

# Dublin City Joint Policing Committee

Tuesday 8<sup>TH</sup> March 2016

## Report of Assistant Commissioner Jack Nolan Dublin Metropolitan Region.

At this the second meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2016 I intend to concentrate on the updates/ progress in the following areas,

- Crime overview 2016
- Serious Crime
- Traffic
- Strategic Partnership

### 1. **Crime**

Up to the end of February, Property Crime in Dublin City Council CC area is down (-9%) on same period in 2015. Violent Property Crime is down (-18%) on 2015 levels. The category 'Thefts from shop' is indicating lower levels than in 2015 (-5%). An increase has been experienced in thefts from persons in 2016. This increase was offset by reductions in all other theft categories including theft from vehicles (-9%) and Theft of other property (-11%). Increases in Theft categories will be a focus for An Garda Síochána in 2016. An Garda Síochána will analyse any increase in such categories and put hi-visibility policing plans in place to address same.

Burglaries in 2016 continue to decline and is running at -37% on 2015 levels in the DCC area. Indications are that there has been a significant downward trend in Burglaries, which is greater than what would have been expected due to seasonal trends. This can be largely attributed to the continued work of the dedicated Burglary Response Units throughout the Region under the auspice of Operation Thor.

Public Order and Begging offences have stabilised and are indicating decreases. This is against what was heightened Garda activity in the DCC area in 2015. An Garda Síochána will maintain hi-visibility patrols in place to target key hotspot areas. Special Public Order patrols are put in place in key areas particularly at the weekends to address matters of a public order nature. Criminal Damage incidents are down -9% on 2015 in the DCC area.

Comparing 2015 to 2016, there has been an increase in Crimes against the Person (+8%) with the greatest increase in the category of Minor Assaults (+18%). This continues to present a challenge to An Garda Síochána to address this trend. Hi-visibility strategies will remain in place to address this problem, utilising mountain bike and foot patrols in key areas. Assaults causing harm have decreased to (-3%) on levels in 2015. Operation Spire and Operation Pier remain in place in the City Centre to tackle these crime categories, overall public order incidents are decreasing in the city.

Trends for firearms/ offensive weapon offences in the Dublin City Council area remain stable. Possession of firearm shows an increase at one additional incident on last year;

while possession of offensive weapon shows an increase of 10%. It should be noted that this crime category is impacted upon as a result of increased Garda activity. Discharge of a firearm is currently running at 3 incidents less than 2015.

Overall drug offences indicate a (-16%) decrease in the DCC area on same period in 2015. Drug offences include Possession of sale or supply (-2%) and Possession for personal use (-25%). Garda Activity in this area indicates 4,757 incidents of searches in 2016. There have been 200 seizures for sale and supply of controlled substances year to date. Three significant seizures made in February to wit:-

- €840,000 seizure of heroin in Walkinstown on 4/2/16
- €500,000 seizure of heroin & cocaine in Clondalkin on 16/2/16
- €2.1 million seizure of cannabis & cocaine in Donaghmede on 13/2/16

Conviction rates were mentioned at the last meeting. Statics on conviction rates are essentially a matter for the Court Service and while An Garda Síochána is responsible for bringing results of court hearings are a matter for the judiciary. Generally conviction details are supplied in the annual reports of the Court Servies and the Director of Public Prosecutions. It should also be noted that conviction rates can be lagging indicators given that the court outcome will only be finalised some time after the occurrence.

A number of initiatives will continue in 2016 to tackle various crime categories that continue to create challenges for An Garda Síochána and communities throughout the DCC area. These initiatives will be intelligence led and targeted at the areas of concern and included the optimal the use of technology; crime analysis and crime mapping strategies and close cooperation with the communities we serve.

## 2. **Serious Crime**

There has been 3 murders in the Dublin Metropolitan Region this year to date. For the same period in 2015, the Dublin Metropolitan Region experienced 3 murders also. That said, it is acknowledged that the recent murders have received significant publicity.

While I am constrained in discussing particulars of the cases for operational reasons, I wish to assure this committee that all three investigations are fully resourced and are making progress. Such investigations are complex and protracted by their very nature, however An Garda Síochána is fully committed to identifying the individuals and their associates. These incidents are the subject of Garda investigation and incident rooms have been established in respective Garda station to investigate these incidents, each of which is being overseen by a dedicated Senior Investigating Officer.

There are two intelligence driven operations currently ongoing in the DMR, which provides both a proactive and re-active response to serious crime to wit:-

**Operation Hybrid** is designed to provide an armed response to organised crime in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This operation is reviewed on a weekly basis.

**Operation Domino** has been established to actively target persons involved in serious crime in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. The operation coordinates both local and national resources in targeting individuals involved in organised crime, utilising intelligence gathering and analysis of trends to focus investigations on criminals engaged in Organised Crime.

### **3. Traffic**

At the time of writing this report the number of people killed on the roads of the Capital in 2016 is 3; compared with 2 for 2015. This remains a focus for An Garda Síochána and during the month of February the following operations were ongoing:-

- Operation Artery – (ongoing 4th January to 31st March 2016)

Operation Artery is aimed at reducing deaths and serious injuries in the Dublin Metropolitan Region and will take place for a 3 month period from 4/1/2016 until 31/3/2016.

- TISPOL Operation Truck/Bus/Commercial Vehicle – 15th to 21st February 2016

TISPOL Truck/Bus & Operation Commercial Vehicle (National Truck and Bus week) was a National operation enforcing legislation on Heavy Good Vehicles (HGV's) and Large Public Service Vehicles (LPSV's). The week long operation took place from Monday 15th to Sunday 21st February 2016 inclusive.

- Operation Mobile Phone – 24th & 25th February 2016

This aim of this two day operation was to detect and prosecute motorists who hold a mobile phone whilst driving.

### **4. Strategic Partnership**

Partnerships form a very important part of our policing strategy in 2016, through a variety of community and interagency initiatives.

Arising from the last meeting, An Garda Síochána met on the 17/2/16, with our partners in Dublin City Council and Iarnród Éireann to discuss a strategic response to the issue of Graffiti (criminal damage). A detailed discussion took place around the issue and how best to build on the excellent work already ongoing in some areas. Possible responses which would have the best impact on tackling the issue were discussed and agreed. It was agreed in general that a three pronged approach would be explored, to wit Education; Enforcement; and restorative justice practices. A further meeting will be held in the coming weeks to progress this initiative.

An Garda Síochána continue to work with the following Fora/ Initiatives:-

- Dublin Regional Homeless Executive in support of their Cold Weather Initiative 2015-2016.
- Dublin City Centre Business Forum.
- Assertive Case Management Team (ACMT)

These partnerships form are a very important part of our policing strategy in 2016, through a variety of community and interagency initiatives. These multi agency collaborative framework at a strategic level are designed to enhance the various stakeholder/ agencies capabilities to work together to both improve public safety and

break the cycle of crime. An Garda Síochána will continue to engage with these initiatives/ forums and feedback to-date has been positive.

### **Conclusion**

I have outlined above the current position in respect of policing and our plans going forward in 2016. These initiatives are primarily focused on addressing policing issues in a collaborative manner involving our strategic partners and I look forward to continuing to develop these initiatives throughout the year.

**Thank You**