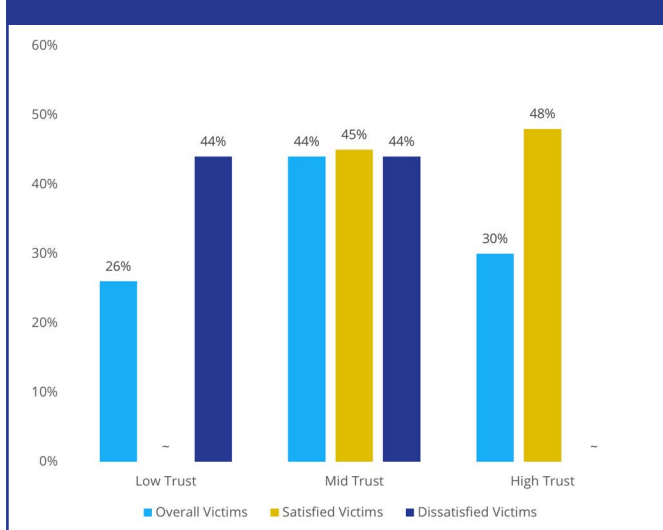
**Figure 56: Victimisation and the Effect of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life**



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

As seen previously, victims who were dissatisfied with the Garda service they received were far more likely to have low trust in the Gardaí (44%), compared to satisfied victims and victims overall (26%). It is important to note, however, that overall 74 percent of victims expressed mid to high trust in the Gardaí (see figure 57).

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

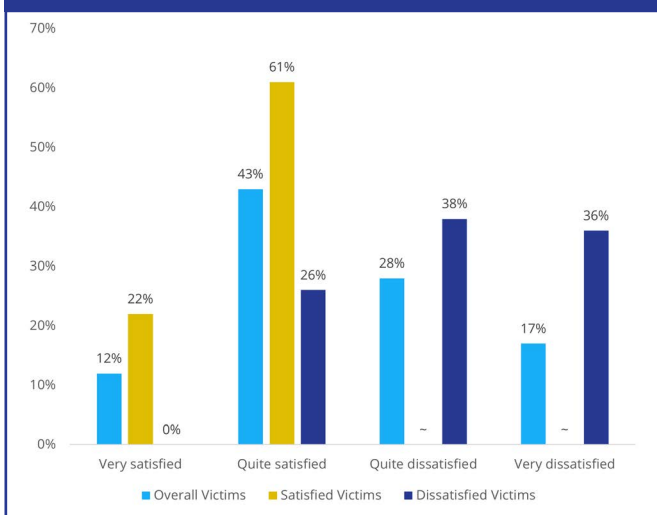


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## 6.7 Does victimisation impact satisfaction with Garda service to the local community?

Seventy-four percent of victims who were dissatisfied with the service they received from Gardaí were dissatisfied *in general* with Garda service to their local communities, compared to 45 percent of victims overall (see figure 58).

**Figure 58: Satisfaction with Service to Local Community by Victim Satisfaction Type**



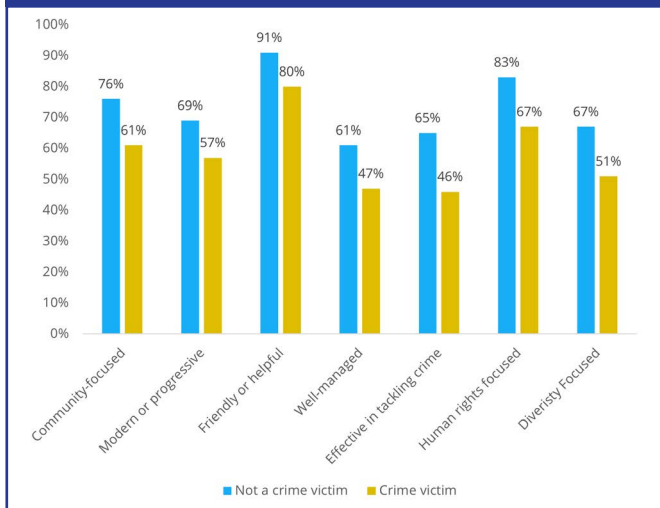
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## 6.8 Does victimisation impact on perceptions of An Garda Síochána?

Victimisation negatively impacted opinions about An Garda Síochána in all areas examined (figure 59). For example, in terms of An Garda Síochána being effective in tackling crime, 65 percent of non-victims agreed, compared to 46 percent of victims of crime. Equally, 61 percent of non-victims believed An Garda Síochána is well-managed, compared to 47 percent of crime victims (see figure 59).



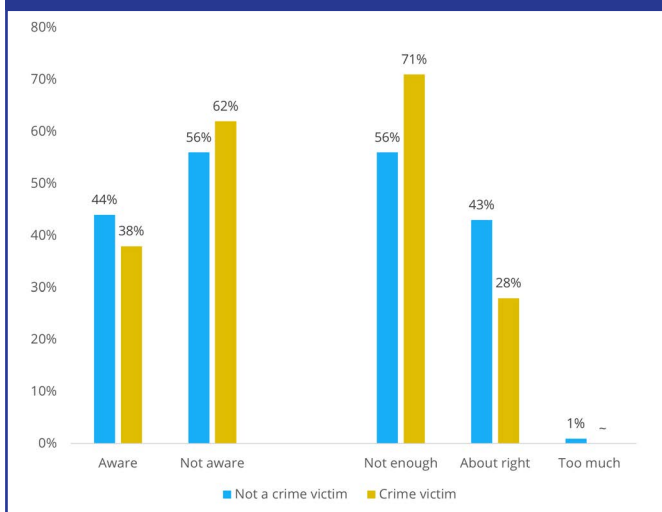
**Figure 59: Victimisation by Perceptions of An Garda Síochána**



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

Victimisation further impacts perceptions of Garda service delivery in terms of awareness of Garda presence and views about the adequacy of Garda presence. Forty-four percent of non-victims reported being aware of Garda presence, compared to 38 percent of victims. Equally, 56 percent of non-victims felt Garda presence is 'not enough' in communities, compared to 71 percent of crime victims (figure 60).

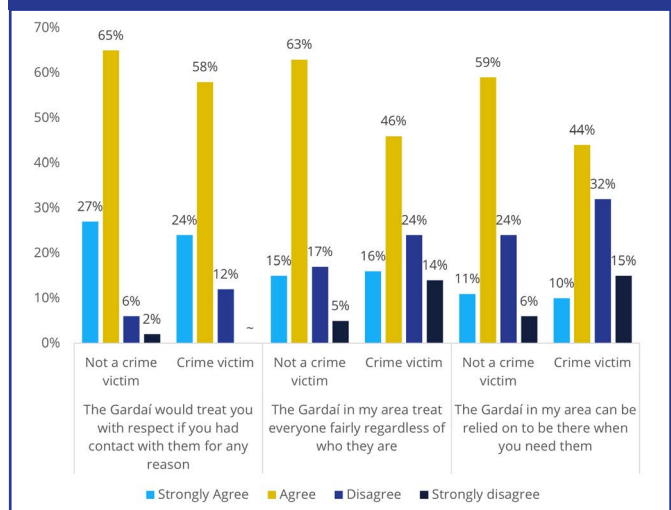
**Figure 60: Victimisation by Awareness of Presence and Perceptions of Garda Presence**



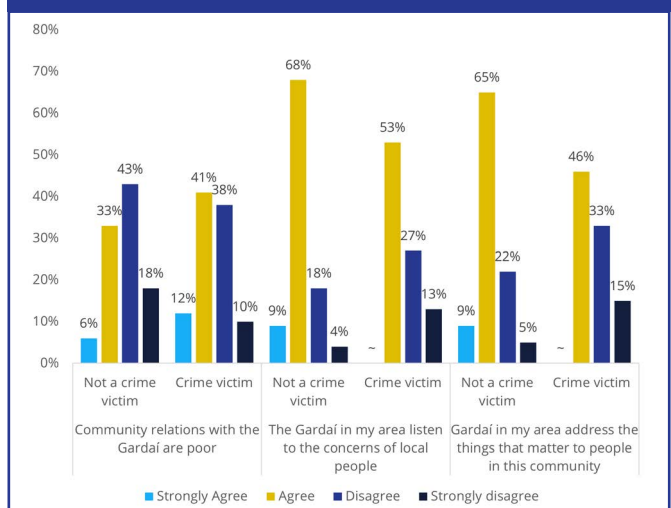
## 6.10 Victimisation and impact on views about equality of treatment by Gardaí

As in previous years, views about the Garda organisation, across all areas examined, were impacted negatively when respondents were victims of crime. For example, when 'strongly agree' and 'agree' were combined, 78 percent of non-victims felt that 'Gardaí treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are,' compared to 62 percent of crime victims. When views about the reliability of Gardaí to be there when needed were examined, 70 percent of non-victims agreed, versus 54 percent of victims of crime (see figures 61 (a and b) for further comparisons).

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



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





# CHAPTER SEVEN

## YOUNG PERSON'S SAMPLE



This final chapter explores the views of a sample of young people (16 and 17-year-olds). The importance of giving a voice to this cohort of Irish society has always been emphasised within the PAS. How do young people view their police service? Do they trust the Gardaí? Do they hold fears of crime and does this impact their lives? Capturing these views may allow us to identify areas where improvements can be made in terms of service delivery in general, and in any interactions between An Garda Síochána and young people - to realise immediate gains and to positively influence the relationship into adulthood.

As mentioned in the introduction chapter, the young person sample is generated in a home where an adult interview has been conducted, a suitably willing young person resides and parental consent is obtained.

Therefore this may affect the random nature of the sample. The resulting sample is unweighted and this should be noted when viewing the findings.

Prior to 2020, during which time there was a break in the Garda Public Attitudes Survey series due to the Covid Pandemic, the young persons' sample size was approximately 600 16 and 17-year-olds. The 2022 survey consisted of a reduced sample size of 389 young people, while in 2023 the views of 835 16 and 17-year-olds were captured - a substantially greater number than pre-2020 figures, and well on the way to achieving the desired sample of 1,000. Despite this, (and keeping in mind the sample is *unweighted*), analysis is conducted to produce high level findings only and should be treated with caution.

## 7.1 Demographics

Males comprised a larger proportion of the young person sample in 2023, than females (54% versus 46%), with 91 percent being Irish. See table 16 for further breakdowns.

**Table 16: Young Persons' Sample Profile 2023**

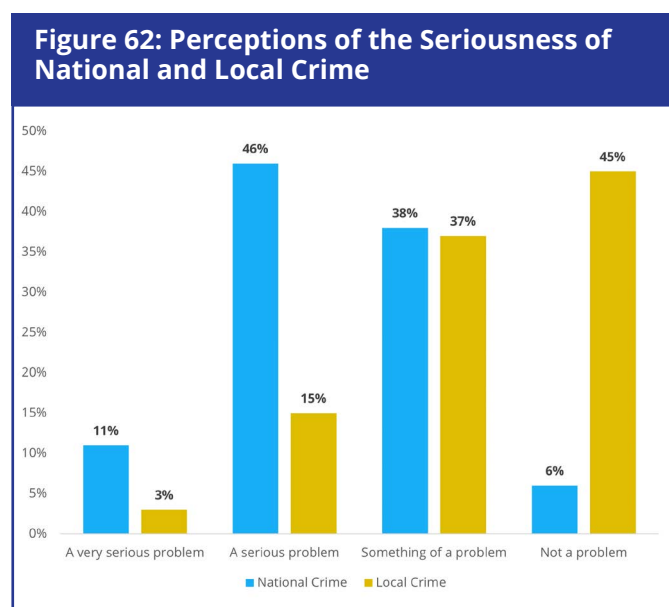
Sex		Social Class		Region	
Male	54%	AB	17%	Dublin	22%
Female	46%	C1	36%	Leinster (excluding Dublin)	28%
		C2	28%	Munster	29%
		DE	16%	Connaught or Ulster	22%
		F	4%		

Area		Nationality		Ethnicity		Religion	
City	19%	Irish	91%	White Irish	88%	Roman Catholic	75%
Other Urban	43%	Polish	2%	Other white	6%	Church of Ireland	2%
Rural	39%	Indian	1%	Chinese and Other Asian	3%	Other Christian	3%
		UK	1%	African and other Black bg,	2%	Islam	1%
		Nigerian	1%	Other	1%	No religion	13%
		Romanian	1%			Refused	3%
		Ukrainian	1%			Other	1%
		Other	3%				

## 7.2 Young Peoples' Perceptions of Crime in Ireland and Policing Priorities

### 7.2.1 Perceptions of Crime

Young people were more likely to consider national crime as a serious problem, than local crime. Fifty-seven percent viewed national crime to be either 'very serious' or 'serious,' compared to 18 percent for local crime. Forty-five percent of young people held the view that local crime was 'not a problem.'



### 7.2.2 Policing Priorities for 16 and 17-year-olds

Sexual offences, domestic abuse, assaults and human trafficking were ranked as the highest priority among young people surveyed. Illegal weapons (70%), drug offences (69%) and hate crime (67%) clustered together, with traffic offences and public order offences received the lowest priority (see table 17).

**Table 17: Policing Priorities for An Garda Síochána 16 and 17-year-olds**

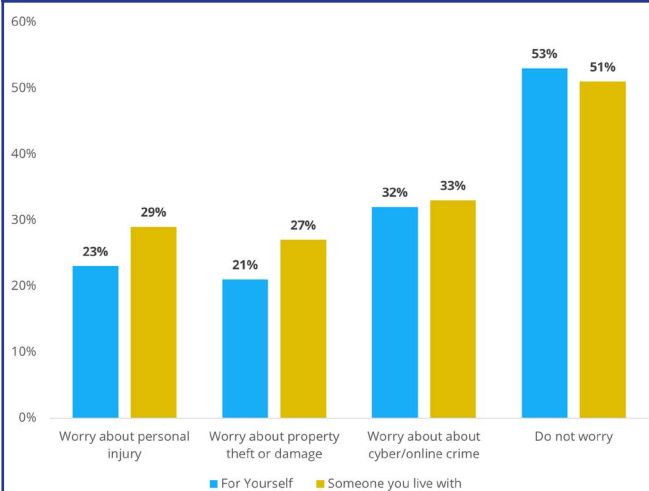
	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Sexual offences	88%	8%	4%
Domestic Abuse	85%	11%	5%
Assaults	80%	14%	6%
Human trafficking	80%	11%	9%
Illegal weapons	70%	18%	11%
Drugs offences	69%	24%	7%
Hate Crime	67%	23%	11%
Burglaries	58%	36%	6%
Robberies	56%	39%	5%
Criminal damage	54%	38%	8%
Road safety	51%	39%	10%
Fraud	48%	39%	13%
Public order offences	36%	47%	18%
Traffic offences	31%	41%	27%

## 7.3 Worry about Victimisation and Fear of Crime

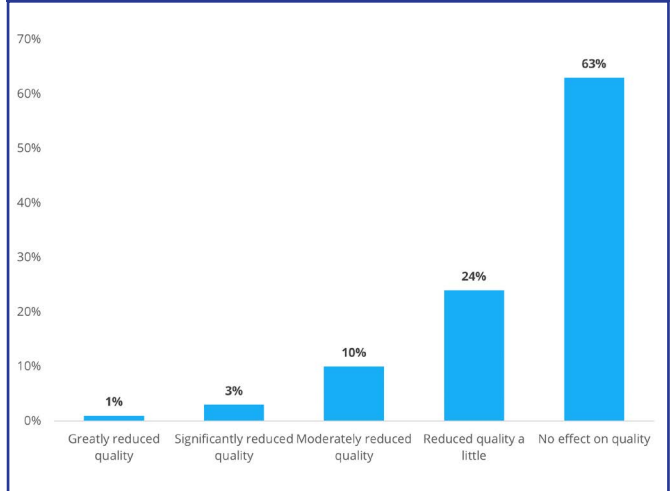
### 7.3.1 Perceived likelihood of victimisation among 16 and 17-year-olds

In terms of respondents themselves worrying about becoming the victim of crime, 53 percent of young people stated that they 'do not worry.' Young people worried more about cyber/online crime than property theft or damage (21%) and personal injury (23%). Across all three crime types, respondents worried more about people they lived with than for themselves with the greatest percentage points (5%) observed for personal injury and property theft and damage. (see figure 63 for young peoples' worries).

**Figure 63: Perceived Likelihood of Victimisation 16 and 17-year-olds**



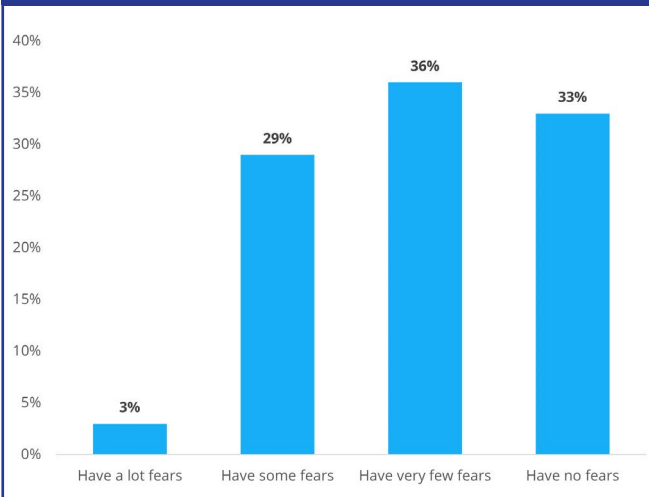
**Figure 65: Impact of Fear of Crime on Quality of Life 16 and 17-year-olds**



### 7.3.2 Fear about the level of crime in Ireland and impact of this fear on quality of life

In 2023, 69 percent of the young people surveyed had 'very few fears' about crime, or none at all. Similarly, young people were more likely to report that fear of crime had no impact on their quality of life. (see figure 64 and 65).

**Figure 64: Fear of Crime among 16 and 17-year-olds**

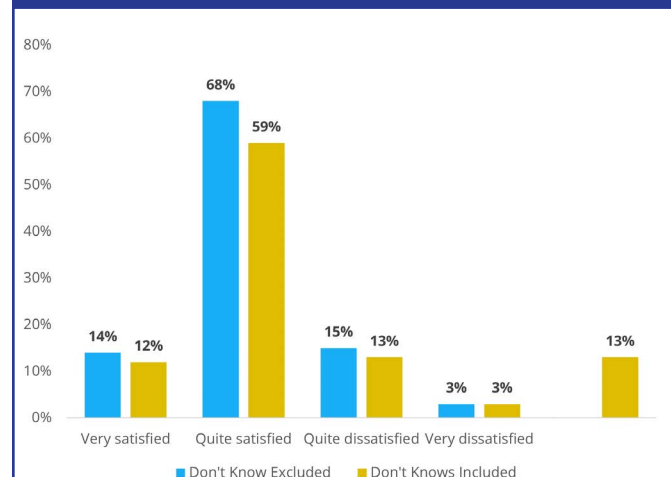


### 7.4 Satisfaction with and Trust in An Garda Síochána

#### 7.4.1 Satisfaction with Garda service to local communities among 16 and 17-year-olds

When 'don't know' responses are excluded from analysis, 82 percent of 16 and 17-year-olds were either 'very satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with Garda service to local communities, with 18 percent expressing dissatisfaction (see figure 66 for analysis including 'don't knows' also).

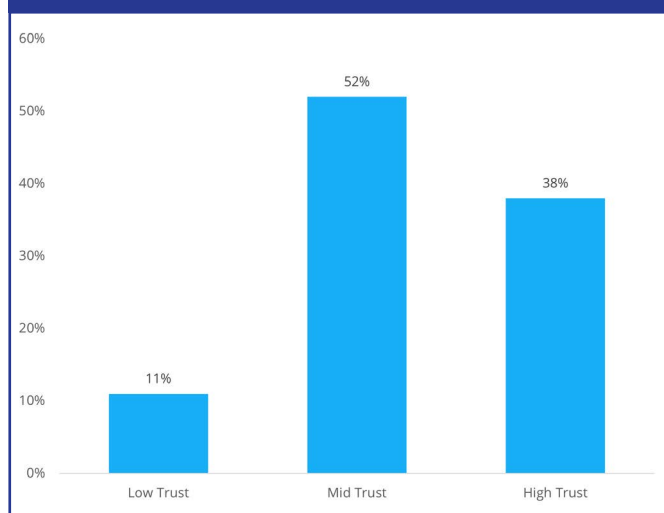
**Figure 66: Satisfaction with Garda Service to Local Communities 16 and 17-year-olds**



## 7.4.2 Trust in An Garda Síochána

Ninety percent of young people expressed mid to high trust in the Gardaí, with 38 percent citing high trust. The proportion of respondents with *low* trust in the Gardaí stood at 11 percent (see figure 67).

**Figure 67: Levels of Trust in An Garda Síochána among 16 and 17-year-olds**

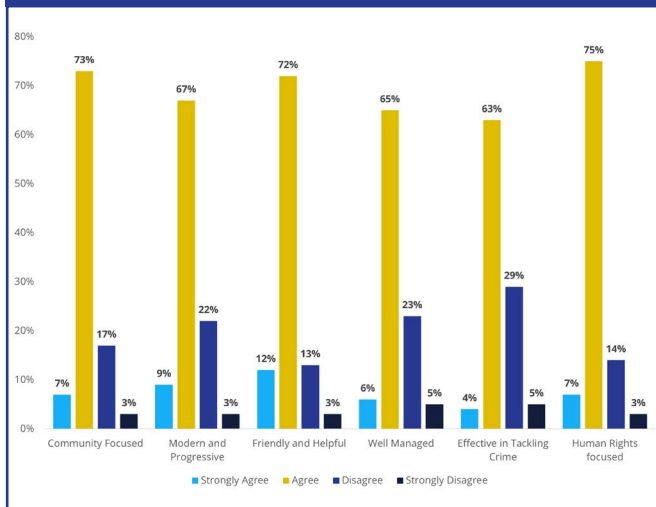


## 7.5 Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

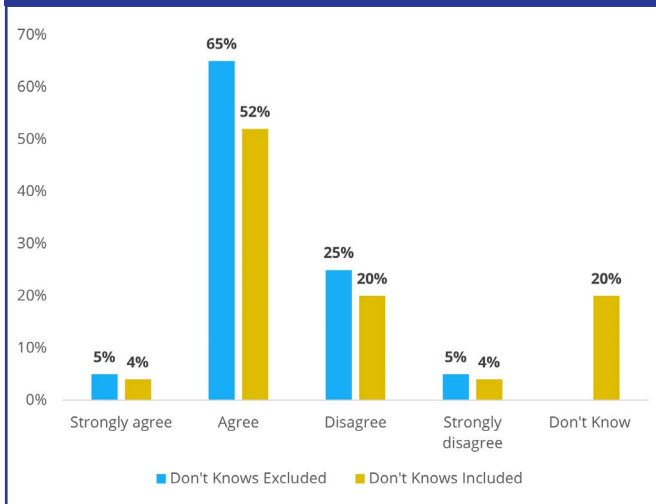
Agreement levels were highest among young peoples' perceptions of An Garda Síochána being friendly/helpful (84%), human rights-focused (82%), community-focused (80%) and modern and progressive (76%). Lower levels were observed for An Garda Síochána being well-managed (69%) and effective in tackling crime (67%). It is important to note that 'don't know' responses were high for this question, ranging between 10 percent (in terms of the friendliness and helpfulness of Gardaí) and 25 percent (in terms of whether Gardaí are human-rights-focused) (see appendix two for analysis including 'don't knows').

Seventy percent of young people agreed that An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities. When 'don't know' responses are included this figure stands at 56 percent. (see figure 69).

**Figure 68: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána among 16 and 17-year-olds (excluding 'don't knows').**



**Figure 69: Perception of An Garda Síochána being Representative of Diverse Communities**

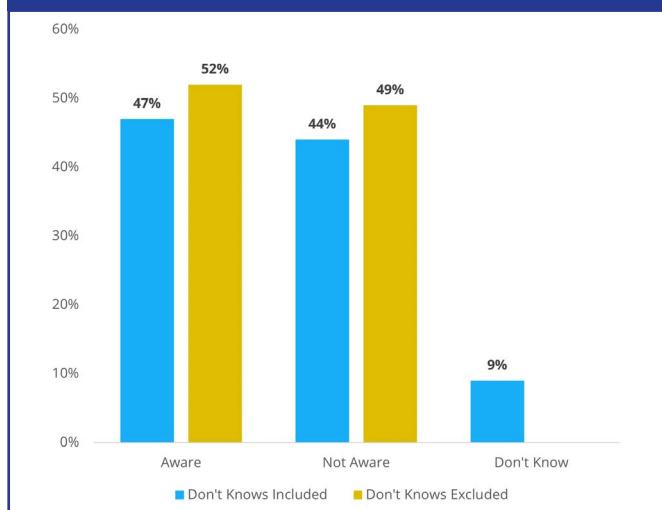


## 7.6 Garda Visibility and Perceptions of Garda Presence

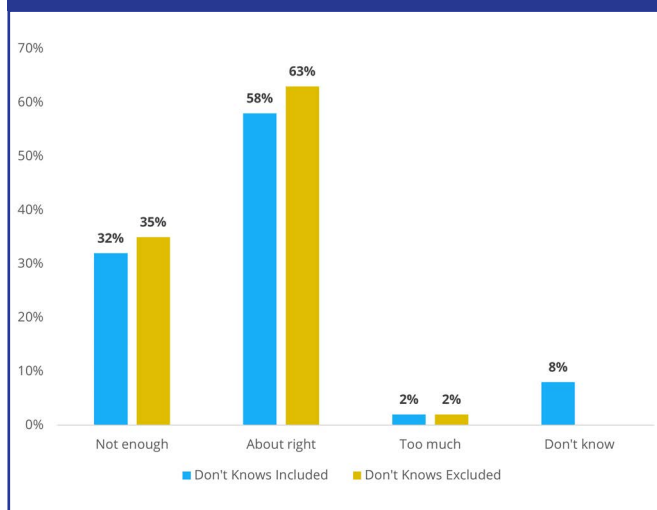
### 7.6.1 Awareness of Garda presence among 16 and 17-year-olds

As figure 70 highlights, 47 percent of young people reported higher awareness of Garda presence, with those who were unaware standing at 44 percent. Young people further reported never seeing Gardaí patrolling on foot (59%) or bicycle (78%).(See figure 71).

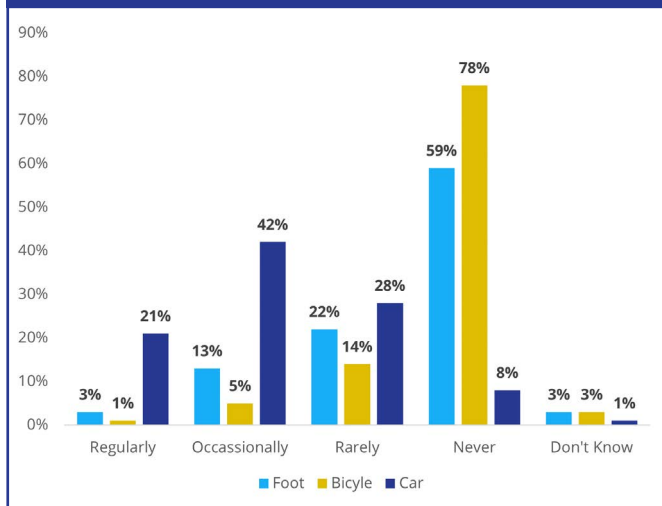
**Figure 70: Awareness of Garda Presence  
16 and 17-year-olds**



**Figure 72: Perceptions of Garda Presence  
among 16 and 17-year-olds**



**Figure 71: Perception of Frequency of Foot,  
Bicycle and Car Patrol 16 and 17-year-olds**



**Table 18: Reasons Cited: Garda Presence  
'Not Enough'**

Reasons that local Garda presence is 'not enough'	%
Never or rarely see Gardaí/lack of Gardaí	60%
Only see in cars	49%
Not enough or don't see Gardaí on foot	26%
Only when there's crime and trouble	23%
Slow to respond	19%
See a crime, but no Gardaí	17%
Used to be more Gardaí	14%
Garda station closed or open part time	14%
Gardaí can't do anything	11%
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	11%
Not enough being done about domestic abuse/no support for domestic abuse	8%
Rely too much on cameras	8%
Gardaí should check on the elderly/not enough Gardaí to check on elderly	6%
Not enough being done about traffic offences (including speeding)	5%
Other	4%

## 7.6.2 Perception of Garda presence

Sixty-three percent of 16 and 17-year-olds felt the Garda presence in their communities was 'about right' compared to 35 percent who felt it was 'not enough' (see figure 72, in which analyses with 'don't know' responses are also presented).

The top two reasons given for believing that Garda presence is 'not enough' were 'never or rarely see Gardaí/lack of Gardaí (60%) and 'only see Gardaí in cars' (49%) (see table 18). Fifty-six percent believed that Garda presence was 'about right' as there is 'not much crime' (see table 19 for a further break-down).

**Table 19: Reasons Cited: Garda Presence 'About Right'**

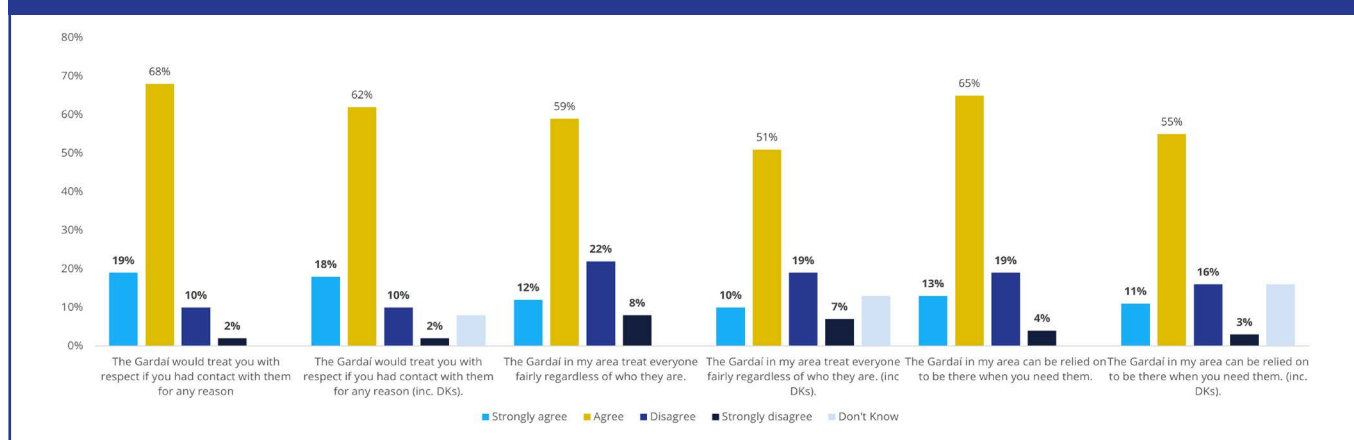
Reasons that local Garda presence is 'about right'	%
Not much crime	56%
See Gardaí patrolling in cars	35%
See them quite often	29%
Garda station nearby	21%
Not necessary to see them all the time	21%
Seeing too many is overwhelming	9%
Crime rates improving	6%
See Gardaí on foot	3%
Other	4%

## 7.7 Treatment by An Garda Síochána

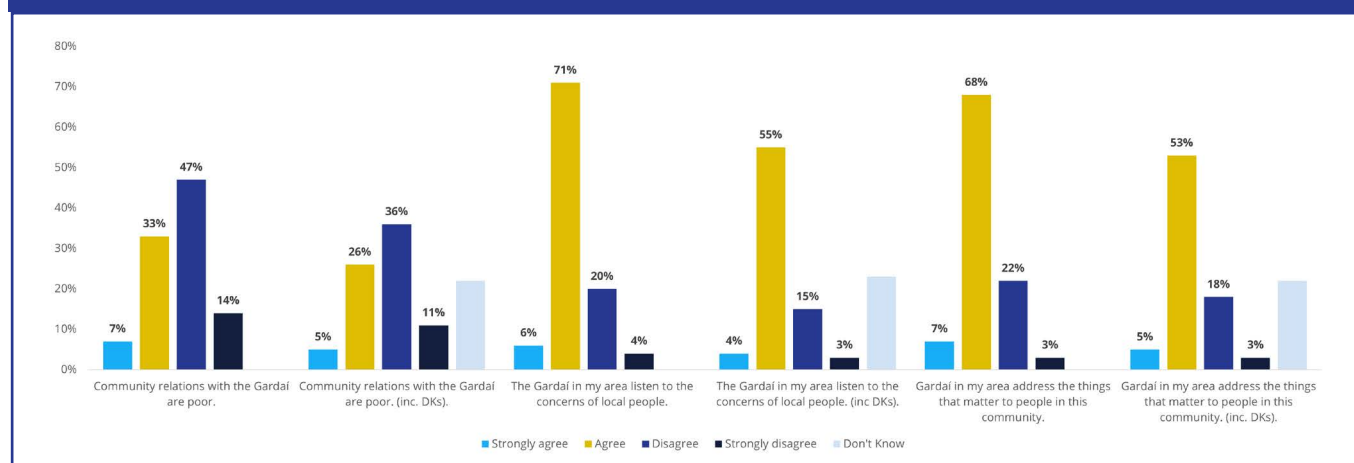
Young peoples' views about being treated fairly and with respect by Gardaí if they had contact with them for any reason were positive. Eighty-seven percent agreed that they would be treated with respect, while 71 percent felt that Gardaí would treat them fairly - see figure 73 for figures including 'don't know' responses). Further exploration of the views of young people in terms of the reliability of Gardaí and Garda-community relations reveals largely positive views:

- 78% agreed that Gardaí can be relied on to be there when needed.
- 61% disagreed that Garda-community relations are poor.
- 77% agreed that Gardaí listen to the concerns of local people.
- 75% agreed that Gardaí address things that matter to the local community.

**Figure 73: Expected Treatment by An Garda Síochána (Part 1)**



**Figure 74: Expected Treatment by An Garda Síochána (Part 2)**



# APPENDICES





# APPENDIX 1

## A Note on Methodology

### Interpreting tables and figures

Frequency and percentages tables are used to explore survey responses within this report. Chapter five explores the main themes by sex, age and nationality, and differences are measured for statistical significance. Where statistically significant differences were discovered, post-hoc analysis of chi square contingency tables, using the adjusted residual method, was completed.

### Sample Size

The Garda Public Attitudes Survey is a survey of a random sample of the Irish population. The margin of error has been calculated at  $\pm 1.1$  percent for the adult sample. When analysis is conducted on smaller samples, such as victims of crime, the margin of error increases.

A further 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 is represented by a dash. In figures/charts this is displayed by a tilde. However, it should be noted, percentages for those cell sizes greater than 30 are based on total number of responses for that column.

### Percentages

A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category identified in the figures or tables by summing two or more percentages (e.g. 'strongly agree' plus 'agree' may constitute 'agreement'). 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. Another factor to consider is that some questions in the survey allow respondents to choose multiple responses. These percentages will not sum to 100 percent. Finally, not all columns where percentages are used will add up to 100 per cent. This is due to the rounding of figures.

### 'Don't Know' Responses

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. In questions where 'don't know' responses accounted for fewer 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).

## APPENDIX 2

### Additional Tables

Figures and tables 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 sex, age, social class and nationality. However, it is not representative of urban/rural divide. The tables 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. Note: Asterisks within tables represent the main driver of statistically significant findings.

### Perceptions of Crime

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

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Perceptions of National Crime					
A very serious problem	19%*	24%*	28%	37%*	29%
A serious problem	42%	44%	45%	41%*	53%*
Something of a problem	34%*	27%*	22%	19%*	16%*
Not a problem	5%	5%*	5%	4%*	—

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

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Perceptions of Local Crime					
A very serious problem	3%*	4%*	5%	7%*	—
A serious problem	11%*	14%	17%*	16%*	11%*
Something of a problem	39%	39%	35%	35%	33%
Not a problem	46%	44%	43%	42%	53%*

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

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Perceptions of National Crime			
A very serious problem	29%	26%*	31%*
A serious problem	41%	43%	46%
Something of a problem	25%	26%*	20%*
Not a problem	6%*	5%	3%*

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

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Perceptions of Local Crime			
A very serious problem	10%*	5%	2%*
A serious problem	15%	16%*	13%*
Something of a problem	34%*	40%*	34%*
Not a problem	41%*	40%*	51%*

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

	Self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
Perceptions of National Crime by Contact			
A very serious problem	24%*	31%	24%*
A serious problem	44%	40%	44%
Something of a problem	28%*	26%	19%*
Not a problem	4%	—	5%

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

	Self-initiated contact	Garda initiated contact	No contact
Perceptions of Local Crime by Contact			
A very serious problem	7%*	—	4%*
A serious problem	17%*	20%*	14%*
Something of a problem	40%*	36%	36%
Not a problem	36%*	36%*	46%*

## Policing Priorities

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

	Social Class					Region				Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	Dublin	Rest of Leinster	Munster	Connaught /Ulster	City	Other Urban	Rural
Sexual Offences	91%	92%	90%	92%	92%	94%*	87%*	93%*	92%	93%*	91%	91%
Domestic Abuse	90%	91%	88%	89%	89%	92%*	86%*	91 %*	91%	91%	90%	89%
Human Trafficking	86%	86%	85%	86%	86%	89%*	80%*	88%*	87%	89%*	85%	85%*
Assaults	86%	86%	84%	85%	90%	87%*	85%	85%	87%	86%	87%	85%
Illegal Weapons	80%	81%	81%	83%	85%	81%	79%*	84%*	84%*	81%	81%	83%*
Burglaries	70%*	73%*	76%	78%*	84%*	69%*	75%	77%*	81%*	71%*	74%	79%*
Drug Offences	66%*	71%*	78%*	79%*	86%*	69%*	74%	81%*	78%*	68%*	74%	80%*
Robberies	68%*	75%*	76%	79%*	84%*	72%*	76%	77%	82%*	73%*	75%*	79%*
Hate Crime	74%	75%	72%*	75%	78%	76%*	68%*	77%*	78%*	72%*	75%	76%
Criminal Damage	58%*	61%*	65%	70%*	78%*	60%*	63%*	69%*	71%*	60%*	64%	69%*
Fraud	65%*	66%*	68%	72%*	79%*	65%*	66%*	74%*	74%*	60%*	69%	73%*
Road Safety	58%*	61%*	64%	65%*	68%*	59%*	62%	65%	67%*	62%	63%	64%
Public Order Offences	50%*	53%	54%	56%*	61%*	55%	50%*	58%*	54%	53%	52%*	58%*
Traffic Offences	30%*	35%*	39%	41%*	45%*	36%	36%	41%*	36%	40%	35%*	40%*

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

	Any Self-initiated contact	Any Garda- initiated contact	No contact
Sexual Offences	92%	92%	91%
Domestic Abuse	90%	87%	90%
Human Trafficking	86%	84%	86%
Assaults	87%	79%*	86%
Illegal Weapons	82%	82%	82%
Burglaries	77%	66%*	75%
Drug Offences	74%	64%*	76%*
Robberies	77%	68%*	76%
Hate Crime	74%	71%	75%
Criminal Damage	63%	53%*	66%*
Fraud	68%	65%	69%
Road Safety	64%	54%*	63%
Public Order Offences	52%	48%	55%
Traffic Offences	34%*	28%*	39%*

## 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	8%*	9%*	12%	14%*	8%	9%*	13%*	8%*
Have some fears	42%*	38%	37%	34%*	36%	35%*	40%*	35%
Have very few fears	30%*	28%*	25%	23%*	23%	29%*	25%	25%
Have no fears at all	20%*	26%	27%	29%*	34%*	27%	23%*	32%*

**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	—	1%*	2%	4%*	—	3%	3%	2%*
Significantly reduced quality	4%*	5%	6%	6%	—	5%	6%*	4%*
Moderately reduced quality	17%	14%	16%	14%	10%*	17%*	16%*	12%*
Reduced quality a little	22%	21%	20%	21%	18%	23%	20%	20%
No effect on quality	58%	59%	56%	55%*	65%*	53%*	55%*	63%*

## Satisfaction

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

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Very satisfied	14%	15%	14%	13%	10%*
Quite satisfied	60%	61%	59%	57%*	64%*
Quite dissatisfied	21%	19%	19%	20%	19%
Very Dissatisfied	5%*	6%*	7%	11%*	8%

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

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Very satisfied	19%*	13%	12%*
Quite satisfied	55%*	60%	62%*
Quite dissatisfied	17%*	20%	20%
Very Dissatisfied	10%*	7%	7%

## Trust

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

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Low Trust	10%	9%*	11%	15%*	9%
Mid Trust	46%	45%	46%	44%	39%*
High Trust	44%	46%*	43%	41%*	53%*

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

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Low Trust	13%*	10%	10%
Mid Trust	45%	45%	44%
High Trust	41%*	44%	46%*

## Perceptions of An Garda Síochána

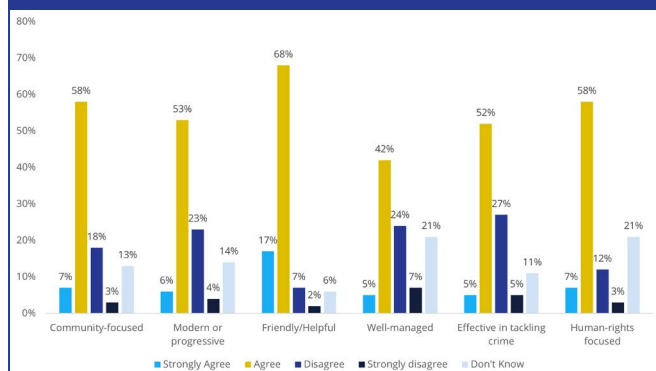
**Table 15: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána by Social Class Group**

	Social Class				
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
Community-focused	78%	77%*	76%	71%*	73%
Modern and progressive	63%*	66%*	69%	71%*	79%*
Friendly/helpful	93%*	91%	90%	89%*	93%
Well-managed	54%*	57%*	62%	62%*	73%*
Effective in tackling crime	62%	63%	64%	63%	75%*
Human rights-focused	80%	82%	82%	80%*	94%*

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

	Urban/Rural		
	City	Other Urban	Rural
Community-focused	72%*	75%	77%*
Modern and Progressive	67%	67%*	72%*
Friendly/helpful	88%*	91%	91%
Well-managed	56%*	58%*	65%*
Effective in tackling crime	62%	62%*	66%*
Human rights-focused	78%*	81%	85%*

**Figure 1: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána (Including 'don't know' Responses)**



## Diversity

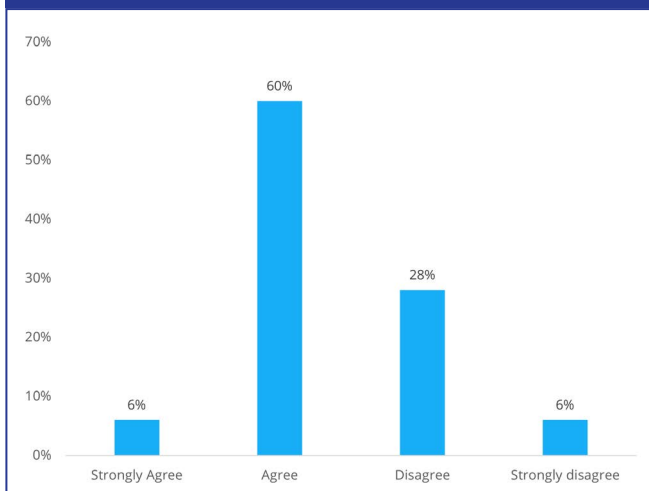
**Table 17: Whether An Garda Síochána Represents Diverse Communities by Social Class**

	AB	C1	C2	DE	F
<b>An Garda Síochána is representative of diverse communities</b>					
Strongly Agree	—	5%	6%	5%	—
Agree	45%*	49%*	51%	52%	65%*
Disagree	31%*	26%*	22%	20%*	16%*
Strongly disagree	6%	5%	4%*	5%	—
Don't Know	16%	14%*	18%	18%*	13%*

**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	6%*	5%	4%*
Agree	42%*	49%*	58%*
Disagree	27%*	25%*	20%*
Strongly disagree	8%*	4%*	4%
Don't Know	18%	17%*	13%*

**Figure 2: An Garda Síochána is Representative of the Diverse Communities it Serves? (Including 'don't know' Responses)**



## Garda Visibility

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

	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Awareness of Garda patrol in local area by socio-economic and area groupings								
Aware of Garda patrols	40%*	44%	45%	46%*	39%*	41%*	44%	46%
Not aware of Garda patrols	60%*	56%	55%	54%*	62%*	59%*	56%	54%

**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
Awareness of Garda presence in local area by socio-economic and area groupings								
Not enough	54%	57%	57%	59%*	57%	58%	60%*	54%*
About right	46%*	43%	42%	39%*	42%	40%	40%*	46%*
Too much	—	—	—	2%*	—	—	—	—

## Treatment by An Garda Síochána

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

The Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Strongly Agree	27%	30%*	27%	24%*	28%	28%	29%*	24%*
Agree	66%	63%*	65%	66%	66%	61%*	63%*	69%*
Disagree	5%	6%	5%*	8%*	—	8%*	6%	6%
Strongly disagree	—	1%*	3%*	2%	—	4%*	1%*	2%

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

The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Strongly Agree	15%	18%*	15%	13%*	15%	17%*	17%*	13%*
Agree	64%	60%*	62%	60%	72%*	53%*	61%	67%*
Disagree	17%	17%	18%	19%*	10%*	21%*	18%	15%*
Strongly disagree	4%	6%	5%	7%*	—	9%*	5%*	5%

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

The Gardaí in my area can be relied on to be there when you need them	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Strongly Agree	10%	12%	11%	12%	7%	13%	12%	10%*
Agree	60%	59%	58%	57%	63%	57%	56%*	62%*
Disagree	25%	23%	25%	25%	25%	22%*	27%*	22%*
Strongly disagree	6%	6%	7%	7%	5%	9%*	6%	5%*

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

Community relations with the Gardaí are poor	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Strongly Agree	—	5%*	7%	9%*	—	9%*	6%	6%*
Agree	30%*	29%*	36%*	37%*	33%	32%	34%	33%
Disagree	54%*	45%*	42%	37%*	37%*	38%*	44%	44%
Strongly disagree	12%*	20%*	15%*	17%	24%*	21%*	16%*	18%

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

The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns of local people	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Strongly Agree	9%	10%	8%	8%	10%	11%*	8%	9%
Agree	71%*	68%	66%	65%*	71%	63%*	68%	69%
Disagree	17%	18%	21%*	20%	15%*	18%	19%	19%
Strongly disagree	—	4%*	5%	6%*	—	8%*	5%	4%*

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

Gardaí in my area address the things that matter to people in this community	Social Class					Urban/Rural		
	AB	C1	C2	DE	F	City	Other Urban	Rural
Strongly Agree	8%	10%*	8%	8%	8%	12%*	8%	8%
Agree	68%*	65%	64%	60%*	67%	56%*	64%	67%*
Disagree	21%	22%	23%	24%	21%	22%	24%	21%
Strongly disagree	—	4%*	5%	7%*	—	10%*	5%	4%*



# APPENDIX 3

## Victims

**Table 27: Demographic Profile of Victims 2023**

Sex		Age		Social Class		Region	
Male	48%	18 - 24	14%	AB	16%	Dublin	34%
Female	52%	25 - 34	19%	C1	33%	Leinster (excluding Dublin)	30%
		35 - 44	19%	C2	20%	Munster	24%
		45 - 54	24%	DE	27%	Connaught or Ulster	12%
		55 - 64	13%	F	5%		
		65+	11%				

Area		Nationality		Ethnicity		Religion	
City	26%	Irish	88%	White Irish	84%	Roman Catholic	64%
Other Urban	48%	Polish	2%	Other white	10%	Church of Ireland	2%
Rural	26%	Lithuanian	2%	African + Other Black	2%	Other Christian	4%
		Brazilian	1%	Chinese + Other Asian	3%	Islam	1%
		French	1%	Other	2%	Other	2%
		UK	1%			No religion	23%
		Other	6%			Refused	5%

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

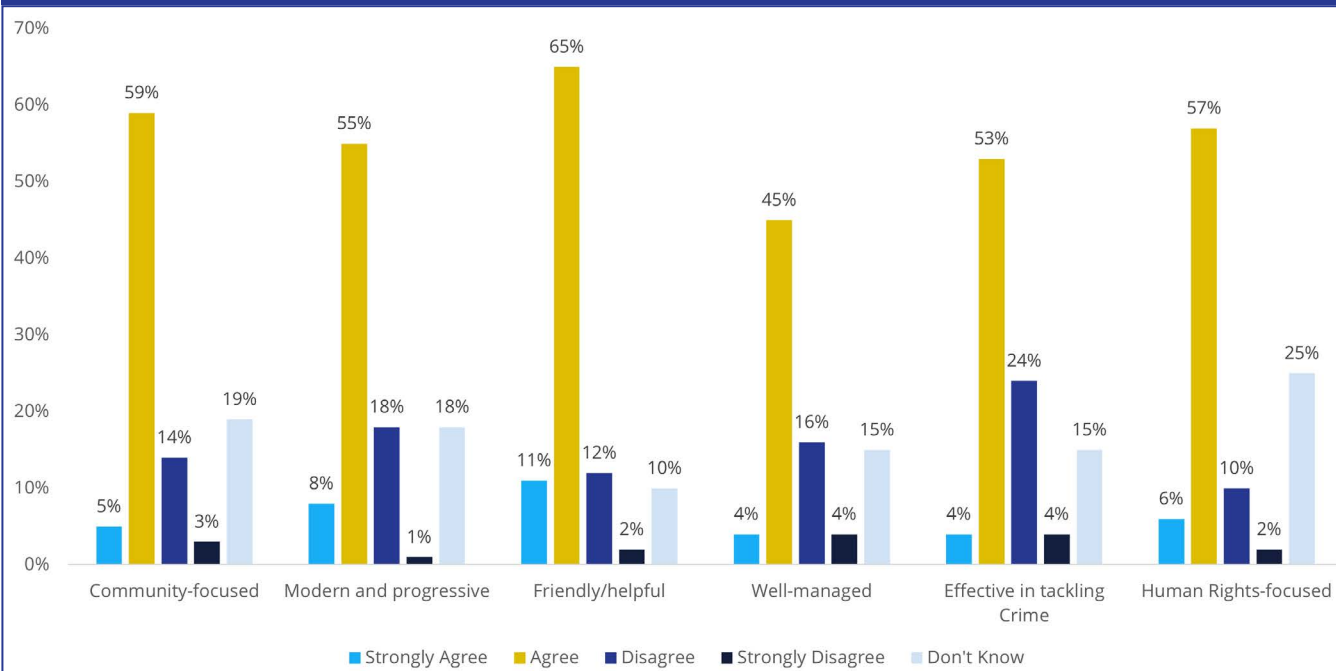
**Table 28: Frequencies of Occurrence of each Crime Type**

Victimisation	Once	Twice	Three or more
Burglary at home or farm	78%	12%	10%
Theft of bike	82%	12%	6%
Theft of car	86%	11%	3%
Other theft	88%	9%	4%
Robbery	84%	10%	5%
Criminal Damage	77%	13%	10%
Theft from person (pick pocket)	78%	16%	5%
Assault	76%	5%	19%
Fraud	81%	10%	9%
Online fraud	72%	17%	11%
Other	43%	16%	41%

# APPENDIX 4

## Young People (16-17-year-olds)

**Figure 3: Perceptions of An Garda Síochána among 16 and 17-year-olds Including Don't Know Response**



# APPENDIX 5

## The Questionnaire

### Garda Public Attitudes Survey - January 2023

#### Q.1 ASK ALL

How would you describe the level of crime in Ireland? **READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.**

#### Q.2 ASK ALL

How would you describe the level of crime in your local community? **READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.**

	Q.1 Ireland	Q.2 Local Community
Very serious problem	1	1
Serious problem	2	2
Something of a problem	3	3
Not a problem	4	4
Don't know	5	5

#### Q.3 ASK ALL

What priority do you think An Garda Síochána should give to each of the following?

	High	Medium	Low
Sexual Offences	1	2	3
Assault	1	2	3
Human Trafficking	1	2	3
Robberies	1	2	3
Drugs Offences	1	2	3
Burglary	1	2	3
Illegal Weapons	1	2	3
Fraud	1	2	3
Traffic Offences	1	2	3
Road Safety	1	2	3
Criminal Damage	1	2	3
Public Order Offences	1	2	3
Hate Crime	1	2	3
Domestic Abuse	1	2	3

#### Q.4a ASK ALL

Please indicate if you worry about the possibility that **you**, might become a victim of the following crimes? MULTICODE POSSIBLE. **INTERVIEWER IF RESPONDENT SAYS 'YES' PROBE TO PRECODES.**

Yes, I worry about personal injury	1
Yes, I worry about property theft or damage	2
Yes, I worry about cyber/online crime / online crime	3
No - I do not worry about any of these	4

#### Q.4b ASK ALL

And please indicate if you worry about the possibility that **someone who lives with you** might become a victim of any of the following crimes? MULTICODE POSSIBLE. **INTERVIEWER IF RESPONDENT SAYS 'YES' PROBE TO PRECODES.**

Yes, I worry about someone living with me being a victim of personal injury	1
Yes, I worry about someone living with me being a victim of property theft or damage	2
Yes, I worry about someone living with me being a victim of cyber/online crime / online crime	3
No - I Do not worry that someone living with me would be a victim of any of these	4

#### Q.5 ASK ALL. SHOWCARD A

To what extent, if any, do you personally have fears about the level of crime in general? **SINGLE CODE.**

Have a lot of fears about the level of crime	1
Have some fears about the level of crime	2
Have very few fears about the level of crime	3
Have no fears at all about the level of crime	4

#### Q.6 ASK ALL. SHOWCARD B

How much has fear of crime affected your quality of life? **SINGLE CODE.**

Greatly reduced quality	1
Significantly reduced quality	2
Moderately reduced quality	3
Reduced quality a little	4
No effect on quality	5

## Q.7 ASK ALL.

As far as you know, is there a regular Garda presence in your area? **SINGLE CODE.**

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

## ASK ALL

**Q.7a** How often is there a Garda presence on foot in your local area? **SINGLE CODE.**

**Q.7b** How often is there a Garda presence by bicycle in your local area? **SINGLE CODE.**

**Q.7c** How often is there a Garda presence by car in your local area? **SINGLE CODE.**

	Q.7a By foot	Q.7b By bicycle	Q.7c By car
Regularly	1	1	1
Occasionally	2	2	2
Rarely	3	3	3
Never	4	4	4
Don't know	5	5	5

## Q.8 ASK ALL

Overall, do you think that the Garda presence in your local area is not enough, about right or too much? **SINGLE CODE.**

Not enough	1
About right	2
Too much	3
Don't know	4

**Q.8a ASK ALL ANSWERED 'NOT ENOUGH' (CODE 1) AT Q.8**

Why do you think the Garda presence in your local area is not enough? **DO**

**NOT PROMPT - CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

Never or rarely see Gardaí / lack of Gardaí	1
Only see in cars	2
Not enough or don't see Gardaí on foot	3
Used to be more Gardaí	4
Only when there's crime and trouble	5
Should build a positive image as well as reacting to crime	6
Slow to respond	7
Garda station closed or open part time	8
See crime, but no Gardaí	9
Gardaí can't do anything	10
Rely too much on cameras	11
Gardaí should check on the elderly/not enough Gardaí to check on the elderly	12
Not enough being done about domestic abuse /no support for domestic abuse	13
Not enough being done about traffic offences (including speeding)	14
Other (specify)	15

**Q.8b ASK ALL ANSWERED 'ABOUT RIGHT' (CODE 2) AT Q.8**

Why do you think the Garda presence in your local area is about right? **DO**

**NOT PROMPT - CODE ALL THAT APPLY**

Not much crime	1
See them quite often	2
See Gardaí patrolling in cars	3
Garda station nearby	4
Not necessary to see them all the time	5
Crime rates are improving	6
See Gardaí on foot	7
Seeing too many is overwhelming	8
Other (specify)	9

### Q.8c ASK ALL ANSWERED 'TOO MUCH' (CODE 3) AT Q.8

Why do you think the Garda presence in your local area is too much? **DO**

#### NOT PROMPT - CODE ALL THAT APPLY

Have been stopped by Gardaí	1
Lots of crime so Garda presence is high	2
Can't do anything because so many Gardaí' around	3
See Gardaí everywhere	4
Other (specify)	5

### Q.9 ASK ALL

Have you had any contact with Gardaí in the last 12 months? **INTERVIEWER, IF RESPONDENT SAYS 'YES' PROBE TO PRECODES.**

Yes - Contact initiated by you	1
Yes - Garda initiated	2
No contact	3

**IF CODE 1 AT Q9, ASK Q.9 & Q9B. IF CODE 2 AT Q9 SKIP TO Q9C.**

**IF CODE 1 & 2 AT Q.9 ASK Q.9A, B & C.**

**IF CODE 3 AT Q9, SKIP TO Q.10**

#### Q.9a For any self-initiated contact:

Thinking of the most recent time, how did you make contact?

Visit to the Garda station	1
Phone call to Gardaí (not 999/112)	2
Emergency phone call (999/112)	3
Spoke to Garda on patrol/checkpoint	4
Other reason (please specify)	5

**Q.9b For any self-initiated contact:**

Thinking of the most recent contact, how satisfied were you with this initial interaction with the Gardaí?

Very satisfied	1
Quite satisfied	2
Quite dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	5

**Q.9c For any Garda initiated contact:**

Thinking of the most recent contact, how satisfied were you with this initial interaction with the Gardaí?

Very satisfied	1
Quite satisfied	2
Quite dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	5

**ASK ALL. SHOWCARD C**

**Q.10** Have you been a victim of any of the crimes listed on this card in the last 12 months, that is since (insert month) 2022? **CODE ALL THAT APPLY.**

**SHOWCARD D - explanation of burglary, theft & robbery**

**IF THE RESPONDENT HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF A BURGLARY, THEFT OR ROBBERY (AT Q10)**

**READ OUT:** People often think that burglary, theft and robbery mean the same thing but there are legal differences between these types of crime. Burglary is the illegal entry into a building for the purpose of committing a crime. Theft is when an item is taken without the owner's knowledge or consent. Robbery is when an item is taken by force or the threat of force.

Using these legal definitions, can I just confirm if the crime you experienced in the past 12 months was a burglary, a theft or a robbery? **REPEAT FOR EACH CRIME IF MORE THAN ONE BURGLARY/THEFT/ROBBERY EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS.**

**INTERVIEWER NOTE: PLEASE REITERATE THE FACT THAT IN THE CASE OF FRAUD / ONLINE FRAUD, A FINANCIAL LOSS MUST HAVE BEEN SUFFERED FOR IT TO BE A CRIME - "IF YOU SELECT EITHER FRAUD OR ONLINE FRAUD, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED A FINANCIAL LOSS FOR IT TO BE CONSIDERED A CRIME"**



**Q.11 FOR EACH CRIME EXPERIENCED BY RESPONDENT AT Q.10 ASK: IF NONE/REFUSED, SKIP TO Q.19**

How many times were you a victim of < crime at Q10> in the last 12 months? **REPEAT FOR EACH TYPE OF CRIME EXPERIENCED BY THE RESPONDENT AT Q.10.**

**Q.12 IF MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF CRIME EXPERIENCED BY RESPONDENT (MULTI CODED AT Q.10) ASK: OTHERS GO TO Q.13 Which one of these crimes took place most recently? SINGLE CODE**

**Q.13 ASK FOR MOST RECENT CRIME AT Q.12: OTHERS GO TO Q.14** And was this crime reported to the Gardaí or not? **IF THIS CRIME HAPPENED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, ASK IN RELATION TO THE MOST RECENT EXPERIENCE. SINGLE CODE.**

	Q.10 Crime past 12 months	Q.11 No. of times	Q.12 Most recent crime	Q.13 Reported to Garda^		
				Yes	No	Don't know
Burglary at home, or on the farm	1		1	1	2	3
Theft of a bike	2		2	1	2	3
Theft of a car	3		3	1	2	3
Theft from your person (pick pocket)	4		4	1	2	3
Other theft (please specify _____ )	5		5	1	2	3
Robbery - the threat or use of force to steal from you .	6		6	1	2	3
Criminal damage to property (car/ home/ farm)	7		7	1	2	3
Assault	8		8	1	2	3
Fraud (i.e. deception, payment/ goods/services provided under false pretences) (i.e. suffering actual financial loss)	9	-	9	1	2	3
Online fraud (i.e. online payment / goods) (i.e. suffering actual financial loss)	10	-	10	1	2	3
Other (Please specify_____)	11		11	1	2	3
Not a victim of crime in past 12 months	12	GO TO Q.19				
Refused	00					

**ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE Gardaí (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18** Which of the following applied to your most recent incident? **READ OUT.**

**SINGLE CODE FOR EACH STATEMENT.**

READ OUT	Yes	No	NA	Don't know/ Can't recall
The Gardaí responded quickly when the incident was first reported.	1	2	3	4
I was given the name of the investigating Garda.	1	2	n/a	3
I was given the contact details of the Garda station.	1	2	n/a	3
I was given a PULSE or crime number.	1	2	n/a	3
I was given details of victim helplines/ services.	1	2	n/a	3

**ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE Gardaí (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18** How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the way this most recent incident was handled by the Gardaí? **SINGLE CODE.**

**IF THE INCIDENT IS STILL ONGOING, ASK:**

Or if ongoing, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your most recent incident is being handled by the Gardaí so far? **SINGLE CODE.**

Very satisfied	1
Quite satisfied	2
Quite dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	5

**Q.14a ASK IF SELECTING CODES 1-2 IN Q14**

Q14a What contributed to your satisfaction with the handling by the Gardaí of your most recent incident? **DO NOT PROMPT** [let respondent generate response and record below **[NO SHOWCARD]** **MULTICODE**

Was contacted by Gardaí after the incident	1
Investigating Garda available when needed	2
Was given updates on the investigation	3
Swift response from Gardaí once reported	4
Gardaí were friendly and helpful	5
Offender arrested by Gardaí	6
Offender appeared in court	7
Property recovered	8
Other (specify)	9

#### Q.14b ASK IF SELECTING CODES 3-4 IN Q14

What contributed to your dissatisfaction with the handling by the Gardaí of your most recent incident? **DO NOT PROMPT** [let respondent generate response and record below **[NO SHOWCARD]** **MULTICODE**

Rang local Garda station, didn't ring back	1
Couldn't contact investigating Garda	2
Information on case not adequate	3
Poor Response Times	4
Was not treated well by Gardaí	5
The Gardaí did not arrest offender	6
Offender not charged	7
Didn't recover my property	8
Other (specify)	9

#### Q.15 ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE Gardaí (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18

Would you say the information you got from the Gardaí regarding the progress of your most recent incident was... ? **READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.**

#### IF THE INCIDENT IS NOT FULLY RESOLVED, ASK:

Would you say the information you are getting from the Gardaí regarding the progress of your most recent incident is ...? **READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.**

Too little	1
About right	2
Too much	3
N/A - no progress given	4
DK/Can't recall	5

#### Q.17 ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE Gardaí (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18

Were you contacted by An Garda Síochána via phone or in person after the incident was reported?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know/Can't recall	3

**Q.17A ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS REPORTED TO THE Gardaí (CODE 1 AT Q.13): OTHERS GO TO Q18**

Thinking of your most recent incident, which of the following would have been your preferred method of follow-up communication by the Gardaí? SHOW CARD. SINGLE CODE.

Letter	1
Email	2
Text	3
Victim Confidential Online Platform	4
Phone call	5
In-person	6
Other (please specify)	7

**Q.18 ASK IF MOST RECENT CRIME WAS NOT REPORTED TO THE Gardaí (CODE 2 AT Q13): OTHERS GO TO Q19**

Is there any particular reason why this incident was not reported to the Gardaí? **DO NOT PROMPT. CODE ALL THAT APPLY.**

Dealt with it myself	01
Felt Gardaí <b>could not</b> do anything about it	02
Felt Gardaí <b>would not</b> do anything about it	03
Incident not serious enough	04
Reported it to another authority	05
Did not want to involve Gardaí	06
No need to make insurance claim	07
Fear of reprisal from perpetrators	08
Other reason (Please specify)	09

**Q.19 ASK ALL**

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the service provided to your local community by An Garda Síochána?

Very satisfied	1
Quite satisfied	2
Quite dissatisfied	3
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	5

## Q.20 ASK ALL. SHOWCARD E

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Gardaí in your local area? **READ OUT. ROTATE ORDER OF STATEMENT BETWEEN INTERVIEWS. SINGLE CODE FOR EACH STATEMENT.**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
The Gardaí would treat you with respect if you had contact with them for any reason	5	4	3	2	1
The Gardaí in my area treat everyone fairly regardless of who they are.	5	4	3	2	1
The Gardaí in my area can be relied on to be there when you need them.	5	4	3	2	1
Community relations with the Gardaí are poor.	5	4	3	2	1
The Gardaí in my area listen to the concerns of local people.	5	4	3	2	1
Gardaí in my area address the things that matter to people in this community.	5	4	3	2	1

## Q.21 ASK ALL. SHOWCARD E

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements that have been made about An Garda Síochána? **READ OUT. ROTATE ORDER OF STATEMENTS BETWEEN INTERVIEWS. SINGLE CODE FOR EACH STATEMENT.**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
An Garda Síochána is community-focused	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is modern and progressive	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is friendly/helpful	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is well-managed	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is effective in tackling crime	5	4	3	2	1
An Garda Síochána is human-rights focused	5	4	3	2	1

**ASK ALL. SHOWCARD F**

**Q.22** Do you agree or disagree that An Garda Síochána is representative of the diverse communities it serves?

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	5

**Q.23 ASK ALL.**

Using a scale of 1 - 10 where 1 means you have no trust and 10 means you have a great deal of trust, to what extent do you trust An Garda Síochána? **SINGLE CODE.**

No Trust					A Great Deal of Trust					Don't Know
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11





# GARDA PUBLIC ATTITUDES SURVEY 2023



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

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