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National Development Plan Review 2025

Securing Ireland's Future

Sectoral Investment Plan: Justice Sector

Prepared by the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration
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Minister's Foreword



I am pleased to present the Sectoral Capital Plan for the Justice Vote Group for 2026 - 2030. This plan sets out the strategic investment priorities over the next five years and outlines key capital projects that will be delivered to keep our people and communities safe.

These projects will be delivered by the Department, An Garda Síochána, Irish Prison Service, Courts Service and Fiosrú over this period. Under the National Development Plan Review 2025, my Department and its agencies have been allocated €2.18 billion in capital funding for 2026 - 2030 to fund priority programmes.

This record funding boost for capital development is essential and will deliver a wide range of vital major projects across the Justice sector.

In line with international trends, policing in Ireland is developing new and modern capacities. That includes large-scale technology investment, the introduction of new digital and evidential capabilities, and the delivery of modern Garda stations and specialist facilities for an expanding workforce.

The Irish Prison Service is implementing an accelerated programme to increase capacity and modernise an ageing estate, ensuring that our prisons are safe and secure, while also maximising opportunities for rehabilitation, education and healthcare. The Courts Service is digitising rapidly to improve user experiences, reduce backlogs, enhance efficiency and strengthen its regional infrastructure. The development of the new Family Courts at Hammond Lane in Dublin is a central component of the Government's Family Justice Strategy and is well advanced, with construction expected to start in early 2027. Funding was also secured to commence work on a new Courthouse in Tralee.

My Department is also investing significantly in critical digital infrastructure, transforming immigration services, meeting EU obligations, strengthening cyber resilience, and enhancing cross-agency information sharing.

A key priority for me was securing the necessary funding for the Irish Prison Service to continue its delivery of over 1,500 additional prison spaces as well as starting work on a new prison at Thornton in North County Dublin before the end of this decade.

The record investment for An Garda Síochána supports the completion of existing projects at Portlaoise, Bailieborough, Newcastle West, new stations at Macroom, Clonmel, Castletroy and Carndonagh and a major new HQ for Dublin North. I have also prioritised investment to expand facilities at the Garda College in Templemore for more Garda and Garda Reserve training.

I am very pleased to announce a major investment in the security of the State with funding provided for the Gardaí, the National Cyber Security Centre and my own Department. This includes a dedicated new high tech building to be developed within the grounds of Garda HQ and important new digital systems. Garda capability will shortly be boosted by two new aircraft purchased under the previous NDP and this will be further strengthened by the delivery of a second helicopter in 2026. My department will also invest over €30m in the capability of the National Cyber Security Centre as well as developing new immigration and border systems.

The technology investment in An Garda Síochána will deliver cutting edge digital systems across security, policing and corporate functions, as well as supporting the vital roll-out of body worn cameras supported by a state-of-the-art digital evidence management system.

I look forward to working with my Department and stakeholders to realise these shared ambitions.

Jim O'Callaghan TD

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration



Background

A well-functioning justice system is a cornerstone of Ireland's social and economic development. The sector plays a central role in maintaining public safety, protecting our security, ensuring access to justice, and enabling communities and businesses to thrive. As Ireland's population grows and the National Planning Framework drives more compact urban development and strengthened rural communities, the requirement for high visibility policing, effective criminal sanctions and secure prison capacity, accessible efficient courts, robust fair and effective immigration systems and resilient cyber security structures continues to increase.

Over the past number of years, the scale and complexity of the Justice sector's work has increased considerably. The Department now oversees one of the broadest portfolios in the public service. In addition to its established responsibilities for the security of the State, policing, prisons, courts, many aspects of regulation and immigration, the sector has also taken on significant related responsibilities, including cyber security and international protection accommodation. These expanded responsibilities require a more ambitious and coordinated approach to long-term capital planning.

Major programmes of modernisation are under way right across the sector. In line with international trends, policing in Ireland is developing capacity to meet the demands of a more complex operating environment, supported by large-scale technology investment, the introduction of new digital and evidential capabilities, and the delivery of modern Garda stations and specialist facilities for an expanding workforce. The Irish Prison Service is implementing an accelerated programme to increase capacity and modernise an ageing estate, ensuring safer, more secure and more rehabilitative environments. The Courts Service is driving substantial digitisation to improve user experience, reduce backlogs, enhance efficiency and strengthen its regional infrastructure. The Department and its agencies are also advancing critical digitalisation programmes to meet upcoming EU obligations, strengthen cyber resilience, improve digital services and enhance cross-agency information sharing.

Many of these projects and programmes are multi-annual, tightly interdependent, operationally sensitive and subject to external factors outside the sector's immediate control. In this context, this plan aims to deploy the five-year NDP allocation in a way that delivers maximum public value. A strengthened governance and portfolio management approach is in place to support this, enabling clearer prioritisation, ensuring alignment with Government strategies and legislative requirements and managing interdependencies.

The investments set out in this sectoral plan represent a significant opportunity to reshape and strengthen the justice system by 2030. They support:

- enhanced public safety and support frontline policing;
- strengthening the State's resilience in cyber and other security capability;
- delivery of additional prison capacity and modern, secure facilities that meet current and future needs;
- improved access to justice through modern courts and digital innovation;
- provision of more sustainable, value-for-money accommodation for international protection applicants;
- meeting major EU obligations in migration, asylum and digital evidence.

Taken together, these interventions will ensure that the Justice sector remains a stable pillar of Ireland's social and economic fabric, equipped to meet future challenges and to support the ambitions of the National Development Plan and Ireland 2040.

Justice Sector Strategic Goals

The Department of Justice Statement of Strategy 2025 – 2028 sets out six strategic goals that have informed the priorities in this plan.

- **Protecting our security:** Protecting the State and its people and developing our national capabilities against challenges to the security of the State, cyber resilience and terrorism.
- **Safe Communities:** Support safe communities by strengthening law enforcement capabilities, providing for effective sanctions, and tackling the causes of crime.

- **An effective and accessible justice system:** An efficient justice system that is fair, effective and responsive to the needs of those seeking justice.
- **A fair and firm immigration system:** An immigration system that attracts the people Ireland needs, is fair on applicants, and is firm on the enforcement of our laws.
- **Increasing our influence in Europe:** Build effective relationships within the EU, United Kingdom and internationally to advance Ireland's interests

Based on these goals, commitments under the Programme for Government 2025, the National Development Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the Climate Action Programme, the following key priorities have been identified:

- **Expand prison capacity** and modernise the estate, delivering over 1,500 additional spaces by 2031 through an accelerated building programme and the development and refurbishment of new facilities, as part of wider work to address overcrowding.
- **Strengthen policing infrastructure** through a major multi-year building and refurbishment programme that will deliver modern, fit-for-purpose Garda stations nationwide, expand specialist facilities, and ensure the organisation has the accommodation and operational environment required for a modern police service.
- **Enhance frontline policing capability** and strengthen organisational development and systems through the national rollout of Body Worn Cameras and a Digital Evidence Management System, alongside investment in cybersecurity, modern HR and finance systems, and the digital infrastructure needed for a data-driven police service. Targeted investment in aircraft, drones and tactical equipment will further support operational effectiveness.
- **Modernise the courts**, through continued investment in the Courts ICT Modernisation Programme and the Courts Estate capital programme, including delivery of the Dublin Family Courts Complex (Hammond Lane) and a new courthouse in Tralee, Co. Kerry.
- **Transform immigration and international protection services**, completing the Immigration Modernisation Programme and replacing legacy systems to enable a fully digital service.

- **Deliver State-owned accommodation** for international protection applicants, reducing reliance on private provision and targeting delivery of 7,900 State-owned beds by 2030.
- **Expand forensic and mortuary capacity**, with investment in the Forensic Science Ireland laboratory and delivery of the new Dublin District Mortuary.
- **Strengthen oversight and accountability**, with investment in new digital systems for the Department and bodies such as Fiosrú and the GRAI, to improve efficiency, engagement and service delivery.
- **Strengthen the sustainability of the Justice sector** by progressing fleet electrification and investing in modern, efficient operational facilities and equipment that reduce emissions and support long-term environmental performance.

These investments and projects are spread right across the country, with some of the key estates and construction project locations illustrated below.



Dependencies

Delivery of the Justice sector's capital investment programme is dependent on a wide range of internal and external factors. The sector now encompasses a particularly diverse and complex capital portfolio following the recent transfer of responsibilities for accommodation for international protection applicants and those fleeing war in Ukraine, and the National Cyber Security Centre. The remit spans multiple agencies with distinct mandates and infrastructure needs – from policing, prisons and courts to forensic science, immigration, and security. This diversity brings significant interdependencies across programmes, budgets and delivery timelines.

Capital projects in the sector range from small-scale refurbishments in local Garda Stations and court houses, to large, complex developments such as new prisons, new courthouses and cutting-edge front-line technology systems. These projects are multi annual by nature and frequently involve multiple stages of design, planning, procurement and construction, each of which can be affected by a variety of external conditions, and for which the sector relies on a variety of delivery partners.

The capital programme operates within the broader policy and regulatory framework established by the National Planning Framework, the Capital Works Management Framework, and the Infrastructure Guidelines, amongst others. Dependences also arise through the planning and statutory approvals process which can have material impacts on timelines and costs.

The construction sector continues to face challenges linked to supply chain constraints, labour market capacity and construction inflation, all of which influence delivery schedules and cost profiles. The broader macroeconomic environment, including energy and materials prices, remains a key factor affecting affordability and value for money across the portfolio. Effective sequencing and prioritisation across the sector will be essential to ensure financial, technical and human resources are deployed where they can have the greatest impact. These dependencies underscore the need for continued maturing of the sector's governance, forward planning and responsiveness within its capital portfolio.

Building Security Capability

A range of projects right across the sector will see the largest ever investment and growth in Ireland's security architecture and capabilities.

There is a significant focus on enhancing capability and capacity to respond to challenges to the security of the State, cyber resilience, and terrorism. This involves substantial investment in security services to ensure Ireland is equipped and resourced to counter modern-day threats, protect the public, and meet international obligations and standards. These projects span both capital and current expenditure and will be developed and matured over the lifetime of this plan. We are investing to strengthen physical infrastructure across the justice sector, increase the capacity of the An Garda Síochána, enhance and modernise border security, and reinforce cyber security infrastructure at the national level.

Justice Sector Capital Projects 2026 - 2030

NDP Review 2026 to 2030: €2.18 billion

The review of the NDP concluded in July 2025, resulting in an overall capital allocation for the Justice sector from 2026 to 2030 of €2.18 billion, representing an overall increase of €330m over the previously agreed capital ceilings.

The review was informed by submissions and engagements from across the sector, with significant needs and ambitions identified. Prioritisation of all projects and programmes was essential and will continue to be a feature of the active management of the portfolio.

The final Vote allocations at the end of the review are outlined below.

Allocations by Vote

Vote	2026 €m	2027 €m	2028 €m	2029 €m	2030 €m	Total 2026 - 2030 €m
Vote 20 Garda	173.80	183.55	181.95	178.24	193.00	910.54
Vote 21 Prisons	67.90	95.49	110.00	133.21	121.00	527.60
Vote 22 Courts	71.50	69.60	70.50	72.60	84.70	368.90
Vote 24 Justice	74.80	77.36	77.55	70.95	66.30	366.96
Vote 46 Fiosrú	2.00	4.00				6.00
Total	390	430	440	455	465	2,180

Allocations will be kept under review as part of the oversight process to ensure best use of available funding for delivery of priorities.

Capital plans for each body are set out in the following sections.



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

Construction and estate refurbishment

Construction and estate refurbishment programme	€364 million
Bailieborough District HQ (new station)	
Portlaoise - Redevelopment of Divisional Headquarters	
Newcastle West, Co Limerick (new station)	
Clonmel Garda Station (new station)	
Macroom Divisional Headquarters (new station)	
New Garda National Crime & Security Intelligence (GNCSIS) Building, Garda HQ	
Castletroy, Co. Limerick (new station)	
Carndonagh, Co. Donegal (new station)	
Dublin Metropolitan Region North Divisional HQ – new campus	
Garda College upgrades and expansion	
Development of new Property and Exhibit Management Stores	
Regional Capital Refurbishment Programme	
Nationwide Network Infrastructure upgrade	

A major multi-year investment programme is underway to modernise and expand the Garda estate, ensuring that policing infrastructure keeps pace with population growth, operational demands and the expectations of a modern police service. This programme includes the delivery of new divisional headquarters and strategically important stations across the country, with funding secured to progress major projects already in train and to commence additional developments in priority locations.

Alongside these larger builds, investment is also being directed toward strengthening regional policing capacity, including the development of new stations in key urban and rural areas and the progression of a new headquarters for the Dublin Metropolitan

Region (DMR) North. These facilities will provide modern work environments for Garda members and staff and support improved service delivery to local communities.

Given the scale of the Garda estate, with more than 500 stations nationwide, a dedicated **€35 million regional refurbishment fund** has been established to support ongoing maintenance and targeted upgrades. This fund will ensure that stations across the country receive timely improvements to working conditions, accessibility and essential infrastructure, helping to maintain a safe, functional and fit-for-purpose estate. It will include projects such as:

- Greystones Garda Station, Co Wicklow - general refurbishment works
- Dungarvan Garda Station, Co Waterford - ladies locker room upgrades
- Sligo Garda Station - Scenes of Crime relocation
- Mayorstone Garda Station, Co Limerick - upgrade of Armed Support Unit facilities
- Bandon Garda Station, Co Cork - locker room and bathroom upgrade works.
- Bridgend Garda Station, Co Donegal - office upgrade & fitout
- Cork Airport - detention room upgrade
- Ferns Garda Station, Co. Wexford - Office Conversion

The programme represents the substantial commitment to strengthening policing infrastructure nationwide and providing Gardaí with the facilities needed to deliver an effective, visible and community-focused policing service.

Delivery Timelines

Delivery of the Garda building programme is overseen in line with the Infrastructure Guidelines, which set out the standards and processes for the appraisal, approval and delivery of public investment. There are up to three approval stages in the lifecycle prior to construction commencing, and these will be progressed for each project over the lifetime of this plan.

These timelines are subject to ongoing review, in line with availability of resources, value for money considerations and ongoing prioritisation across the capital portfolio.

2026 – 2027

The projects in Portlaoise, Newcastle West, Bailieborough and Drogheda (PEMS) are currently under construction and due to complete in 2026.

The projects in Clonmel and Macroom will start construction in December 2025 and January 2026, with expected completion dates in late 2027.

2028 – 2030

The second half of the plan will then focus on bringing the projects for DMR North, the GNCSIS building, and Garda College upgrades to construction in 2028, with the new stations for Carndonagh and Castletroy expected to begin construction in 2029.

The refurbishment programme will run throughout the five years, with projects of varying scales and durations across the country.

Fleet, aircraft and tactical equipment priorities

Fleet, aircraft and tactical equipment programmes	€87 million
Expansion, modernisation and electrification of the Garda Fleet	
Fleet IT upgrades	
Expansion of air capabilities	
Drones, tactical assets and expansion of canine and equine unit	

A Garda new helicopter and plane will be fully operational in 2026, with a second new helicopter to also delivered in 2026. This transformation of the Garda air support will significantly enhance the organisation's surveillance, search, and public order capabilities.

A major focus of investment is strengthening the operational capabilities of An Garda Síochána through modern equipment, specialist resources, and enhanced frontline support. This includes expansion, modernisation, diversification and electrification of the fleet, with €69 million being invested over the five year plan. Targeted investment in tactical and specialist equipment, including drones, and expansion of the dog and equine units will further support this.

Digital Transformation, Technology and Cybersecurity

Digital transformation, cybersecurity and technology programmes	€460 million
Body Worn Cameras & Digital Evidence Management	
Digitalisation of HR & Corporate Systems	
Cyber security programme, including infrastructure works	
Upgrades and expansion of core policing systems	
Operational and IT technical infrastructure programmes	
National Intelligence Systems	

€460m for technology and digital innovation, including the national roll out of Body Worn Cameras supported by a state-of-the-art digital evidence management system, strengthening cyber security, vital HR and Finance systems as well as maintaining and upgrading general ICT infrastructure to support the organisation's expanded use of digital technology.



IRISH PRISON SERVICE

Prisons Capital Programme	€528 million
Refurbishments/conversions to provide additional spaces	
Construction of new blocks, extensions, and wings within prisons	
Small scale projects to provide additional spaces	
New male and female prisons in Cork	
Planning and developing a plan for Thornton	
Ancillary Facilities/Education/Laundry/Services/Kitchens	
Maintenance and Minor Works	
Fleet expansion and electrification	
Technology and IT modernisation	

The Irish Prison Service (IPS) is delivering one of the most significant capital programmes in the justice sector, reflecting the Government's commitment to increase prison capacity and modernise the estate in line with population growth, with an overall target of delivering **over 1,500 spaces by 2031**. The capital allocation to 2030 supports a substantial pipeline of projects across the entire estate, including new accommodation, modernised facilities and enhanced supports for rehabilitation, healthcare and safer custody.

A multi-year building programme is progressing at several key sites across the prison estate. To accelerate delivery, agreement has been secured for six major projects to bypass the first approval gate of the Infrastructure Guidelines. These projects are located in the prisons in Castlerea, Midlands, Dóchas, Wheatfield, Mountjoy and at the old Cork prison site. This decision is expected to bring forward delivery timelines on those six projects by **12 to 18 months**, while freeing up internal capacity within IPS to advance the wider programme. This acceleration reflects the priority placed by Government on strengthening the prison system's resilience and providing safe, secure and humane accommodation.

Work will also start to plan and develop a new prison on the Thornton site in North County Dublin. A master plan for the site will be developed in 2026, determining its future use as a combined site for use by the IPS, International Protection Accommodation Services and An Garda Síochána.

The capital programme also supports the establishment of a **new mental health therapeutic centre at Mountjoy**, to provide improved services for people in custody with severe mental health and addiction needs. This investment forms part of a broader shift towards more integrated health, wellbeing and rehabilitation supports across the prison system.

In parallel with major construction projects, a series of **short-term measures** to relieve pressures on the system in the near term are progressing. These initiatives will deliver incremental capacity in 2025 and 2026 while larger projects advance and will support safer and more stable operating conditions across the estate.

Delivery Timelines

Delivery of the prison building programme is overseen in line with the Infrastructure Guidelines, which set out the standards and processes for the appraisal, approval and delivery of public investment. An exemption has been secured for six projects to skip Stage 1 approval of the guidelines, enabling these projects to accelerate to tendering stage.

A Large Construction Framework has been established by IPS, ensuring they can efficiently source and manage contractors for their range of projects.

A number of smaller scale projects to bring more spaces into use will be progressed across the lifetime of this plan.

These timelines are subject to ongoing review, in line with availability of resources, value for money considerations and ongoing prioritisation across the capital portfolio.

2026 – 2027

Delivery of short-term projects will see 62 spaces completed in 2026.

Tendering will be underway for the projects in Cloverhill (D Wing extension, 264 spaces) and Dóchas (Rowan House extension, 50 spaces). Tendering will also start for two separate projects in the Midlands prison (Circular Landings, 70 spaces and a new additional wing, 180 spaces) in 2026.

The project to extend Cork prison (330 spaces on the site of the decommissioned old prison) is currently being planned and is expected to go to tender in 2027.

Two projects in Castlerea will commence construction in 2026 (Harristown Block, 68 spaces, Phase 2 of Castlerea Houses, 126 spaces). Midlands Circular Landings and Cloverhill D Wing will also start construction in 2026, with Dóchas Rowan House Extension and Midlands new additional wing to starting construction from 2027 onwards.

2028 – 2030

Wheatfield (new block, 100 spaces) and Mountjoy (Separation Unit Footprint, 150 spaces and a mental health therapeutic facility) will be tendered for in 2028 with construction expected to commence in 2029.

Initial works in Thornton are currently expected to commence in 2030.



COURTS SERVICE

PPP, Estates, and ICT Projects	€369 million
Existing PPP - Criminal Courts of Justice	
Existing PPP - Regional court development	
New PPP – Dublin Family Court	
Estates – refurbishments, climate initiatives, maintenance works	
Courts IT modernisation programme	
New courthouse in Tralee, Co. Kerry	

Courts Priorities

The Courts Service is delivering a major ICT modernisation programme that will replace outdated systems with modern, integrated digital platforms. This investment will underpin this work to streamline case management, improve data quality, reduce delays and make interaction easier for the public and practitioners.

Modern digital tools facilitate more efficient filing, scheduling and tracking of cases, reducing administrative overhead and improving transparency. Enhanced information-sharing across the justice system will support more consistent and timely decision-making, while strengthening security and resilience.

Importantly, these improvements will also support faster and more efficient delivery of infrastructure. Planning and housing-related judicial reviews form a significant part of the courts' caseload. Better digital workflows, more transparent case progression and increased efficiency will help the Courts Service manage cases more effectively, accelerating delivery of essential housing and critical infrastructure.

Together with the estates programme, modernisation will better equip the Courts Service with the technology and infrastructure needed to deliver timely, accessible and efficient justice, supporting wider Government objectives.

The development of a modern, purpose-built facility for the Dublin Family Courts at Hammond Lane in 2029 will replace existing outdated venues and facilities with a more family friendly and secure building, which is a key part of the Government's wider family law reform programme. Construction will also start on a much-needed new Court House in Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Strategic regional estates projects will be progressed, including climate action and sustainability projects to install solar panels, low carbon heating systems and fabric upgrades across the estate.

Additionally a number of general upgrades, refurbishments and maintenance works will be progressed in existing court houses all over the country, including:

- Ballina Court House, Co. Mayo - roof and general refurbishment works
- Galway Court House - general refurbishment works
- Longford Court House - reconfiguration works
- Mallow Court building, Co. Cork - general refurbishment works
- Holding Cell upgrades in Blanchardstown, Naas and Portlaoise courts
- Sligo Court House - roof and remedial works



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, HOME AFFAIRS AND MIGRATION

Security

Security Programmes	€46 million
Establishment of the National Security Authority	
Enhancement and capability building of the National Cyber Security Centre	

In addition to projects to enhance the capability of An Garda Síochána in relation to national security, significant further investment will be progressed through the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), and in the establishment of a National Security Authority.

A key priority is to build on work to date to strengthen and grow the NCSC's capability as part of the Government's *Securing Ireland's Future* agenda. A programme of capital and current investment will significantly enhance the State's cyber defence and resilience, expand national cyber infrastructure, and build the specialist expertise needed to protect Ireland's data, services and infrastructure from increasingly sophisticated threats.

A Cyber Security Research Centre of Excellence will be established by the NCSC that brings together Government, academia and industry. The Centre will operate from both a dedicated physical facility and a robust virtual platform and will provide a focal point for researchers across the State, including the private sector, to collaborate.

It will also support full alignment with the NIS2 EU Directive on Network and Information Security, enabling a more robust, consistent and future-proof approach to safeguarding critical infrastructure. Progressing the establishment of a statutory National Security Authority with the legal authority and capability to provide the full spectrum of security clearances is a key strategic goal for the Department.

A new statutory National Security Authority will be developed during the lifetime of this plan. The capital funding will provide for secure-by-design facilities, and reliable and resilient high-performance infrastructure and systems for NSA operations.

Facilities, fleet and climate action priorities

Facilities, fleet and climate action initiatives	€40.5 million
New Dublin mortuary	
Fleet electrification strategy for justice sector	
Climate action programme	
Forensic Science laboratory maintenance and enhancements	

A new mortuary will be developed in Dublin to support a modern, family-centred death investigation process within the Dublin coronial district.

To meet the Government's Climate Action Mandate, and to avoid prolonged costs associated with maintenance and running costs of diesel vehicles, significant further investment in fleet electrification is required. The Department will develop a Fleet Electrification Strategy for all the justice sector, to promote, standardise and support bodies to meet fleet electrification and decarbonisation targets.

The Climate Action programme will fund building fabric and thermal energy system upgrades, electricity supply decarbonisation and resilience initiatives, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions in addition to water harvesting and management solutions.

Investment in the FSI laboratory to maintain compliance with exacting ISO standards in relation to evidence handling and processing. These include modifications for new instruments, search room cameras for evidence recovery, air conditioning systems and building modifications to accommodate operational workflows associated with new technologies. Given the building's high energy demands, further solar power options will be pursued.

Technology

Technology and Digitalisation Programmes	€81 million
EU Migration Pact	
eEvidence package	
Immigration modernisation, replacement and upgrades of systems	
Hardware replacements, case management systems	
Cybersecurity enhancements	
European Prosecutor's Office establishment	
Gambling Regulator systems	
Legal Aid Board modernisation	

Along with enhancing security of ICT architecture across the Department and sector, and our immigration and border systems, a key priority is the continued transformation and digitalisation of services across the Department and its aegis bodies. The objective is to build a modern, integrated and data-driven justice system that delivers faster, simpler and more transparent services for the public, while supporting efficiency, compliance and accountability across the sector.

This transformation is most visible in the area of immigration, where a major Immigration Modernisation Programme is replacing fragmented, legacy and paper systems with a seamless, digital-first model. This programme will provide a full end-to-end online service for immigration permissions, visa applications and registration processes, enabling applicants to engage more easily with the State and allowing decisions to be made more efficiently and consistently.

Complementary initiatives are progressing across the broader migration and border management system. The Smart Borders programme will deliver a high-tech and secure approach to managing entry to and exit from the State, integrating border and immigration data and enhancing engagement with carriers through digital solutions. Implementation of the EU Migration Pact will underpin a digital-first, transparent and

efficient asylum process, aligning Ireland's systems with the EU and ensuring that data is used effectively to improve efficiency and decision-making.

In parallel, the e-Evidence Package will strengthen cooperation between law enforcement and judicial authorities, enabling faster and more secure exchange of electronic evidence in cross-border investigations. Ireland will join the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), and this will be supported through the development of secure digital systems to facilitate cooperation, evidence sharing and case tracking across EU jurisdictions.

Alongside these major initiatives, the Department is supporting digital transformation across its portfolio and agencies. The Legal Aid Board will be supported to modernise its systems which will simplify applications and enhance access for clients and practitioners. The Gambling Regulator of Ireland (GRAI) will continue to develop its tools to underpin its regulatory and licensing functions, enabling more effective oversight of the gambling sector and stronger consumer protection.

These investments mark a fundamental shift toward a modern, integrated and data-driven justice system. By replacing outdated, paper-based processes with digital solutions, the Department and its agencies are improving efficiency, enhancing public accessibility and accountability, and ensuring the Justice sector is equipped to meet the demands of a rapidly changing society.

Immigration and International Protection Accommodation

Immigration and International Protection Accommodation	€200 million
Construction programme, including modular builds	
Property purchases	
Site Acquisitions	
Maintenance, upgrades and refurbishments	

The Government is transforming the accommodation system for international protection applicants by investing in a sustainable, State-led model that will deliver a strong foundation of State-owned beds and a more flexible commercial supply to meet demand. Under the new strategy, the Department is moving away from full reliance on private providers to take greater control over location, standards and integration of services.

Delivery will follow a multi-strand approach: using State land for modular or purpose-built sites, converting suitable commercial buildings, acquiring turnkey properties and upgrading existing accommodation centres. The Department will also make proposals for further expenditure on an in-year basis where opportunities arise. The result will be a more resilient, efficient system, meeting the guiding principles of the White Paper and supporting community integration, service planning and long-term value for the public.

Domestic Violence Refuges and Safe Homes

Cuan, the DSGBV statutory agency, coordinates the delivery of additional safe and accessible refuge spaces. The construction of the refuges is funded by the Department of Housing, with fit out and set up costs by the Department of Justice.

A refreshed plan to support accelerated delivery of safe accommodation to meet the needs of those fleeing violence has been developed and 2026 will see the delivery of 52 new family refuge units, 45 new safe homes and 50 new units under construction.



FIOSRÚ

ICT and Facilities Projects	€6 million
New IT systems and facility works	

A priority for Fiosrú is to strengthen public trust in the independent handling of complaints and to ensure that its expanded functions are delivered in a timely, fair and effective manner. Central to this is the introduction of a new Case Management System to modernise how complaints are processed, improve transparency for complainants and stakeholders, and support consistent, high-quality decision-making. The system will also enable Fiosrú to analyse trends and patterns in policing oversight, providing valuable insights to support learning and continuous improvement across the policing system.

Some critical building services maintenance is also a priority for Fiosrú.

Governance

Infrastructure Guidelines

Capital delivery across the Justice sector is underpinned by a robust governance framework that ensures projects are properly planned, evaluated and managed throughout their lifecycle. All capital expenditure is overseen in line with the **Infrastructure Guidelines**, which set out the standards and processes for the appraisal, approval and delivery of public investment. These guidelines place clear responsibilities on Sponsoring Agencies, Contracting Authorities (typically the OPW), and the Department of Justice as Approving Authority, ensuring accountability at every stage.

The Infrastructure Guidelines were updated in 2024 to streamline approval stages and reduce administrative burden while retaining strong governance and international best practice. Under this framework, all major capital projects prepare a Strategic Assessment and Preliminary Business Case, carry out financial and economic appraisals, undergo structured procurement processes, and submit a Final Business Case to the Department of Justice before contracts are awarded and construction commences.

Justice Sector Capital Policy

To complement this national framework, the Department has developed a Justice sector Capital Policy, which sets out sector-specific procedures for evaluating, planning and managing capital investment.

This policy strengthens long-term strategic planning, standardises governance arrangements across agencies, and supports the development of appropriate delivery models for different types of projects. It also enhances compliance with the Infrastructure Guidelines, improves the sector's ability to secure and allocate funding, and ensures the efficient, high-quality and cost-effective delivery of capital projects aligned with strategic priorities. The policy establishes clear portfolio management arrangements, providing transparency on progress, risks and key milestones across all projects in delivery. The policy also sets out the clear approval processes for varying scales and types of projects.

Digital projects are subject to an additional layer of oversight through the Digital Government Oversight Unit (DGOU), which ensures all digital and technology initiatives align with wider Government strategies and operate under appropriate governance arrangements, including Circular 14/2021.

To support delivery under the sectoral capital plan, dedicated steering boards will oversee programme portfolios within individual Votes and bodies, ensuring that projects progress at pace and within approved budgets.

Financial management

This governance framework is further reinforced by the Department's financial management processes. The Accounting Officer retains ultimate responsibility for Votes 21 and 24, with routine operations delegated appropriately while the Garda Commissioner, the CEO of the Courts Service and the CEO of Fiosrú are Accounting Officers for those respective bodies. All financial activity is subject to audit by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General and scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee.

Where appropriate, multiannual commitments are signalled for specific programmes, in line with their particular requirements and the relevant decisions of the Minister or Government. Within this framework, the Department retains the flexibility to re-prioritise capital expenditure to respond to emerging needs while operating within the overall capital ceilings set by Government. The programme envelopes outlined in this plan are therefore indicative and may be adjusted over time to reflect programme progress and evolving priorities.

Aegis Bodies

The Department oversees its aegis bodies in line with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. Each agency operates within its own statutory framework, which defines its mandate, functions and accountability arrangements. In accordance with the Code, the Department puts in place a formal oversight agreement with each body. These arrangements ensure clear accountability, effective performance management and strong alignment between the Department and its agencies.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040




An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service



Seirbhís Phríosúin
na hÉireann
Irish Prison Service



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration



Fiosrú

Oifig an
Ombudsman
Poilíneachta
Office of
the Police
Ombudsman