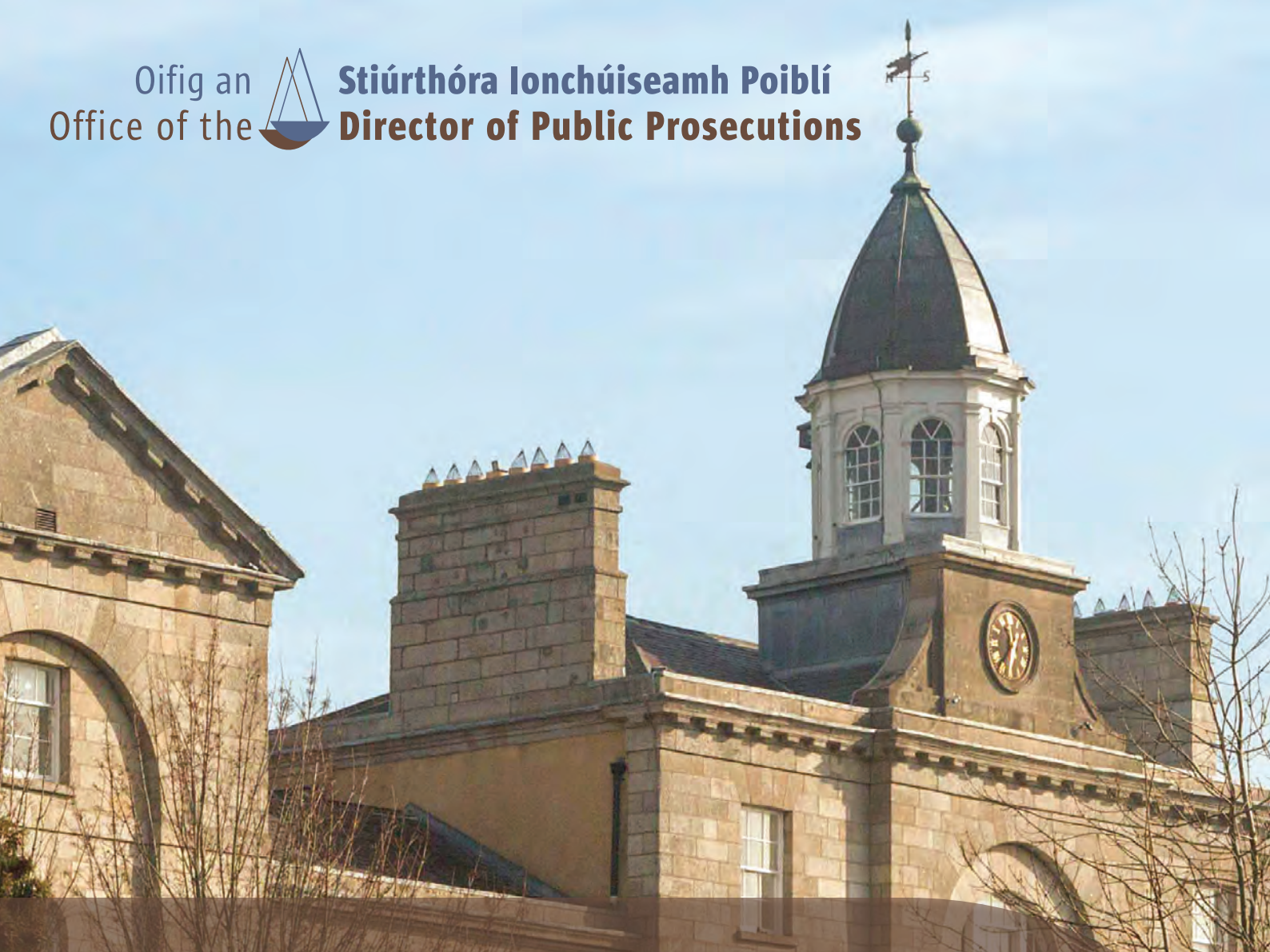




Annual Report | 2024

This Report is also available in the Irish Language

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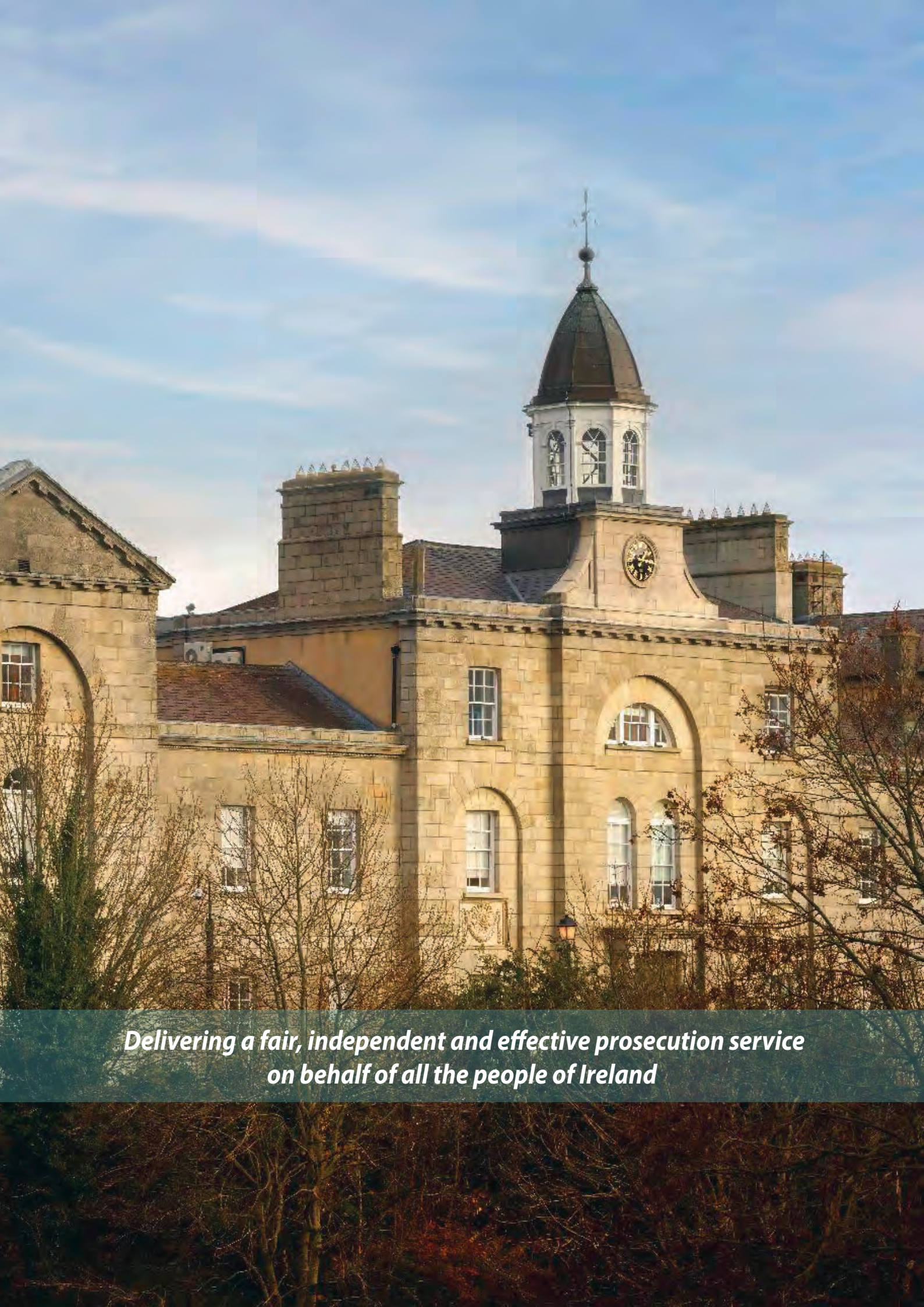
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***Delivering a fair, independent and effective prosecution service
on behalf of all the people of Ireland***

Foreword

I am delighted to introduce the 2024 Annual Report of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

2024 marked the 50-year anniversary of the passing of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1974, and this year marks that half century since the appointment of the first Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Eamonn Barnes, in January 1975. Prior to the enactment of the 1974 Act – when the practical implications of the independence of the proposed DPP were being considered – Limerick State Solicitor, Gordon Holmes, wrote to the Attorney General, Declan Costello, saying “Candidly, we are absolutely plagued with representations here, largely coming, I am afraid from TDs”. In a later letter, he described how one TD had lobbied for both an accused person and a victim in a particular case – an illustration of the purpose of the new Office, which was to strengthen public confidence in the rule of law by ensuring there could be no political interference or perception of interference in these decisions.

Today, the values of independence and fairness remain at the core of the Irish prosecution service and are as important as ever to the rule of law in a functioning democracy. The Office has grown from a small team of only four lawyers in 1975 to an Office of 300 staff, 30 state solicitors and over 200 barristers on our prosecution panels. We now deal with approximately 17,000 files a year and make prosecution decisions in all serious cases and conduct all prosecutions in the higher courts.

A commitment to high standards in all aspects of the delivery of the prosecution service continues to be a key focus for my Office. Throughout 2024, several initiatives were introduced to strengthen this commitment nationally and across all court jurisdictions. In April, we established the State Solicitor Support Unit to provide enhanced support to the 30 State Solicitors and their teams nationwide. In October, we launched the Prosecution Standards Unit to support and contribute to stronger systems of support and quality assurance over the prosecutions brought in the District Court by members of An Garda Síochána.

Also in October, we consolidated two critical areas within our Office – the Sexual Offences Unit and the Superior Courts Section – into a newly formed Serious and Sexual Offences Unit, further strengthening our capacity to manage complex and sensitive cases.



Since the establishment of the Office over five decades ago, much has changed in Ireland and the world. We have seen the growth of drug related and cyber-enabled crime, and the emergence of sophisticated organised crime gangs who operate transnationally. The legal landscape is also constantly evolving. Much of our substantive criminal law now originates in the EU, and international judicial co-operation is an important feature in the prosecution of many serious cases. There is also an increasing focus on the freezing and confiscation of criminal assets. During 2024, the prosecution sought and were granted 208 Confiscation and Forfeiture Orders by the Courts, to a total value of over €12million – a 149% increase on the amount seized in 2023.

All of us who work in the criminal justice system have collectively been learning about the impact of trauma, and increasingly there is an awareness that instead of expecting vulnerable witnesses to adapt to our system, we must adapt instead to their needs. Increased supports for vulnerable victims since the enactment of the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017 mean that we can now prosecute complaints from very vulnerable victims, where ten years ago there would have been no reasonable prospect of a conviction. Where a decision is made not to prosecute, victims are now entitled to reasons for and review of that decision. This Annual Report sets out that in 2024, the Office received a total of 571 requests for reasons and 219 requests for a review of a decision not to prosecute.

This year's report also details the increased level of court activity that now has to be supported by this Office and the criminal justice system. The most

notable increases in activity have, however, been in the Central Criminal Court – coinciding with an increase in the number of judges assigned to that Court from five to 12 in recent years. During 2024, my Office supported a total of 2,185 trial dates listed in the Central Criminal Court. This represents a 43% increase over the past three years, and a 19% increase on 2023. A total of 299 Central Criminal Court cases were brought to a conclusion during 2024.

There was also an increase in the number of cases being moved to venues outside of Dublin during 2024, with 855 Central Criminal Court sitting days listed outside of the capital during that period, a 65% increase on the preceding year. This increasing regionalisation of the Central Criminal Court's operations is one of the reasons why the Office is seeking to open a regional office in Cork in 2026 – i.e. to be able to support the continuous sitting of a Central Criminal Court in that county.

Another key challenge that remained prominent throughout 2024 was the relentless growth in digital data, from mobile devices, social media platforms, and CCTV footage. To take a hypothetical example – a typical file 15 years ago regarding an assault on a street would have included a victim's statement and a memo of interview with an accused, and perhaps a couple of witness statements. Now this file would include the phone footage of bystanders; CCTV from nearby premises, and possibly the details of some of the social media conversations that took place in the aftermath of the assault. This surge in material gathered during investigations and submitted to my Office for review continues to reshape both the volume and complexity of evidence that must be assessed when determining whether to prosecute, examined for relevance at the disclosure stage, and ultimately presented in court.

There is a clear need to re-examine the policies and practices that underpin our current approach to disclosure. At present, the prosecution and investigators are tasked with reviewing extensive volumes of material to identify information that may be relevant to the defence, in the absence of any statutory obligation on the defence to engage in this process. My Office welcomes the clarity provided by the Supreme Court judgment in *WC v. DPP* last October (and more recently in *DPP v. AM*), which has significantly clarified the responsibilities and obligations of all parties involved – the prosecution, the defence, and the trial judge. The *WC* judgment rejected the notion that counselling notes in sexual offence cases should be disclosed merely on the basis of being remotely or potentially relevant. It also clarifies that the accused's

right to silence does not justify obscuring the nature of what case the defence may seek to make at trial and reinforces the role of the trial judge in deciding on disclosure disputes.

Achieving meaningful and lasting improvements in data management and disclosure practices will require a sustained, collaborative effort across the entire criminal justice system. This includes my Office, investigation agencies, legal practitioners, the courts, the judiciary, and relevant government departments.

The rapid increase in the demands on the criminal justice system has also prompted efforts to identify ways in which we can collectively work towards a more efficient and effective system which better meets the needs of the people who are interacting with it – and in particular the victims, accused persons and witnesses. I would like to welcome in particular the Government commitment in this year's Programme for Government to conduct a review of the criminal justice system, and publish an action plan to improve efficiency, remove blockages and cut waiting times. In the meantime, work is already underway to deepen collaboration across the system so that unnecessary delays are avoided. By way of example, during 2024 the Office of the DPP participated – along with 15 other criminal justice agencies – in the development of a Juvenile Protocol for the handling of Central Criminal Court cases involving children. This judicially led initiative was launched in February 2025 with the aim of ensuring that all such cases are dealt with within 12 months of the date of the allegation.

I want to conclude by acknowledging the unwavering commitment and dedication of all those working within the Irish prosecution service. From the legal and administrative staff in my Office, to the State Solicitors working tirelessly across the country, and the barristers who prosecute cases on our behalf.

I also wish to express my appreciation for the continued support and constructive collaboration we receive from the many external stakeholders with whom we work on a daily basis, including An Garda Síochána and other investigative agencies. Together, you play an essential role in upholding a prosecution service that is fair, independent, and effective on behalf of all the people of Ireland.

Catherine Pierse
Director of Public Prosecutions

September 2025

2024 at a glance



283

Total staff headcount
at end of 2024

16,616

Total number of
prosecution files
received in 2024



571

Number of requests for
reasons for decisions
not to prosecute

73%

Percentage of cases
on which a decision
is made within four
weeks



€12.3m

Amount recovered
from proceeds of crime
and returned to public
funds

4,404

Total number of
Continuing Professional
Development hours
completed by staff



43%

Increase in number of
Central Criminal Court
trial dates in past three
years

€65.2m

Total cost of providing
the Prosecution
Service in 2024



Overview of the Office

What We Do

The office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) was established by law under the Prosecution of Offences Act, 1974. The Director, Catherine Pierse, is independent in the performance of her functions.

The duties of the Director are to:

- enforce the criminal law in the courts on behalf of the people of Ireland;
- direct and supervise public prosecutions on indictment in the courts;
- give general direction and advice to An Garda Síochána in relation to summary cases; *and*

- give specific direction to An Garda Síochána in cases where requested.

The majority of cases dealt with by the Office of the DPP are received from An Garda Síochána. Some cases are also referred to the Office by specialised investigative agencies including: Revenue; government departments; the Health and Safety Authority; the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission; the Corporate Enforcement Authority; Fiosrú (Office of the Police Ombudsman); the Environmental Protection Agency; and local authorities.

Structure of the Office

The Office of the DPP had a total staff complement of 283 at the end of 2024, working across four divisions of the Office:

- 1. Directing and Specialist Units Division** – examines criminal investigation files and decides, based on evidence, whether or not to take a prosecution, or whether a prosecution commenced by An Garda Síochána should be maintained; provides ongoing instruction and legal advice on cases until their conclusion, including any potential appeals involving legal or sentencing issues; advises An Garda Síochána and other specialised investigative agencies. There are two specialised Units within this Division that focus on serious and sexual offences and financial crime: the Serious and Sexual Offences Unit and the Special Financial Crime Unit.
- 2. Solicitors Division** – prepares and conducts cases on behalf of the Director in the Dublin District Court, Circuit Criminal Courts across the country, the Court of Appeal, the High Court and Supreme Courts.
- 3. Prosecution Support Services Division** – incorporates the Victims Liaison Unit which ensures

that the Office meets its obligations in relation to the support and protection of victims of crime; the International Unit which deals with areas of international co-operation, including extradition, European Arrest Warrants and requests for mutual legal assistance; the Prosecution Policy and Research Unit which conducts legal research, supports the development of legal policy, engages with external stakeholders on policy matters, and co-ordinates knowledge management for our staff; the Data Protection Unit which manages the Office's compliance with data protection legislation; and the Prosecution Standards Unit which supports high standards of prosecution practice across the system.

- 4. Corporate Services Division** – is responsible for enabling and contributing to the Office's overall objectives through the implementation of a range of corporate support functions including: communications; facilities management; finance; governance and audit; human resources and organisational development; ICT; procurement; strategy implementation; and other support services to the three legal divisions.

You can read more information on the work of the four divisions in the 'Our Organisation' section of our website, www.dppireland.ie. Our organisation structure can be found at [Appendix 1](#).

Who We Work With

The Office of the DPP also works closely with other legal professionals.

The **State Solicitor Service** – 30 solicitors in private practice contracted to act on behalf of the Director before the Circuit Courts and occasionally in the District Courts outside of Dublin. There is generally one State Solicitor per county but in certain counties, State Solicitor areas have been split to take account of factors such as population. For example, Limerick is divided into two areas: Limerick City and Limerick County.

Prosecution Counsel Panel – approximately 200 independent counsel practising at the Bar are engaged to represent the DPP on a case by case basis. Counsel prosecute in accordance with the Director's instructions and in compliance with the [Guidelines for Prosecutors](#). They represent the Director in a number of legal areas including: prosecutions on indictment in Dublin and outside Dublin (Circuit Court); judicial review; habeas corpus; High Court bail; and confiscation of assets.

You can read a more detailed description of the Prosecution System in Ireland in a publication of the same name on our website, www.dppireland.ie. A graphic description of the criminal prosecution process in Ireland can be found at [Appendix 2](#).

Our Mission and Core Values



MISSION:

To deliver a fair, independent and effective prosecution service on behalf of all the people of Ireland

CORE VALUES:



Integrity

- Acting honestly, fairly, consistently and objectively, in accordance with the Code of Ethics
- Making fair and right decisions based on evidence
- Providing accurate information



Independence

- Upholding the independence of the Office of the DPP
- Acting impartially without fear, favour, bias or prejudice, in line with the Guidelines for Prosecutors and Code of Ethics
- Remaining unaffected by individual or sectional interests and public or media pressure, having regard only to the public interest



Excellence

- Delivering fair, independent, professional services to the highest standards
- Continuously improving our service, responding proactively to changing needs, challenges, opportunities
- Influencing and shaping improvements in the criminal justice system



Respect

- Treating everyone with fairness, respect and dignity
- Listening to the perspective of stakeholders



Collegiality

- Valuing the contributions of everyone in the delivery of the prosecution service.
- Building strong relationships and working collaboratively with stakeholders, national and international
- Sharing our knowledge and expertise with others

Our Strategic Goals 2022-2024

2024 was the third and final year of our Strategy Statement 2022-2024. The strategy was informed and shaped through a process of engagement with staff and a range of stakeholders, and it provides a clear and shared framework that sets out our four high level goals (as outlined below) for the three-year period, and how they will be achieved.

Our strategy draws on our experience and knowledge of emerging issues in the prosecution service and focuses on how the Office of the DPP can achieve our mission to deliver a fair, independent and effective prosecution service on behalf of all the people of Ireland.

Throughout the year we continued with our collaborative business planning process – underpinned by this strategy – to connect each staff member’s work to our strategic goals and values.

The following part of this Report provides an outline of progress made during 2024 in achieving our strategic goals.

The full Strategy Statement 2022-2024 is available to read or download on our website, www.dppireland.ie.



SERVICE

We will deliver an excellent and trusted criminal prosecution service, leading to:

- Appropriate resources to meet demands
- Effective and efficient casework management and prosecution of cases
- Strong public awareness of our Office and service
- Good understanding of the experiences of users

DIGITAL



We will invest in our digital and ICT capability to drive efficiency, innovation and integration, leading to:

- Integration of systems and data exchange processes
- Less reliance on paper
- New and better ways of working and business decision making



PEOPLE

We will invest in our people and support them to thrive, leading to:

- Motivated, valued and professional staff
- Strengthened leadership capacity across the organisation
- Best practice in people and performance management
- Supportive and collegiate organisation

COLLABORATION



We will strengthen collaboration and influence change to improve the criminal justice system, leading to:

- Effective and proactive stakeholder engagement
- Greater visibility and understanding of the role of the ODPP
- Better exchange of learning and information



PART 1: Progress on Strategic Goals 2024

1.1 Service

Effective and efficient casework management and prosecution of cases

- 1.1.1** During 2024, the Office of the DPP received a total of 16,593 files. Of these, 11,195 (involving 13,877 suspects) related to serious offences requiring a decision from lawyers in our Directing and Specialist Units Division as to whether to initiate or continue with a prosecution.
- 1.1.2** Of the number of suspects that were the subject of files received, a prosecution was directed in 66% of cases – 34% prosecution on indictment and 32% summary disposal.
- 1.1.3** The time it takes for a prosecution decision to be taken can vary depending on the size and complexity of the files involved. Also, in some cases, further information or investigation may be required before a decision can be made. During 2024, 73% of cases requiring a decision whether to prosecute were dealt with within a four-week period.
- 1.1.4** Victims of crime have the right to request a summary of the reason for a decision not to prosecute, and a review of that decision, subject to the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017. In 2024, we received 571 requests for reasons for decisions not to prosecute, and 219 requests for reviews of those decisions. Of the 219 requests for review, the decision was overturned in five instances.
- 1.1.5** As reported in our Annual Report for 2023, the increase in the number of judges in the Central Criminal Court from five to twelve in recent years has led to a significant increase in the level of activity in this Court. During 2024, our Office supported a total of 2,185 trial dates listed in the Central Criminal Court. This represents a 43% increase over the past three years and a 19% increase on 2023. A total of 299 Central Criminal Court cases were concluded during 2024. There was also an increase in the number of cases being moved to venues outside of Dublin during 2024, with 855 Central Criminal Court case listings outside of the capital during that period, a 65% increase on the preceding year.

- 1.1.6** There were 48 applications to the Court of Appeal for review of sentence on grounds of undue leniency heard in 2024. Of these, the Director was successful in 36 cases (75%).
- 1.1.7** The Criminal Justice Act 1994 includes important provisions to freeze or seize the proceeds of crime. The Office of the DPP initiates such applications and provides advice and support to prosecution practitioners in relation to confiscation and forfeiture applications. During 2024, 208 Confiscation and Forfeiture Orders were granted by the Courts, to a total value of €12,313,676.48 – a 149% increase on the amount seized in 2023. This amount recovered from the proceeds of crime is returned public funds.
- 1.1.8** At [Part 2](#), you will find detailed statistics relating to:
- All files received by the Office in 2024;
 - Results of cases prosecuted on indictment;
 - Appeals, judicial reviews and other applications (including confiscation and forfeiture of criminal assets);
 - European Arrest Warrants and Extradition;
 - Mutual Legal Assistance; *and*
 - Requests from victims of crime.
- 1.1.9** [Part 3](#) outlines some of the court decisions during 2024 which are important, interesting or have precedent value for prosecution work.

Continuously reviewing and enhancing our prosecution processes and quality assurance measures

- 1.1.10** In April 2024, we established a new State Solicitor Support Unit to support the work of the 30 State Solicitors and their staff nationally. One of the key functions of this unit is to support State Solicitors in their roles – particularly in the areas of training and knowledge management – in line with our commitments to service set out in our Strategy Statement and Organisational Business Plan.
- 1.1.11** In October 2024, we established a new Prosecution Standards Unit to support and contribute to the implementation of summary prosecution reform, as recommended by the High-Level Review Group on the Role of An Garda Síochána in the Public Prosecution System, and the Summary Prosecution

Reform Steering Committee. The unit's eventual roll-out will involve supporting high standards of prosecution practice across the system.

- 1.1.12** Two key areas within our Office – the Sexual Offences Unit and the Superior Courts Section – were consolidated to form the Serious and Sexual Offences Unit (SSOU). This newly merged unit became fully operational in October, enhancing our capacity to deliver focused operational training and support.

Understanding the experiences of our service users

- 1.1.13** Our Victims Liaison Unit (VLU) introduced a new online form through which victims can now apply for reasons for decisions not to prosecute. This form is available on the Victims and Witnesses section of our website, and subsequent correspondence is sent back to victims of crime via a secure online document transfer system.

- 1.1.14** Members from the VLU facilitated workshops for victim support organisations including the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, One in Four, and Advic, on the work of the Office of the DPP in the area of victims' rights.

- 1.1.15** A four-part Vulnerable Victim Lecture Series was delivered, drawing on both internal and external expertise. Presented in a hybrid format, the series was made available to staff and state solicitors, with selected sessions recorded and accessible on-demand via our intranet.

These lectures focused on the use of intermediaries in criminal trials and offered staff valuable insights from four expert speakers. An experienced intermediary shared reflections on his role in facilitating communication during proceedings. A senior counsel provided a practical perspective on working with an intermediary in a case involving an extremely vulnerable victim. Additionally, representatives from Victim Support at Court (V-SaC) and One in Four offered frontline insights and practical guidance on supporting vulnerable victims throughout the justice process.

Public Awareness of our Office

- 1.1.16** In September 2024, the Office of the DPP participated in the Government of Ireland village at the National Ploughing Championships in

Ratheniska, Co. Laois. We collaborated once again with our criminal justice sector colleagues in a marquee themed around 'Supporting Safer Communities | Empowering People', and our own stand had the tagline '*A file has been sent to the DPP...*'. This generated much interest and questions from visitors and over the three days of the event, our staff, including the Director on day three, had 716 interactions with the public – a 47% increase on the preceding year – ranging from five minute to twenty-minute conversations. Colleagues from our HR-OD Unit also joined us in 2024 to provide information on the various career opportunities in the prosecution service. The Office intends to participate again in 2025, when we will also commemorate 50 years since the appointment of the first DPP in 1975.

- 1.1.17** To further increase the understanding of the role of the DPP among some of our stakeholders, the Director – in conversation with journalist Olivia O'Leary – spoke on the topic of *Truth, Justice and Human Rights* at the Justice Sector Leaders Conference in Dublin Castle in March 2024.

Proactive Engagement with State Solicitors, Counsel and An Garda Síochána

- 1.1.18** Our Serious and Sexual Offences Unit (SSOU) maintained ongoing engagement with the Garda National Protective Services Bureau to support training and increased specialism within the Divisional Protected Services Units nationwide, and to promote best practice around file preparation and the practical steps leading up to trials. Feedback on particular issues arising is incorporated into these meetings with a view to addressing challenges and improving processes. During 2024, there was a focus on the changes to working practices necessitated by the *Juvenile Protocol* – a judicially led initiative to expedite rape and murder cases involving victims and defendants under 18 years of age (implemented in February 2025).

- 1.1.19** Staff from our International Unit collaborated with An Garda Síochána to provide training on the topic of mutual legal assistance requests. The format of this training was assessed as effective and will be facilitated for other Garda divisions during 2025.

- 1.1.20** We continued to contribute legal updates and resources on a range of topics to the Garda Portal allowing for the dissemination of timely

and relevant information to members of An Garda Síochána country wide. In 2024, this included a new *CCTV and Electronic Evidence Manual* produced by our District Court Section practitioners. This helpful resource was also made available on our own Legal Portal – a legal knowledge management system on the Office’s intranet – for the benefit of all staff and state solicitors.

- 1.1.21** Members of staff from our Special Financial Crime Unit continued to raise awareness of asset recovery and the offence of money laundering, by facilitating twice-yearly training sessions on the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau (GNECB) *Money Laundering and Financial Investigation* course, and annually on the GNECB *Fraud and E-Crime Investigation* course.

Continuously reviewing our governance, accountability and risk management framework

Risk Management

- 1.1.22** In October 2024, our Management Board approved a revised Risk Management Policy and Framework, together with the 2024/2025 Risk Register, reflecting our ongoing commitment to robust risk governance and strategic oversight. Our Risk Register articulates the top risks facing the organisation and sets out the actions the Office will take to mitigate against those risks materialising over the course of 2024/2025. The implementation of those actions is monitored on a quarterly basis by our Strategy Unit, in consultation with the Chief Risk Officer and Senior Management Team.

Freedom of Information

- 1.1.23** The Office of the DPP continues to meet its obligations under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014. While the Act asserts the right of the public to access information held by public bodies, including this Office, it also provides for certain restrictions, and these are included under section 42. Section 42(f) of the FOI Act 2014 provides that the Act does not apply to any record held or created by the Director of Public Prosecutions or her Office, other than a record concerning the general administration of the Office. This means that records concerning criminal case files are not accessible under the FOI Act.

In 2024, we received 26 FOI requests. Of these, four requests were granted, four were part-granted and 18 were refused. The main reason for the refusals was that the records sought did not relate to the general administration of the Office.

There were two requests for an internal review of an original decision and one appeal to the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) for review. One internal review was partially overturned at the internal review stage. The appellant further appealed to the OIC regarding the part of his request that was refused. The OIC affirmed our Office’s decision regarding this part of the request.

Official Languages Act

- 1.1.24** The Office of the DPP ensured that commitments made in relation to the provision of services in the Irish language were delivered, while implementing the new provisions introduced under section 10A of the 2021 Official Languages (Amendment) Act.

Publications produced by the Office are made available in the Irish language. The Office website, www.dppireland.ie, is also maintained and updated in bilingual format. Updates to the Irish version of the website are translated by external translators. Changes are then published simultaneously on the Irish and English versions of the website.

The Office continues to promote Irish Language training courses to ensure that we can fulfil our obligations under the Official Languages Act. During 2024, three members of staff completed a 12-week Irish Language intermediate course with Gaelchultúr, and two completed a week-long Irish Language Programme with Oideas Gael.

The Office of the DPP also has a weekly ‘Ciorcal Comhrá’ Irish language conversation group. Seachtain na Gaeilge in March 2024 was heavily promoted throughout the Office with events including a bilingual lunchtime concert and a treasure hunt as Gaeilge.

Our intranet has a dedicated Irish language section which is updated on a regular basis with resources including: a link to Gréasán Gaeilge; information about upcoming events as Gaeilge; Irish/English dictionary; vocabulary sheets; and education resources.

There were no case-related requirements for Irish language translation or interpretation during 2024.

Corporate Governance

1.1.25 In October 2024, we published our revised and updated Corporate Governance Framework. This document provides an overview of the structure of the Office, the values which underpin our work, the management procedures in place, and the audit and compliance arrangements to which we are subject. The revised Framework is available on our website, www.dppireland.ie.

Carbon Offsets

1.1.26 The Office of the DPP follows the mandatory procedures and methodology outlined in Circular 01/2020 from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. This Circular set out, with effect from 1 January 2020, that all

government departments, offices and agencies are required to record, monitor and value greenhouse gas emissions associated with official air travel made within a calendar year, and to make a corresponding payment to the Climate Action Fund, based on the prevailing rate of carbon tax (€56.00 per tonne in 2024). The number of flights, carbon total and resulting carbon offset for our Office during 2024 is shown in the table below.

Number of Flights	63 round trips
Tonnes of CO2	18.5
Remittance to Climate Action Fund	€1,035.94

1.2 Digital

Availing of new technologies and technology-supported ways of working

- 1.2.1 We modernised several of our internal and external communications systems during 2024, through the use of cloud service providers. This included the completion of an organisation wide migration of many of our ICT services to Microsoft 365. This project has enabled more secure, collaborative and flexible ways of working, laying the groundwork for further innovation and modernisation in how we deliver our services.
- 1.2.2 Our Governance and Public Affairs Unit continued to support business units across the Office, leveraging specialist software and in-house expertise to produce digital and video content. This content promoted social and wellbeing initiatives, supported awareness campaigns, enhanced learning and development sessions and our intranet communications.

Utilising our data and information to anticipate trends, emerging needs and issues and to shape and improve outcomes

- 1.2.3 In line with the Civil Service Renewal 2024 Action Plan to deliver evidence-informed policy and services, our Prosecution Policy Unit worked on 35 policy projects during 2024. The systems developed to support this work have also assisted in building a policy development

infrastructure, built by drawing a broad base of information provided from subject-matter experts across the Office. This facilitates a joined-up approach to evidence informed policy development. Work on 11 of these 34 policy projects was undertaken in response to requests from external organisations including the Law Reform Commission, the Department of Justice, OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office), and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development.

Continuing to ensure our data and data infrastructure is fully secure

- 1.2.4 We undertook a substantial review of the Office’s overall cyber security posture and commenced a programme of work to enhance our capabilities in this area. This ongoing effort reflects our commitment to safeguarding data and systems in an evolving threat landscape.

Incorporating a greater focus on sustainability and digital solutions

- 1.2.5 There was an 18% increase in staff accessing our online library resources during 2024. Maintaining the online technology to support this demand requires our Library team to continuously optimise the latest software, technology and digital solutions.

Reviewing the extent to which our case management systems are supporting our service needs

- 1.2.6 We commenced a review of our case management system and the associated business processes across all divisions and units of the Office.

Less reliance on paper

- 1.2.7 We continued to move towards a 'paper light' way of working, including providing for electronic exchange of information with victims of crime.

1.3 Collaboration

Training to external agencies

- 1.3.1 In 2024, the Office of the DPP continued to facilitate regular training sessions for stakeholders, covering a variety of topics, including:

- Effective file preparation and file management (An Garda Síochána and GSOC)
- Disclosure (An Garda Síochána and GSOC)
- Court presentation skills
- Special measures for victims and witnesses
- District Court practice and procedure
- Circuit Court proceedings

- 1.3.2 On 30 November 2024, we hosted our 25th Annual National Prosecutors' Conference in Dublin Castle Conference Centre. This was once again an opportunity for stakeholders from across the Irish criminal justice system to meet and exchange perspectives and expertise. There were 315 delegates in attendance at this event which featured the following presentations:

- *Mutual Co-operation with Ireland's EU Partners in the Gathering and Use of Evidence* – Tricia Harkin, Eurojust National Member for Ireland
- *Equality before the law – do preprepared statements advance or undermine justice?* – Bernard Condon SC, Law Library
- *Body Worn Cameras* – Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, Digital Services & Innovation, Limerick Garda Division, An Garda Síochána
- *Protocol to Expedite Juvenile Cases Before the Central Criminal Court* – Panel discussion with the Honourable Ms. Justice Caroline Biggs, Judge of the High Court; Detective Chief Superintendent Colm Noonan, An Garda Síochána; Aoife O'Leary BL, Law Library, Noreen Landers, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, Office of the DPP

- *Resilience: The Psychology of 'Bouncibility'* – Shane Martin, C. Psychol., Ps.S.I.

- 1.3.3 In addition to the training and knowledge sharing events facilitated for State Solicitors, Counsel and An Garda Síochána as outlined in section 1.1 of this report, DPP staff continued to facilitate lectures and tutorials at the Law Society of Ireland, as well as contributing to the marking and examination process of exams as part of the Criminal Litigation module of the Professional Practice Course 1.

- 1.3.4 Staff from our Serious and Sexual Offences Unit provided practical guidance to students at the University of Limerick who were studying to obtain a Professional Diploma in Intermediary Studies.

Effective and proactive stakeholder engagement

- 1.3.5 Our Office participated in both the Circuit Court and the Central Criminal Court users' groups, supporting the effective running of the criminal courts.

- 1.3.6 Quarterly meetings were held between staff in the Office of the DPP and the Probation Service and the Health and Safety Authority to discuss various matters of mutual concern that might assist these agencies.

- 1.3.7 Our Office, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Chief State Solicitor's Office met periodically to discuss constitutional challenges and judicial review proceedings that may have an impact across the criminal justice system, and the potential solutions to same.

- 1.3.8 In October, our Office was the lead partner for the 10th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) conference which took place in Dublin Castle. This annual event is hosted in collaboration with

the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration; Department of Children, Disability and Equality; Courts Service; An Garda Síochána; Irish Prison Service; Probation Service, Revenue Commissioners; Parole Board and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development.

The theme of the 2024 ICJA conference was *Navigating Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System* and the Director delivered the opening address.

Participating in the delivery of key cross-sectoral projects

1.3.9 Our Special Financial Crime Unit (SFCU) assisted a division of An Garda Síochána in the co-ordination and development of an anti-money laundering strategy for a particular operation. The objective was to dismantle or disrupt an organised crime gang's money laundering operation by using a co-ordinated approach between the investigators and the prosecution. This led to a successful Garda operation and a significant seizure of assets.

1.3.10 Staff from our SFCU sat on the Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption and made key recommendations which have been adopted into the Department of Justice Strategic Plan against Economic Crime and Corruption due for release in Q3 2025. On an operational level, representatives from SFCU also sit on the related Economic Crime and Corruption Forum, which has developed training initiatives to the benefit of the wider criminal justice system.

1.3.11 Extensive DPP staff participation in other national inter-agency committees and working groups included the following in 2024:

- Criminal Justice Strategic Committee
- Criminal Justice Sectoral Strategy 2022-2024 Implementation Sub-groups
- Criminal Justice Sectoral Strategy 2025-2027 Working Group
- Criminal Justice Operational Hub
- Judicial Planning Working Group
- Justice Sector Communications Working Group
- The Law Society of Ireland Criminal Law and In-House and Public Sector Committees
- Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development

- User groups and efficiency committees for all court jurisdictions
- High-level and topic-based liaison groups with An Garda Síochána
- Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee
- Working group on statistics relating to asset recovery
- Video-Conferencing Cross Agency Working Group
- Civil and Criminal Law Data Protection Officers Network
- Third National Strategy on Domestic Violence, Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- Anti-Money Laundering Steering Committee and Terrorist Financing Sub-Group
- A number of Legal Knowledge Management and Law Librarian Networks

1.3.12 Office of the DPP staff also engage and participate on international criminal justice working groups and forums, facilitating input and learning in cross-border criminal offences such as cybercrime, human trafficking, financial, intellectual property and environmental crime.

1.3.13 The Department of Justice and other departments routinely seek the observations of the Office of the DPP on draft legislation and proposals for legislative change. Expert and practical feedback is provided by staff across our Office with a view to identifying and supporting the development, application and operation of proposed legislation.

1.3.14 Our Prosecution Policy and Research Unit manages a legislative engagement structure – a centralised process first introduced in 2023 – for the provision of observations on national and EU legislation. The streamlining of this increasing area of engagement with our stakeholders has allowed us to work more effectively together. The following is an overview of this legislative engagement in 2024:

Domestic Legislation		
Legislative observations	Reviewed	Sets of observations provided
Bills	7	11
Acts	5	5
Total	12	16

EU Legislation		
	Reviewed	Sets of observations provided
Draft Directives / Regulations etc.	8	23
Total	8	23

1.3.15 This engagement between Department of Justice officials – who are required to negotiate the development of EU legislation on behalf of Ireland – and the staff of our Office who can articulate the national operational impact, strengthens both the Office's and the departmental understanding of developments and initiatives at EU level.

Ensuring adequate structures and resources are in place to support Ireland's judicial co-operation with EU and international partners

Eurojust

1.3.16 Eurojust is the EU agency for criminal justice co-operation based in The Hague. Since it was established in 2002, Eurojust has acted as a central hub for judicial co-ordination, bringing together national authorities – judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials – from all 27 EU member states (and currently 12 third country partners) to work together more effectively on serious crimes that cross multiple borders. It streamlines communication, making sure that information, evidence, and co-operation requests are handled quickly and efficiently across borders.

Two Senior Principal Prosecutors from the Office of the DPP are seconded as National Member and Deputy National Member for Ireland in Eurojust. During 2024, a Principal Prosecutor from the Office's International Unit was appointed as Assistant National Member to further embed the work of the unit with the ongoing developments within the agency. In addition to resourcing the Eurojust Irish Desk, the Office of the DPP seconded a prosecutor to the Eurojust Operations Department in 2024.

The Eurojust Irish Desk, resourced by the Office of the DPP, provides assistance in the area of judicial co-operation to all organisations in the Irish Criminal Justice System, including An Garda Síochána and the Department of Justice. This applies in relation to both casework – Eurojust's core objective – and to Eurojust's other current

(2025-27) strategic objectives: co-operation; digitalisation; strategic work; and organisational capabilities and efficiency.

In 2024, the Irish National Desk had a strategic focus on sharing information about upcoming EU legislative developments with our criminal justice partners to ensure optimum participation by Ireland in the EU judicial co-operation tools.

Participation in other international bodies and networks

1.3.17 In July, the Deputy Head of our Prosecution Policy and Research Unit travelled to Brussels to present to a Council of Europe working group on the prosecution of historic child sexual offence cases.

1.3.18 The Director and DPP staff participated in a number of international bodies and networks during 2024, including the following:

- International Association of Prosecutors
- Council of Europe Consultative Council of European Prosecutors
- Inter-jurisdictional meetings between the DPPs of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and England and Wales
- European Judicial Network in Criminal Matters
- European Commission Expert Group on Criminal Policy
- Eurojust Genocide Network
- NADAL Network (network of Public Prosecutors of EU Member States)
- Eurojust Consultative Forum

1.3.19 In Luxembourg in May 2024, the Director presented at the annual NADAL Network conference on the topic of case law from the Court of Justice of the European Union, in particular on the data retention of electronic communications and its impact on national legislation and criminal proceedings.

1.3.20 At the International Association of Prosecutors Annual Conference in Azerbaijan in September 2024, the Director chaired a plenary session on the subject of national approaches to balancing the three main pillars of an independent criminal justice system – the judiciary, the prosecution and the defence.

Building our understanding of developments and initiatives at EU level and informing Ireland's contribution to EU criminal justice policy

1.3.21 Ireland has signed up to a range of EU conventions and agreements in the context of criminal justice. These instruments have emerged from different international organisations such as the EU Commission and the Council of Europe. A corresponding monitoring body is usually set up in tandem with these instruments in order to evaluate each country's compliance.

1.3.22 In 2024, we provided responses to requests for information from nine international monitoring bodies. Such requests are usually communicated to our Office via a government department who contacts us seeking certain information.

1.3.23 In order that the work of our Office is understood and contextualised, we have facilitated the provision of data and explanations on how the Irish prosecution service is operating. The following evaluations were completed during 2024:

International Evaluation Requests 2024	
European Commission	5
US Department of State	1
Consultative Counsel of Prosecutors	1
Global Watchdogs	2
TOTAL	9

1.4 People

Implementing and extending cross-divisional knowledge management systems and practices

1.4.1 In November 2024, our Legal Knowledge Management and Research team launched a Knowledge Management Strategy 2025-2027, setting out a clear direction for knowledge management over the next three years. This was followed in December by the launch of our Office's first Library and Information Services Strategy 2025-2027.

Developing and strengthening our professional and leadership capacity by providing opportunities for continuous professional development and learning

Learning and Development

1.4.2 Learning and Development (L&D) needs for 2024 were identified through the L&D section of e-PMDS (Performance Management and Development System), probation conversations, management engagement, the Legal Training Steering Group meetings, and based on the business needs of the Office. In total, our staff attended 139 external and 63 internal events and initiatives during 2024, leading to the completion of over 4,404 continuing professional development hours.

1.4.3 We continued to promote and sponsor the professional and personal development of our staff through our Refund of Fees Scheme and on-demand programmes with One Learning. In 2024, 39 Refund of Fees Scheme applications were approved and availed of, resulting in 14% of staff receiving third level education supports. A wide range of courses were approved under this scheme, from law degrees and FE1 preparation courses (the Law Society of Ireland entrance exams), to diplomas in areas including leadership, management, human resources, data protection and language courses.

Leadership, Coaching and Mentoring

1.4.4 As part of our ongoing talent management initiatives, the Office sponsored ten staff members across a range of grades to participate in several external leadership programmes including: Senior Public Service (SPS) Strategic Leadership Programme; SPS Mastering Public Service Leadership Programme; Common Purpose *Lighthouse*, *Beacon* and *Legacy* programmes; and the Young Ireland Programme.

Traineeship and Enhanced Internship Programmes

1.4.5 The Postgraduate Summer Internship Programme ran over June, July, August and September 2024, during which time the Office

welcomed six postgraduate law students for paid internships. We also once again participated in the University of Galway Clinical Legal Placement Programme, hosting two interns for ten-week placements.

- 1.4.6** Additionally, in partnership with the Law Reform Commission, the Attorney General's Office and the Chief State Solicitor's Office, the Office of the DPP once again participated in the Legal Research Internship Access Scheme. This scheme was created to provide internship opportunities for current final year law students who come from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds or have disabilities, with the aim of increasing diversity in the legal profession. In 2024, we were pleased to welcome two legal interns through this programme.

Securing the necessary legal, corporate and digital resourcing, skills and expertise to meet service demand

- 1.4.7** Following a €1.8m increase in our pay budget for 2024, a total of 18 recruitment competitions were conducted during the year with a view to reaching our full complement of sanctioned staff. In all, 37 new staff were recruited during the year.

- 1.4.8** To engage with a wider pool of students and graduates, our HR-OD Unit expanded its annual careers campaign by adding University College Cork to the list of career events we attend. The Office also participated in careers fairs at Dublin City University, the University of Galway, and Maynooth University, providing valuable opportunities to connect with a diverse range of prospective candidates.

On foot of this campaign, the Office was invited to participate in additional events and guest lectures at certain universities. This was organised in collaboration with legal staff from our District Court Section, and the initiatives provided students with practical insights into the legal profession and the workings of our Office.

- 1.4.9** We developed a LinkedIn corporate page which was launched in late 2024, allowing us to raise the profile of the prosecution service primarily for the purposes of recruitment, but also to increase public understanding of the work of the Office.

Supporting specialism and cross-functional teams

- 1.4.10** Three specialised teams were established in our Circuit Court Section during 2024:

- i) The Vulnerable Victims' Team includes prosecutors sitting on the Domestic Violence Working Group and Human Trafficking Working Group;
- ii) The External Agency Team has ongoing meetings with a number of external agencies including GSOC, the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority and the Health and Safety Authority; and
- iii) The Training and Development Team has carried out multiple training sessions with An Garda Síochána and the Revenue Commissioners.

- 1.4.11** As a specialist team, the Serious and Sexual Offences Unit (SSOU) has developed and delivered tailored in-unit workshops to equip legal staff with targeted training on recurring challenges encountered during the prosecution of SSOU cases, effectively sharing the unit's established expertise.

Embedding staff engagement processes to encourage staff inputs, ideas and participation at all levels across the Office

Employee Engagement

- 1.4.12** The Office held its first 'all staff' conference in January 2024. This half-day event was arranged in response to feedback from staff who indicated a desire for increased collaboration, involvement and networking opportunities that involved all sections, and was strongly supported by members of our senior management team. The conference included presentations from guest speakers on the topics of *Our Ambition – Taking Stock and Looking Forward*, *Debunking Artificial Intelligence*, and *Resilience*.

- 1.4.13** As part of two separate projects – the Strategy Statement Development Project and the Strategic Communications Project – a series of internal stakeholder engagement workshops were hosted with the Senior Management Team, Management Board and the wider Office. The purpose of these sessions was to gather insights, ideas and feedback from staff to inform our next

Strategy Statement, including our internal and external communications priorities. In total, over 200 staff members participated across both projects, and their contributions directly informed the development of strategic priorities and actions for implementation during the 2025–2027 period.

Innovation

1.4.14 We facilitated our sixth annual in-house Excellence and Innovation Awards Programme in 2024. This programme aims to encourage innovation by recognising and celebrating the dedication and commitment of staff involved in various organisational projects. A cross-divisional judging panel was convened to assess nominations received and select winners and commendations. In December 2024, nineteen diverse projects – ranging from a Garda Portal Project to an Office Space-saving Reconfiguration Project – were formally recognised at a ceremony hosted by Director.

Progressing the equality and diversity agenda through the employment and development of a diverse and inclusive workforce

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

1.4.15 Conscious of our obligations under section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014, significant research and consultation was carried out during 2024 in preparation for the development and implementation of an Office Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan.

Gender balance

1.4.16 Our organisational gender balance ratio was 65% female to 35% male during 2024. The Office ensures appropriate gender representation on interview boards during recruitment. At the end of 2024, 44% of our Senior Management Team were female.

1.4.17 See [Appendix 4](#) for information on how the Office of the DPP implements the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

Promoting staff wellbeing including implementation of the Civil Service Health and Wellbeing Framework

Employee wellbeing

1.4.18 We have a cross-organisational Wellbeing Committee that takes the lead on organising campaigns, initiatives and events, as well as participating in the Civil and Public Service Wellbeing Network. During 2024, awareness sessions in areas of mental and physical health as well as financial education were promoted, including seminars offered by One Learning and supports from our Employee Assistance Service. Social events were also organised throughout the year allowing for staff networking and engagement.

1.4.19 To further support staff wellbeing, in May 2024, the Office launched an external, independent and confidential one-to-one counselling service. This initiative is designed to provide professional support to all staff, particularly in recognition of the complex and challenging nature of the work undertaken in our Office.

Developing and implementing our Office's sustainability and green plan

1.4.20 Our Organisation and General Services Unit oversees the implementation of our energy efficiency actions, and you can read more about this in [Appendix 5: Annual Energy Efficiency Report 2024](#).



PART 2: Summary of Files Received and Outcomes

Explanatory note in relation to statistics

The statistics in Part 2 are broken down into eight distinct sections:

- i) Charts in section 2.1 relate to the receipt of files in the Office and include details on the types of directions made;
- ii) Charts in section 2.2 provide details of the results of cases prosecuted on indictment by the Office of the DPP in respect of files received between 2021 and 2023. This section also includes charts detailing activity in the Central Criminal Court during the past three years;
- iii) Section 2.3 contains details of District Court prosecutions dealt with by the Office;
- iv) Charts in section 2.4 provide details of applications made to the courts in relation to appeals in criminal cases, reviews of sentence on grounds of undue leniency, judicial reviews, and High Court bail applications;
- v) Section 2.5 contains details of the confiscation and forfeiture of criminal assets during 2024;
- vi) Charts in section 2.6 provide details of the preparation and issue of European Arrest Warrants, Trade and Co-operation Agreement Arrest Warrants, and extradition requests;
- vii) Section 2.7 provides details of requests for mutual legal assistance processed by the Office of the DPP; *and*
- viii) Section 2.8 outlines the number of requests received from victims of crime for reasons and reviews in cases where a decision was made not to prosecute, and the main categories of offences which were the subject of those requests.

All the yearly demarcations in the statistical tables refer to the year the file was received in the Office. The reason for going back so far in charts 2.2.1 to 2.2.5 is to take account of the time difference between a decision to prosecute being made and a trial verdict being recorded. If statistics were to be provided in respect of 2024 case outcomes, a large proportion of the cases would still be classified as ‘for hearing’

and the statistics would have little value. Cases heard within a short period of being brought are not necessarily representative.

In this report we have attempted in most instances to include updated versions of the data provided in previous Annual Reports in order to give a fuller account of the progress made since that data was published. Because of the continuous change in the status of cases – for example, a case which was pending at the time of a previous report may now have concluded – information given in this report will differ from that for the same cohort of cases in previous reports. In addition, data from two different years may not be strictly comparable because as time goes on, more cases are completed so that information from earlier years is necessarily more complete than that from later years. Unless otherwise stated, data included in these statistics was updated in September 2025.

Caution should be exercised when comparing these statistics with statistics published by other organisations such as the Courts Service or An Garda Síochána. The statistics published here are based on our own classification and categorisation systems and may in some cases not be in line with the classification systems of other organisations.

2.1 Prosecution Files Received

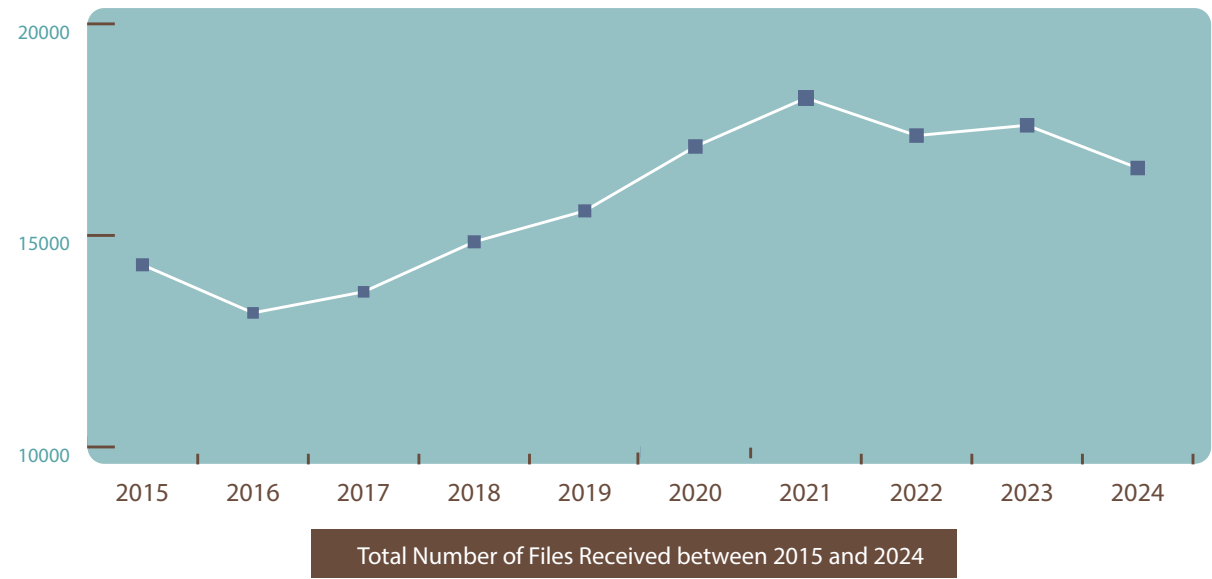
Chart 2.1.1 shows the total number of prosecution files received by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions from An Garda Síochána and other investigation agencies during the past ten years.

The chart does not include work undertaken by the Office in relation to other matters not directly related to criminal prosecution files such as: requests for advice from An Garda Síochána, local State Solicitors or other agencies; policy related matters; or queries of a general nature.

Chart 2.1.1: Total Prosecution Files Received

YEAR	Number of Files Received	YEAR	Number of Files Received
2015	14,306	2020	17,102
2016	13,169	2021	18,248
2017	13,667	2022	17,360
2018	14,849	2023	17,603
2019	15,580	2024	16,593*

* The decrease in the total number of files received in 2024 is due to a new and more efficient District Court Appeals file opening process introduced from 1 October 2024 (see page 44). This led to a drop of almost 1,000 such files being opened from October to December 2024.



The Decision to Prosecute

An Garda Síochána and specialised investigating agencies across the country submit files either directly to this Office or to the local state solicitor, for a direction whether or not to prosecute. These files are then examined by experienced prosecutors who decide if:

- there should be a prosecution; *or*
- a prosecution started by the Gardaí should continue.

The decision will indicate the charges, if any, to be brought before the courts. In some cases, the prosecutor may ask for more information and investigation before they decide.

To prosecute, there must be evidence which could, though not necessarily would, lead a court or a jury to decide beyond reasonable doubt that the person is guilty of the offence.

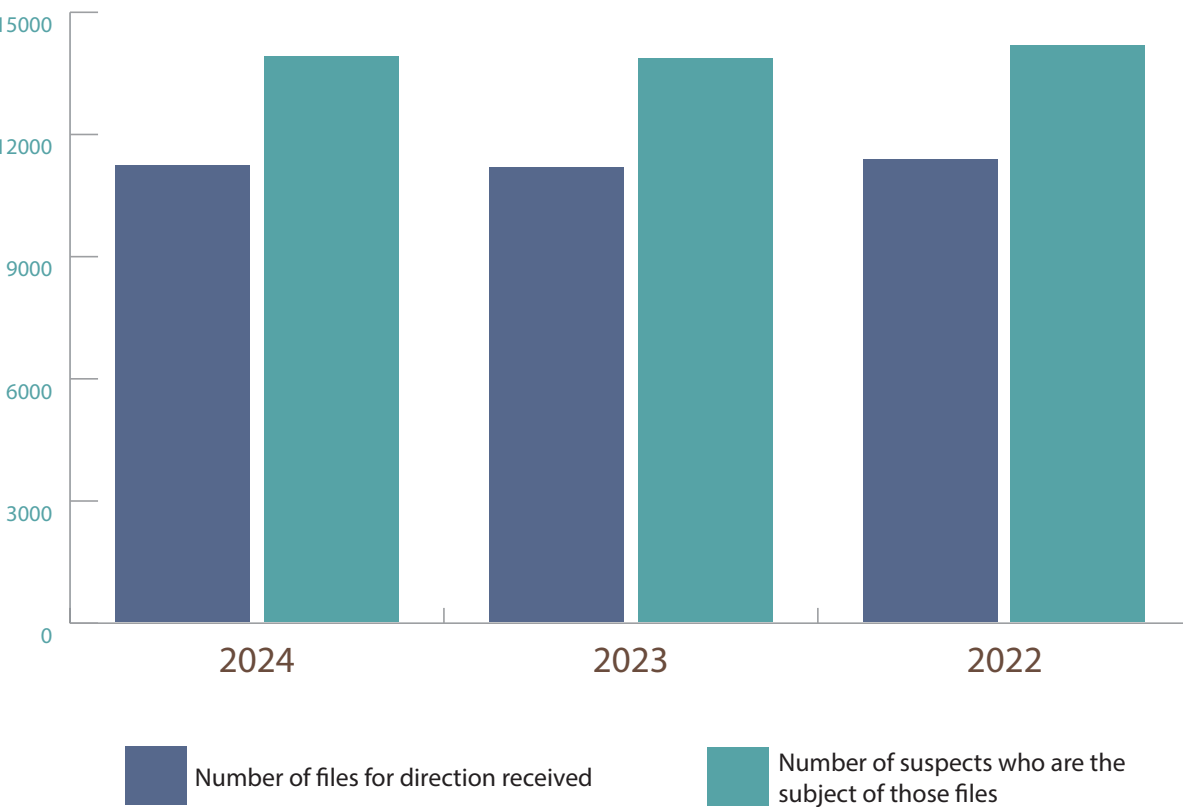
If a case is prosecuted, other decisions may need to be made in the course of a case, including whether or not to:

- accept pleas of guilty to lesser offences;
- bring appeals to higher courts (like the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court) about points of law; *or*
- seek a review of an unduly lenient sentence.

Chart 2.1.2 represents the number of files received in which a decision to prosecute or not to prosecute must be taken. The chart compares the number of files received with the number of suspects who are the subject of those files. This is because many files relate to more than one suspect. It is important, therefore, to look at the total number of suspects as well as the total number of files.

Chart 2.1.2: Breakdown of Files Received for Decision Whether to Prosecute

	2024	2023	2022
Files received for decision whether to prosecute	11,195	11,161	11,360
Number of suspects who are the subject of those files	13,877	13,826	14,154



The following chart shows a breakdown of the disposal of files received in the Office in 2024, 2023 and 2022 (as of September 2025), seeking a direction on indictable offences. Depending on the seriousness of the offence and the evidence disclosed in the file, a decision will be taken as follows:

No Prosecution: A decision not to prosecute is made. The most common reason not to prosecute is because the evidence contained in the file is not sufficient to support a prosecution. The figures however include all decisions not to prosecute.

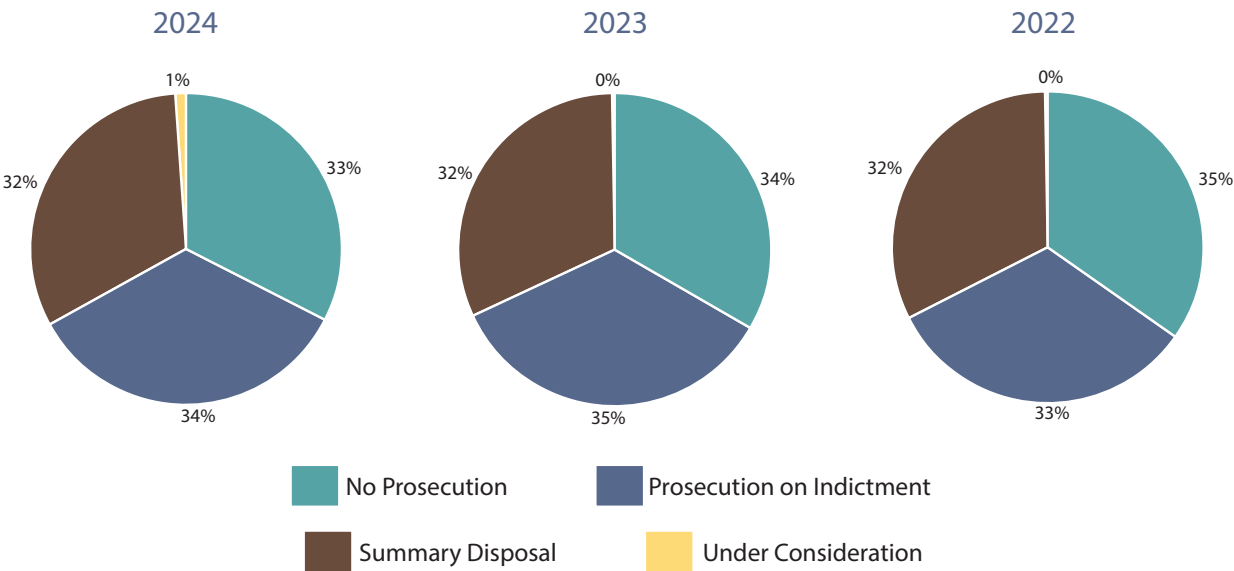
Prosecute on Indictment: It is decided to prosecute in the Circuit, Central or Special Criminal Courts.

Summary Disposal: The offence is to be prosecuted in the District Court.

Under Consideration: Files in which a decision has not yet been made. This figure includes those files in which further information or investigation was required before a decision could be made.

Chart 2.1.3: Disposal of Directing and Specialist Units Division files by Number of Suspects Subject of Files Received

Direction Made	2024	%	2023	%	2022	%
No Prosecution Directed	4,526	33%	4,640	34%	4,915	35%
Prosecution on Indictment Directed	4,775	34%	4,769	35%	4,649	33%
Summary Disposal Directed	4,427	32%	4,381	32%	4,550	32%
TOTAL OF FILES DISPOSED	13,728	99%	13,790	100%	14,114	100%
Under Consideration (<i>as of Sept 2024</i>)	149	1%	23	0%	11	0%
TOTAL	13,877	100%	13813	100%	14125	100%



A decision may be made not to prosecute in relation to a particular file for a variety of reasons other than the main reasons set out in this chart. The death or disappearance of the suspect or the complainant, the refusal of a complainant to give evidence, or a decision (by An Garda Síochána) to refer juvenile suspects to the Youth Diversion Programme, are some examples. These are referred to as ‘other’ in the chart below.

Chart 2.1.3a: Breakdown of Main Reasons for a Direction Not to Prosecute

Main Reasons for No Prosecution	2024	%	2023	%	2022	%
Insufficient Evidence	3,424	76%	3,501	75%	3,722	76%
Injured Party Withdraws Complaint	502	11%	529	11%	592	12%
Adult Caution	148	3%	167	4%	149	3%
Suspect Deceased	40	1%	43	1%	39	1%
Public Interest	60	1%	44	1%	38	1%
Time Limit Expired	45	1%	37	1%	37	1%
Undue Delay	63	1%	36	1%	43	1%
Other	244	5%	283	6%	295	6%
TOTAL	4,526		4,640		4,915	

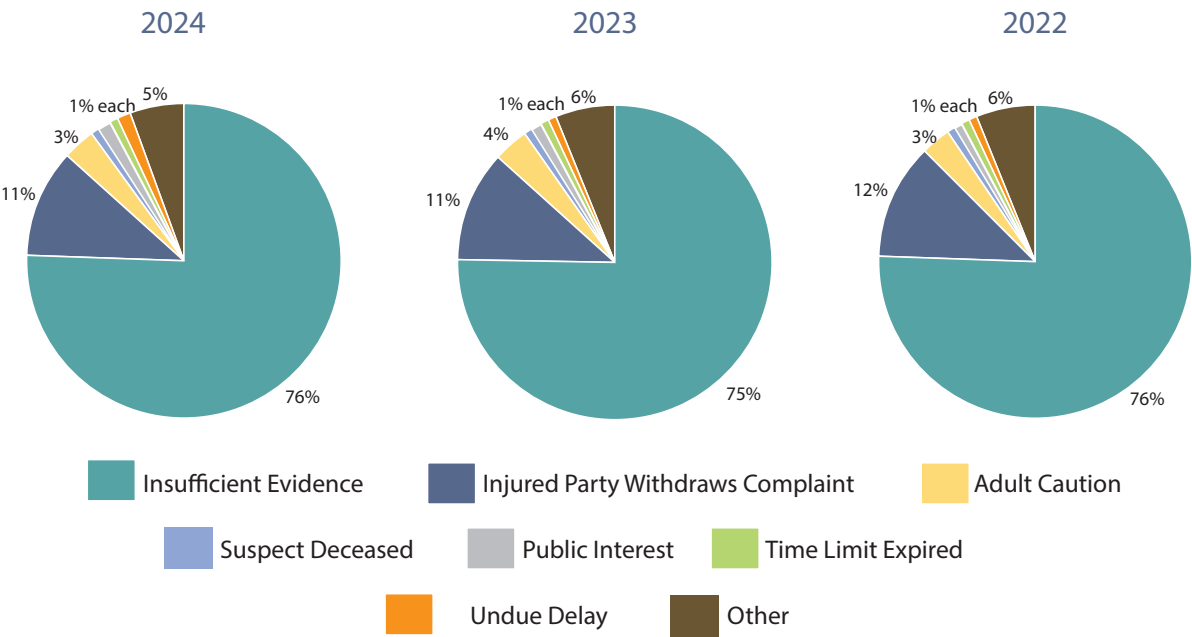


Chart 2.1.3b is a breakdown of directions to prosecute on indictment, by the county in which the offence was committed. As noted earlier, all the yearly demarcations refer to the year the file was received in this Office. This chart includes cases directed to be heard in the Circuit Criminal, Central Criminal and Special Criminal Courts. Please note that a number of cases are still 'under consideration' (see chart 2.1.3). These include cases where a file was received but further information was required. It is not possible to determine how many of these cases may eventually result in a direction to prosecute on indictment.

Chart 2.1.3b: Breakdown of Number of Prosecutions on Indictment Directed per County of Offence

	Number of Prosecutions on Indictment Directed per County								Cases per 1,000 Persons								3 Year Rolling Average	
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Population 2024	Population 2023*	Population 2022*	Population 2021*	Population 2020*	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2024	2023	2022
Carlow	33	46	71	59	38	64,312	63,484	61,968	59,810	59,298	0.51	0.72	1.15	0.99	0.64	0.79	0.95	0.92
Cavan	58	39	48	63	74	85,321	84,163	81,704	79,705	78,797	0.68	0.46	0.59	0.79	0.94	0.58	0.61	0.77
Clare	71	91	85	88	80	133,514	131,541	127,938	123,294	122,591	0.53	0.69	0.66	0.71	0.65	0.63	0.69	0.68
Cork	403	352	380	350	354	606,325	597,396	584,156	566,157	563,405	0.66	0.59	0.65	0.62	0.63	0.63	0.62	0.63
Donegal	127	123	138	119	102	174,483	172,114	167,084	166,566	164,669	0.73	0.71	0.83	0.71	0.62	0.76	0.75	0.72
Dublin	1,996	1,865	1,775	2,020	2,179	1,520,932	1,501,500	1,458,154	1,426,000	1,417,600	1.31	1.24	1.22	1.42	1.54	1.26	1.29	1.39
Galway	173	225	186	143	209	289,919	286,215	277,737	268,988	267,564	0.60	0.79	0.67	0.53	0.78	0.68	0.66	0.66
Kerry	118	128	90	123	107	162,396	160,004	156,458	154,043	153,295	0.73	0.80	0.58	0.80	0.70	0.70	0.72	0.69
Kildare	162	235	206	217	233	254,853	251,972	247,774	238,605	236,925	0.64	0.93	0.83	0.91	0.98	0.80	0.89	0.91
Kilkenny	63	44	61	76	68	108,100	106,708	104,160	104,249	103,355	0.58	0.41	0.59	0.73	0.66	0.53	0.58	0.66
Laois	62	88	82	95	85	95,143	93,784	91,877	89,014	88,087	0.65	0.94	0.89	1.07	0.96	0.83	0.97	0.97
Leitrim	17	22	16	29	18	36,758	36,259	35,199	33,528	33,146	0.46	0.61	0.45	0.86	0.54	0.51	0.64	0.62
Limerick	237	244	244	269	258	218,667	215,436	209,536	202,242	201,089	1.08	1.13	1.16	1.33	1.28	1.13	1.21	1.26
Longford	55	68	72	61	88	48,412	47,721	46,751	42,956	42,509	1.14	1.42	1.54	1.42	2.07	1.37	1.46	1.68
Louth	126	162	134	124	148	143,695	142,070	139,703	138,210	137,237	0.88	1.14	0.96	0.90	1.08	0.99	1.00	0.98
Mayo	67	90	102	97	95	144,022	142,182	137,970	136,034	135,314	0.47	0.63	0.74	0.71	0.70	0.61	0.70	0.72
Meath	125	105	125	114	125	227,135	224,567	220,826	209,157	207,684	0.55	0.47	0.57	0.55	0.60	0.53	0.53	0.57
Monaghan	56	45	63	72	61	68,179	67,253	65,288	64,230	63,498	0.82	0.67	0.96	1.12	0.96	0.82	0.92	1.02
Offaly	38	79	86	45	77	86,106	84,876	83,150	81,935	81,081	0.44	0.93	1.03	0.55	0.95	0.80	0.84	0.84
Roscommon	46	47	40	40	58	73,341	72,404	70,259	67,278	66,922	0.63	0.65	0.57	0.59	0.87	0.62	0.60	0.68
Sligo	48	72	55	58	54	73,306	72,311	70,198	68,571	67,790	0.65	1.00	0.78	0.85	0.80	0.81	0.88	0.81
Tipperary	174	141	148	141	126	175,212	172,623	167,895	165,565	164,621	0.99	0.82	0.88	0.85	0.77	0.90	0.85	0.83
Waterford	192	166	156	125	168	132,181	130,479	127,363	122,049	121,003	1.45	1.27	1.22	1.02	1.39	1.32	1.17	1.21
Westmeath	114	63	81	53	119	99,641	98,218	96,221	93,295	92,323	1.14	0.64	0.84	0.57	1.29	0.88	0.68	0.90
Wexford	105	118	106	170	193	170,120	167,929	163,919	157,291	155,943	0.62	0.70	0.65	1.08	1.24	0.66	0.81	0.99
Wicklow	107	110	97	156	88	161,372	158,491	155,851	152,730	151,655	0.66	0.69	0.62	1.02	0.58	0.66	0.78	0.74
Outside the State**	2	1	2	5	1													
TOTAL	4,775	4,769	4,649	4,912	5,206	5,353,445	5,281,700	5,149,139	5,011,502	4,977,401								

* Population figures for 2022 are taken from the final census figures for that year. The 2019, 2020, 2021 figures are based on a proration (based on the 2016 census) of the estimated regional population figures as published in the CSO's Population and Migration Estimates issued in 2019, 2020 & 2021. The 2023 and 2024 figures are based on a proration of the estimated regional populations (based on the 2022 census) as published by the Central Statistics Office as open data on its website. ** 'Outside the State' can refer to a variety of offences including sea fisheries offences, and offences under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act 1976 committed in Northern Ireland but which can be prosecuted in this jurisdiction.

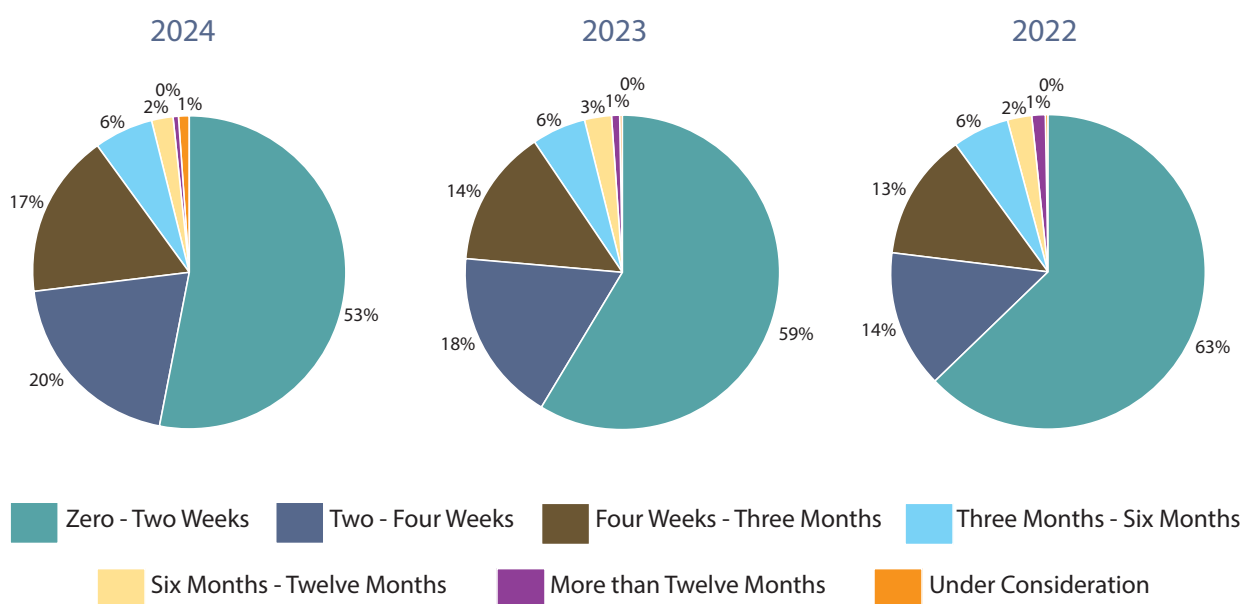
Chart 2.1.4 shows the time between the receipt of a completed prosecution file in the Office and the issuing of a direction as to whether a prosecution of a suspect should be taken or not. This information is shown by suspect rather than by file. This is because in files containing multiple suspects, decisions in respect of all suspects may not be made at the same time.

Files vary in size and complexity. Also, in some cases, further information or investigation may be required before a decision can be made.

The time taken to issue directions is calculated on the basis of only those files which have been disposed of. Files still under consideration are therefore shown as a separate category in the table below.

Chart 2.1.4: Time Taken to Issue Directions

Time Taken	2024	%	2023	%	2022	%
Zero – Two Weeks	7,382	53%	8,107	59%	8,872	63%
Two – Four Weeks	2,774	20%	2,461	18%	2,007	14%
Four Weeks – Three Months	2,364	17%	1,966	14%	1,846	13%
Three Months – Six Months	818	6%	776	6%	838	6%
Six Months – Twelve Months	343	2%	377	3%	349	2%
More than Twelve Months	47	0%	103	1%	202	1%
TOTAL FILES DISPOSED	13,728	99%	13,790	100%	14,114	100%
Under Consideration (<i>as of Sept 2025</i>)	149	1%	23	0%	11	0%
TOTAL	13,877	100%	13,813	100%	14,125	100%



2.2 Cases Prosecuted on Indictment - Outcomes

Once a decision is made to prosecute, it is the duty of our Office to ensure fair, independent and effective prosecution in the courts.

Charts 2.2.1 to 2.2.5 provide information about prosecutions on indictment taken by the Director in respect of files received in the Office between 2021 and 2023. As referred to in the initial explanatory note, care should be taken before a comparison is made with figures provided by any other organisation, as they may be compiled on a different basis.

The figures in these charts relate to individual suspects against whom a direction has been made to prosecute on indictment. Statistics are provided on a suspect-by-suspect basis rather than on the basis of files received. This is because directions are made in respect of each suspect included within a file. Depending on the evidence provided, different directions are often made in respect of the individual suspects received as part of the same file. References in these charts to 'cases' refer to such prosecutions taken against individual suspects. Although individual suspects on a file may be tried together where a direction is made to prosecute them in courts of equal jurisdiction, each suspect's verdict will be collated separately for the purpose of these statistics.

Statistics are provided on the basis of one outcome per suspect; this is irrespective of the number of charges and offences listed on the indictment. Convictions are broken down into: conviction by jury, conviction on plea, and conviction on a lesser charge. A conviction on a lesser charge indicates that the suspect was not convicted for the primary or most serious offence on the indictment. The offence categorisation used in the main charts is by the primary or most serious offence on the indictment. Therefore, if a defendant is convicted of a lesser offence, the offence or offences they are convicted for may be different from that under which they are categorised in the charts. For example, a suspect may be charged with murder but ultimately convicted for the lesser offence of manslaughter, or charged with aggravated burglary but convicted of the lesser offence of burglary. Where a suspect is categorised as 'acquitted', this means that the suspect has been acquitted of all charges.

It should be noted that statistics set out in these charts relate to what happened in the trial court only and not in a subsequent appeal court. In other words, where a person is convicted and the conviction is subsequently overturned on appeal, the outcome of the trial is still shown in these statistics as a conviction.

This year, we are again providing statistics detailing the level of activity in the Central Criminal Court over the past three years and these can be found at charts 2.2.6, 2.2.6a and 2.2.6b.

Care should be taken in relation to interpreting the rates of conviction and acquittal in respect of recent years, as a higher number of cases will not have reached a conclusion. The picture furnished by these statistics will be less complete and therefore less representative than those in respect of earlier years. Cases heard relatively early may not necessarily be a representative sample of the whole.

Chart 2.2.1 shows the results of prosecutions on indictment taken in relation to defendants in respect of whom prosecutions were commenced on files received in the years 2021 to 2023 (as of September 2025). The figures relate to:

Conviction: A conviction was obtained in respect of at least one of the charges brought in the case.

Acquittal: The defendant was acquitted on all charges.

Not Yet Heard: These are cases in which a decision to prosecute has been taken and the matter is before the courts.

Other Disposals: For example, struck out; suspect deceased, *nolle prosequi* entered (see chart 2.2.2a for more details).

NOTE: As mentioned in the explanatory note on [page 24](#) of this report, all the yearly demarcations in the statistical tables refer to the year the file was received in this Office. For this reason, figures for 2024 are not included below as the great majority of these cases have yet to be dealt with by the courts, and the outcomes for the few cases where results are available would not be representative of the final picture covering all the cases.

Chart 2.2.1: Case Results - Prosecutions on Indictment

Outcome	2023	%	2022	%	2021	%
Conviction by Jury	102	2%	183	4%	167	3%
Conviction Following Plea of Guilty	2,428	51%	2,825	61%	3,239	66%
TOTAL CONVICTIONS	2,530	53%	3,008	65%	3,406	69%
Acquittal by Jury	60	1%	77	2%	116	2%
Acquittal on Direction of Judge	5	0%	8	0%	13	0%
TOTAL ACQUITTALS	65	1%	85	2%	129	3%
Not Yet Heard (<i>as of Sept 2025</i>)	2,060	43%	1,388	30%	1,141	23%
Other Disposals	114	2%	168	4%	236	5%
TOTAL	4,769		4,649		4,912	

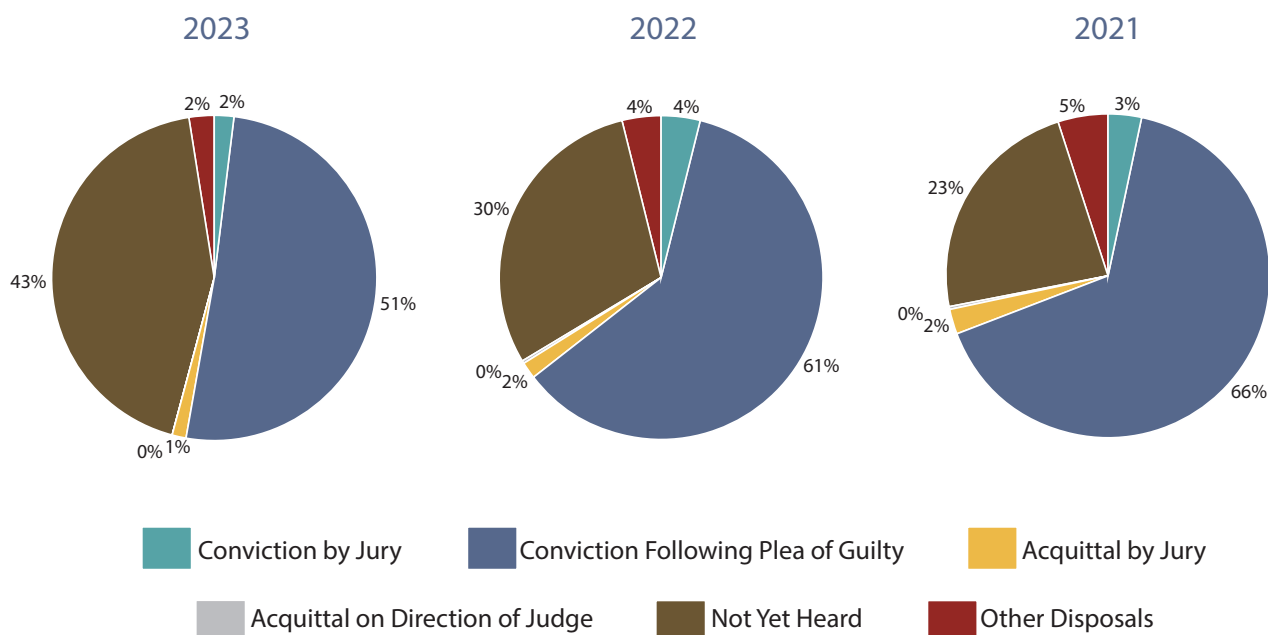


Chart 2.2.2 breaks down the prosecutions directed on indictment to be heard in the Circuit Court. The cases categorised as 'For Hearing' are those for which a verdict has not yet been recorded. In some of these cases, a trial may have begun but proceedings have been halted by a judicial review application. In other cases the defendant may have absconded before the trial and a bench warrant and/or extradition proceedings may be in process. Other cases – especially those of a complex nature – may not yet have come to trial. The greater proportion of cases 'For Hearing' makes the figures in more recent years less representative. This provision is also applicable to Charts 2.2.3 and 2.2.4. Where a trial results in a jury disagreement the case is treated as still being 'For Hearing' unless a *nolle prosequi* is entered.

Chart 2.2.2: Outcomes of Cases Prosecuted in the Circuit Criminal Court

	TOTAL			Conviction by Jury			Conviction on Plea			Conviction on Lesser Charge			Acquittal by Jury			Acquittal by Direction of Judge			For Hearing			Other Disposals		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2022	2021	2020	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Fatal Accident at Work	11	5	12	0	0	0	2	3	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	6	0	0	0
Manslaughter	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL - FATAL OFFENCES	14	9	13	0	0	0	2	6	6	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	6	0	0	0
Burglary	380	372	381	2	5	4	204	241	250	31	30	36	6	0	3	0	0	1	129	87	72	8	9	15
Fraud	54	48	84	0	1	0	24	21	49	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	22	27	3	3	3
Robbery	324	283	288	3	5	5	197	207	202	18	11	11	1	0	1	1	1	1	101	48	56	3	11	12
Theft	209	204	256	2	4	2	98	121	164	10	13	19	3	1	2	1	1	1	90	61	62	5	3	6
Money Laundering	270	274	292	2	0	6	118	163	196	2	9	10	0	2	4	1	0	0	142	95	66	5	5	10
Criminal Damage	156	157	169	1	1	1	57	87	88	16	14	29	1	4	5	0	0	2	74	47	40	7	4	4
Other Offences Against Property	134	127	166	2	0	0	70	57	87	7	10	17	2	2	2	0	0	0	50	52	48	3	6	12
TOTAL - OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY	1,527	1,465	1,636	12	16	18	768	897	1,036	87	88	127	13	9	17	3	2	5	610	412	371	34	41	62
Dangerous Driving Causing Death	26	17	20	0	0	0	15	11	13	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	5	2	1	0	1
Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	42	35	48	1	1	0	17	21	28	9	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	8	12	1	0	2
Other Road Traffic Offences	143	128	96	0	2	2	58	69	56	14	15	14	2	1	4	0	0	1	68	38	17	1	3	2
TOTAL - ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES	211	180	164	1	3	2	90	101	97	24	21	23	2	1	5	0	0	1	91	51	31	3	3	5
Sexual Assault	132	172	159	6	19	15	36	45	56	2	4	6	6	12	16	0	2	0	79	80	52	3	10	14
Child Pornography	97	80	68	0	0	0	61	55	49	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	20	13	1	2	3
Indecent Assault	34	48	46	1	7	6	13	11	17	0	0	1	0	2	7	0	0	0	18	25	13	2	3	2
Offences Against Children and Protected Persons	45	40	39	1	3	2	16	20	20	0	3	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	24	12	13	1	1	1
Other Sexual Offences	17	21	20	1	0	1	7	9	6	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	7	10	4	0	1	5
TOTAL - SEXUAL OFFENCES	325	361	332	11	35	28	313	342	342	54	53	59	13	17	37	0	2	2	343	249	157	13	23	35
Drug Offences	818	783	840	2	4	1	280	320	314	258	283	345	0	0	3	0	0	0	267	168	155	11	8	22
Firearms and Explosives Offences	129	134	184	0	3	5	65	65	101	8	18	22	0	4	4	0	0	0	55	39	37	1	5	15
Non Fatal Offences Against the Person	985	967	997	6	28	23	414	500	538	52	78	85	16	20	33	1	2	5	460	281	255	36	58	58
Public Order Offences	354	345	320	0	7	1	104	155	175	21	34	42	5	5	4	1	0	0	214	135	88	9	9	10
Revenue Offences	29	18	14	0	0	0	14	11	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	15	5	8	0	0	0
Sea Fisheries	14	19	22	0	0	1	6	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	14	15	0	1	0
Other Offences	135	133	132	1	4	2	46	63	67	8	5	9	0	1	1	0	0	0	78	56	46	2	4	7
GRAND TOTAL	4,541	4,414	4,654	31	94	77	1,922	2,261	2,494	464	540	667	45	56	94	5	7	11	1,971	1,310	1,107	103	146	204

Chart 2.2.2a: Breakdown of 'Other Disposals' from Chart 2.2.2

	2023	2022	2021
<i>Nolle Prosequi</i> entered	68	131	182
Struck out	2	0	1
Taken into consideration	4	1	2
Successful application to dismiss charges	3	2	7
Case terminated and no retrial	2	2	1
Case terminated by judicial review	0	1	2
Suspect deceased	3	4	2
Suspect absconded	3	0	1
Suspect found unfit to plead	2	0	1
Not guilty by reason of insanity	2	0	1
Other	14	5	4
TOTAL	103	146	204

Chart 2.2.3 breaks down the case verdicts for each Circuit Criminal Court, based on files received in the years 2021 to 2023 in which individual suspects were directed for prosecution in the Circuit Court. Unlike Chart 2.2.2, it does not include cases 'for hearing' or cases where the outcome is other than conviction or acquittal. Please note that in some cases, a trial may be held in a Circuit Court for a county other than that in which the offence was committed.

Chart 2.2.3: Outcomes of Cases Prosecuted on Indictment in the Circuit Criminal Court by County

	TOTAL			Conviction by Jury			Conviction on Plea			Conviction on Lesser Charge			Acquittal by Jury			Acquittal by Direction of Judge		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Carlow	28	56	51	0	1	0	25	45	42	1	9	8	1	1	1	1	0	0
Cavan	19	35	54	0	0	1	15	25	42	3	9	10	1	1	1	0	0	0
Clare	63	72	75	3	9	0	42	44	56	14	15	13	3	4	5	1	0	1
Cork	252	286	267	1	4	2	226	259	218	15	15	31	8	8	13	2	0	3
Donegal	49	48	48	0	0	0	44	43	40	5	2	8	0	2	0	0	1	0
Dublin	1028	1240	1416	8	20	27	703	883	964	308	322	392	8	12	29	1	3	4
Galway	71	82	73	1	2	0	67	71	60	3	8	12	0	0	1	0	1	0
Kerry	79	64	88	2	4	4	64	49	74	12	11	9	1	0	1	0	0	0
Kildare	92	111	161	0	5	3	74	80	123	15	23	28	3	3	7	0	0	0
Kilkenny	4	28	43	1	1	2	3	23	31	0	3	8	0	1	2	0	0	0
Laois	37	22	63	0	0	2	35	20	50	1	2	10	1	0	1	0	0	0
Leitrim	9	9	17	0	0	0	8	7	13	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	1
Limerick	121	134	122	2	6	3	99	110	92	14	16	20	5	2	7	1	0	0
Longford	11	30	46	0	1	1	8	26	35	3	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	61	78	80	0	1	2	59	63	65	2	10	12	0	3	1	0	1	0
Mayo	52	64	65	0	2	2	46	58	52	3	2	7	3	2	4	0	0	0
Meath	20	69	81	0	1	4	17	55	70	3	10	6	0	2	0	0	1	1
Monaghan	15	26	35	0	0	0	11	22	28	2	4	7	2	0	0	0	0	0
Offaly	42	60	33	1	3	1	34	48	21	5	7	9	1	2	1	1	0	1
Roscommon	30	28	34	1	1	3	27	23	27	2	2	3	0	2	1	0	0	0
Sligo	51	35	45	0	0	1	42	25	33	9	9	7	0	1	3	0	0	1
Tipperary	107	118	113	0	8	1	86	85	95	19	23	13	2	2	3	0	0	1
Waterford	94	115	83	5	7	2	72	87	69	17	17	8	0	4	3	0	0	1
Westmeath	52	53	45	0	2	2	48	51	39	0	0	2	3	0	2	1	0	0
Wexford	54	68	117	2	2	3	46	53	96	6	11	13	0	1	5	0	1	0
Wicklow	25	27	86	0	0	2	24	20	66	1	7	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outside the State *	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,466	2,958	3,341	27	80	68	1,926	2,275	2,503	464	540	667	42	55	91	8	8	14

* 'Outside the State' can refer to a variety of offences including sea fisheries offences, and offences under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act 1976 committed in Northern Ireland but which can be prosecuted in this jurisdiction.

Chart 2.2.4 outlines the result of cases received in the years 2021 to 2023 in which individual suspects were directed for prosecution in the Special Criminal Court.

Chart 2.2.4: Outcomes of Cases Prosecuted on Indictment in the Special Criminal Court

	TOTAL			Conviction by Judge			Conviction on Plea			Conviction on Lesser Charge			Acquittal by Judges			Other Disposals			For Hearing		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Murder	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Murder	8	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commission of a serious offence for a criminal organisation	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Conspiracy to commit a serious offence	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Directing the activities of a criminal organisation	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Participating in / facilitating organised crime	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Membership of an unlawful organisation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Providing assistance to an unlawful organisation	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms and Explosives Offences	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moneylaundering	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Perverting the course of justice	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	12	2	26	0	0	1	8	0	18	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	2

Chart 2.2.4a: Breakdown of 'Other Disposals'

	2023	2022	2021
<i>Nolle Prosequi</i> Entered	0	0	2

Chart 2.2.5 outlines the result of cases received in the years 2021 to 2023 in which individual suspects were directed for prosecution in the Central Criminal Court, and breaks down all cases by the most serious charge against the defendant. Chart 2.2.5a provides details of 'other disposals' outcomes.

Chart 2.2.5 Outcomes of Cases Prosecuted on Indictment in the Central Criminal Court

	TOTAL			Conviction by Jury			Conviction on Plea			Conviction on Lesser Charge			Acquittal by Jury			Acquittal by Direction of Judge			Other Disposals			For Hearing		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
Murder	35	25	20	17	12	2	5	6	7	0	0	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	4	12	5	1
Attempted murder	6	4	17	1	1	3	1	2	7	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	3	1	1
Soliciting to murder	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	145	175	171	31	52	55	29	22	42	1	3	6	14	19	19	0	1	0	10	18	21	60	60	28
Attempted rape	5	8	5	2	3	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	0
Aggravated sexual assault	4	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bestiality	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sexual act with a child under 15 years of age	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Sexual act with a child under 17 years of age	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Indecent Assault on a Female	4	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	1
Sexual assault	5	4	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
Other sexual offences	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Threat to kill (section 5)	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
False imprisonment	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Assisting an offender	3	4	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Assault causing serious harm	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession of firearm in suspicious circumstances	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child neglect/cruelty	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Burglary	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL CASES	211	232	228	61	73	68	39	36	60	1	3	14	14	21	22	0	1	2	12	22	30	84	76	32

Chart 2.2.5a: Breakdown of 'Other Disposals' from Chart 2.2.5

	2023	2022	2021
<i>Nolle Prosequi</i> entered	8	21	23
Suspect deceased	2	0	3
Struck out	0	0	1
Not guilty by reason of insanity	2	1	3
TOTAL	12	22	30

Activity in the Central Criminal Court from 2022 to 2024

The Central Criminal Court is the court which deals with the prosecution of serious offences such as murder and rape. Chart 2.2.6 below outlines the level of activity in the Central Criminal Court during the past three years.

Arraignment: This is a formal procedure where the accused is formally notified of the charges against them and asked to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.

List to Fix Dates: This list takes place over three days each month and its purpose is to allocate a trial date and venue for each case.

Case Management List: This was introduced in 2021 by the judge presiding over the Central Criminal Court list. The Case Management List generally takes place three days per week with a number of cases listed on each date for an update on a range of issues including: progress in relation to disclosure; witness availability; availability of expert witness reports; and any other issue which may affect the trial proceeding on the allocated date. Typically, each case can be adjourned for several weeks to allow the issue to be kept under review and until such time as the issue is resolved.

Mention: This is a specific date when the case is mentioned or brought before the Court where administrative matters are addressed, such as obtaining a date for a pre-trial hearing or sentence date.

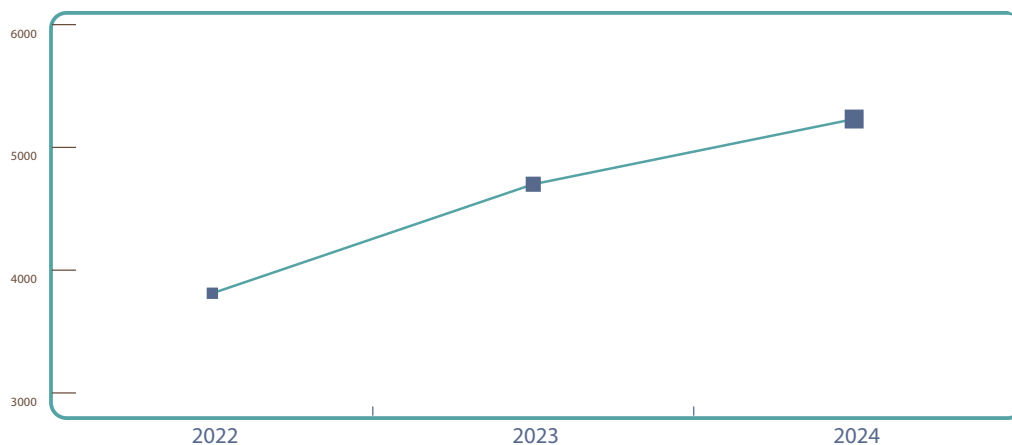
Preliminary Trial Hearing: A preliminary trial hearing is a procedural step introduced by the Criminal Procedure Act 2021. The legislation was introduced to provide for hearings to address specific matters before the trial begins, ensuring that both the prosecution and defence are prepared for trial, therefore minimising disruptions and allowing trials to proceed on their scheduled date. The subject matter of these hearings might include applications for special measures to protect any vulnerable complainant or accused; disclosure hearings; and defence applications to exclude evidence at trial.

Trial Date: This is the scheduled date when a trial takes place.

Sentence Hearing: During this hearing, the judge determines the appropriate sentence for the convicted individual. Typically, the judge schedules a later date for sentencing to allow for the preparation of reports by probation officers, social workers, doctors, psychiatrists, or the Gardaí (depending on the specific case). Such reports assist the judge in making an informed decision about the sentence.

Chart 2.2.6: Number of Court Dates in the Central Criminal Court by Hearing Type

	2024	2023	2022
Arraignments	31	57	33
List to Fix Dates	285	376	364
Case Management List	1,520	1,485	905
Mentions	586	433	510
Preliminary Trial Hearings	160	122	139
Trial Dates	2,185	1,833	1,525
Sentence Hearings	470	394	336
TOTAL	5,237	4,700	3,812

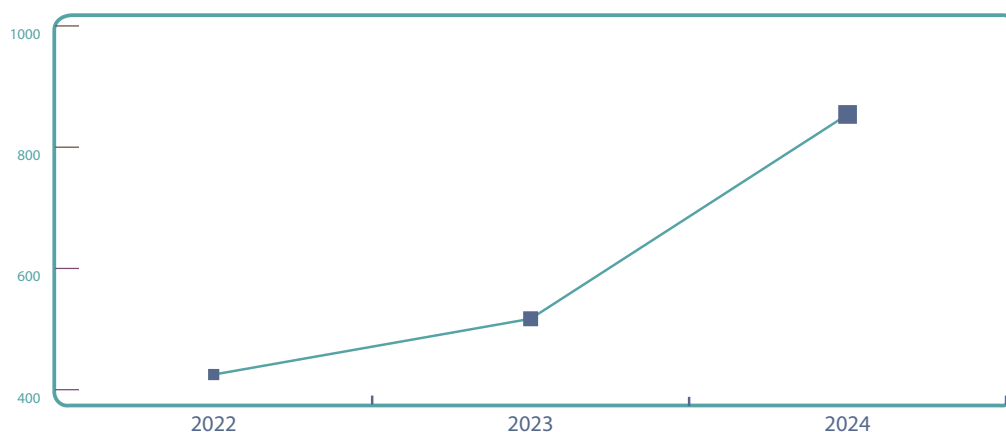


Number of Court Dates in the Central Criminal Court 2022 to 2024

Chart 2.2.6a below shows the increase in the number of Central Criminal Court cases being heard in Dublin, and venues outside of Dublin, during the past three years.

Chart 2.2.6a: Number of Court Dates in the Central Criminal Court by Sitting Location

County	2024	2023	2022
	Total Court Dates	Total Court Dates	Total Court Dates
Cork	242	134	168
Donegal	0	9	28
Dublin	4,382	4,183	3,387
Kerry	0	13	0
Kilkenny	36	33	19
Leitrim	25	12	6
Limerick	194	51	0
Longford	9	24	0
Mayo	53	51	49
Monaghan	2	10	14
Offaly	24	29	18
Sligo	24	11	1
Tipperary	0	1	10
Waterford	170	47	84
Westmeath	26	55	28
Wexford	50	37	0
TOTAL	5,237	4,700	3,812

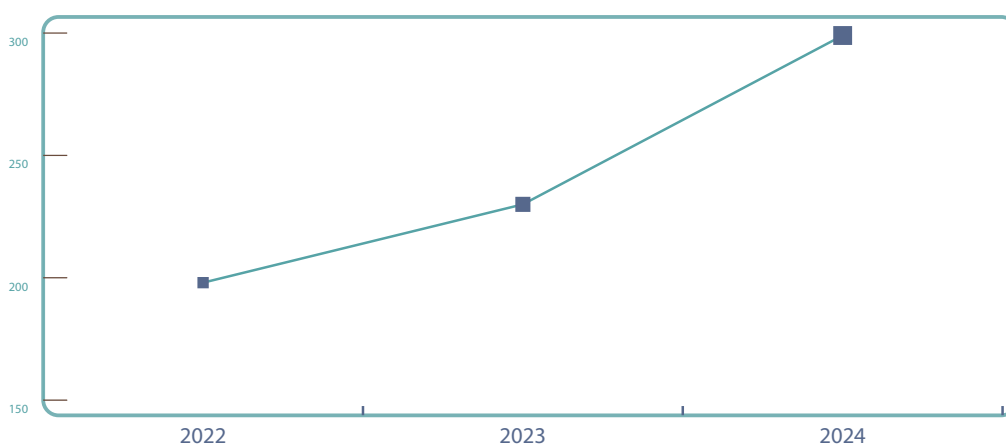


Increase in the number of Central Criminal Court cases heard outside Dublin between 2022 and 2024

Chart 2.2.6b below shows the number of Central Criminal Court cases that were completed in each of the last three years. The data in this chart differs significantly from chart 2.2.5 on [page 37](#), in that it is based on the year in which the trial reached a conclusion, rather than the year the file was received in the Office. This provides a clearer overview of the level of activity by year in the Central Criminal Court.

Chart 2.2.6b: Outcome of Central Criminal Court Cases by Year of Outcome

	2024	2023	2022
Convicted	214	156	130
Convicted but not yet sentenced	8	13	13
Acquitted	41	30	31
Other disposal, for example, <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> , etc.	36	31	24
Total	299	230	198



Number of cases concluded in the Central Criminal Court by year of Outcome

2.3 District Court Prosecutions

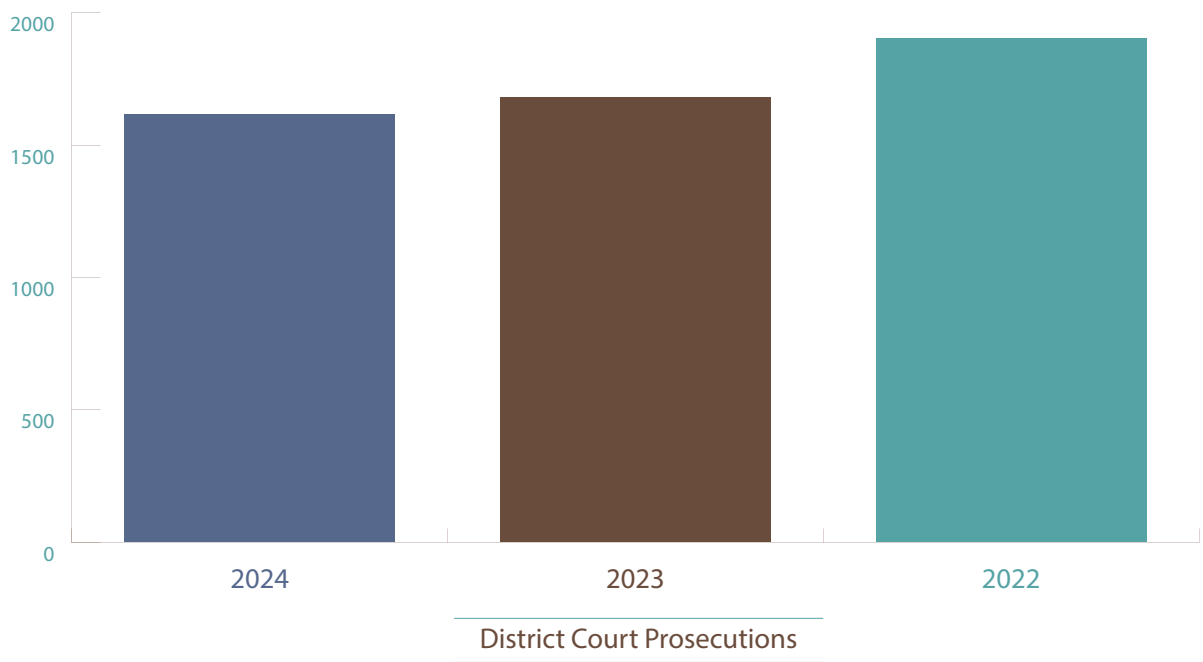
District Court prosecution files are dealt with by the staff of our District Court Section who represent the Director at summary hearings (hearings by a judge of less serious crimes) in courts throughout the Dublin Metropolitan Area. The majority of cases in the District Court in Dublin are dealt with by the Gardaí without involving the Office of the DPP. Those that do involve representation from our Office typically include:

- evidentially complex cases;
- legally complex or technical cases, for example, fraud and all drink/drug driving prosecutions;
- cases involving children;
- cases involving vulnerable victims or accused persons.

Chart 2.3.1 shows the number of District Court prosecutions dealt with in the years 2024, 2023 and 2022.

Chart 2.3.1: District Court Prosecutions

	2024	2023	2022
District Court Prosecutions	1,616	1,681	1,904



2.4 Appeals, Judicial Reviews and Other Applications

The charts in this section provide details of applications made to the Courts in relation to appeals in criminal cases, reviews of sentence on grounds of undue leniency, judicial reviews and High Court bail applications.

Applications to the Court of Appeal (Criminal)

The Court of Appeal was established in October 2014 following the 33rd Amendment to the Constitution and the enactment of the Court of Appeal Act 2014. The Court sits between the High and Supreme Courts and took over the existing appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in civil matters and the Court of Criminal Appeal in criminal matters.

Chart 2.4.1 below details the number of appeals lodged each year from 2022 to 2024. The ‘Appeal by DPP’ row outlines the number of cases in which the Director was an applicant, including, for example, undue leniency, acquittal, and fitness to plead appeals. The remaining rows set out the number of cases in which the Director was a respondent and relate to severity of sentence, conviction, refusal of bail and miscarriage of justice application appeals.

Chart 2.4.1: Appeals to the Court of Appeal (Criminal)

Appeals where the DPP was an Applicant	2024	2023	2022
Appeal by DPP (e.g. undue leniency; fitness to plead etc.)	43	58	40
Appeals where the DPP was a Respondent	2024	2023	2022
Appeal against severity of sentence	195	166	147
Appeal against conviction	52	37	36
Appeal against conviction and severity of sentence	72	55	62
Appeal against refusal of bail	11	1	6
Miscarriage of justice application	3	2	4
TOTAL	333	261	255

Applications for Review of Sentence on Grounds of Undue Leniency

Section 2 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1993 provides that the Director of Public Prosecutions may apply to the Court of Appeal (Criminal) to have a sentence imposed by the trial court reviewed, if it appears that the sentence imposed was in law unduly lenient.

Chart 2.4.2 below details the number of applications lodged each year from 2022 to 2024.

Chart 2.4.2a outlines the results of applications by the year in which the application was heard.

Chart 2.4.2: Applications for Review of Sentence on Grounds of Undue Leniency

Year of Application	Number of Applications Lodged
2022	39
2023	51
2024	43

Chart 2.4.2a: Results of Applications for Review of Sentence on Grounds of Undue Leniency by Year Heard

Year Applications Heard	Successful	Refused	Applications Struck Out or Withdrawn	TOTAL
2022	31	5	2	38
2023	32	5	1	38
2024	36	9	3	48

Appeals from the District Court to the Circuit Court

These are appeals from District Courts in the Dublin Metropolitan Area to the Circuit Court, which are also dealt with by the staff of our District Court Section. The figure for District Court Appeals represents the number of files held, not the number of individual charges appealed. One defendant may have a multiplicity of charges under appeal.

Chart 2.4.3: Appeals from the District to Circuit Court	2024	2023	2022
Appeals from the District Court to the Circuit Court	1,742*	2,714	2,203

* The decrease in the number of appeals in 2024 is due to a new and more efficient file opening process introduced from 1 October 2024 whereby one file only is now opened for each appellant, even where multiple convictions may be appealed in one hearing.

Judicial Review

A Judicial Review is where the High Court reviews the decision of a lower court to see if the decision-making process was fair. Judicial reviews may be taken by the Director or be taken against her.

Chart 2.4.4: Number of Judicial Review Applications	2024	2023	2022
Judicial Review Applications	120	176	151

High Court Bail Applications

In cases where an accused is charged with a serious offence (such as murder or conspiracy to murder), applications for bail must be made to the High Court. Our Office deals with such bail applications, as well as bail appeals to the High Court from the lower courts, for example, against the refusal of bail in the lower courts, or applications to vary the terms of bail which were set in the lower courts.

Chart 2.4.5: Number of High Court Bail Applications	2024	2023	2022
High Court Bail Applications	1,920	1,899	1,746

2.5 Confiscation and Forfeiture of Criminal Assets

The Criminal Justice Act 1994 includes important provisions to freeze or seize the proceeds of crime. The Office of the DPP initiates such applications and provides advice and support to prosecution practitioners in relation to confiscation and forfeiture applications. The Office also participates with other departments and agencies in reviewing the procedures and structures for criminal asset seizure in the State.

Asset seizing files received in the Office under the Criminal Justice Act 1994 ranged from forfeiture order cases to confiscation order cases. The total number of cases opened in 2024 is set out in Chart 2.5.1 below.

Chart 2.5.1: Asset Seizing Files Opened by the Special Financial Crime Unit in 2024

Files Opened 2024	
Section 39 Forfeiture Order Applications (Revenue and Gardai)	31
Section 24 Freezing Order Applications	3
Foreign Confiscation Order (see Chapter 3 of Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act 2008)	3
TOTAL	37

Section 39 Forfeiture Orders: Under section 39 of the Act a judge of the Circuit Court may order the forfeiture of any cash which has been seized under section 38* of the Act if satisfied that the cash directly or indirectly represents the proceeds of crime.

* Section 38 of the Act authorises the seizure of cash where a member of An Garda Síochána or an officer of Customs and Excise has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the cash (including cash found during a search) represents any person’s proceeds from criminal conduct. The cash seized by a Garda or an officer of Customs and Excise may not be detained for more than 48 hours unless the further detention of the cash is authorised by a judge of the District Court. Applications can be made to Court to continue to detain the cash for periods of up to two years.

Section 24 Freezing Orders: Section 24 of the Act provides for applications to the High Court by the DPP for freezing orders where a person is charged, or a decision has been taken to charge that person, with an indictable offence. The freezing order can cover all property identified both in Ireland or abroad belonging to the accused person. Freezing orders are designed to prevent the dissipation of assets prior to a confiscation inquiry being conducted by the trial court if the accused is convicted on indictment of the offence charged.

Chapter 3 of the Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act 2008: This sets out the provisions relating to the enforcement in Ireland of Foreign Orders obtained by authorities in both European Union member states and non-members states.

Details of Confiscation and Forfeiture Orders granted by the courts in 2024, to a total value of €12,313,676.48, are outlined in Chart 2.5.2 below.

Chart 2.5.2: Confiscation of Criminal Assets in 2024

Orders Made Under the Criminal Justice Act 1994	Number	Amount
Asset Recovery Orders Following Conviction (on foot of DPP applications)	177	€11,211,285.34
Section 39 Confiscation Orders (Garda)	5	€228,363.14
Section 39 Confiscation Orders (Revenue)	26	€874,028.00
TOTAL	208	€12,313,676.48
Freezing Orders	2	€216,409

2.6 European Arrest Warrants and Extradition

Incorporating Trade and Co-operation Agreement Arrest Warrants

European Arrest Warrants

The European Arrest Warrant Act 2003 came into operation on 1 January 2004. A European Arrest Warrant (EAW) is a warrant, order or decision of a judicial authority in one member state of the EU addressed to another member state of the EU for the purpose of conducting a criminal prosecution or the execution of a custodial sentence in the issuing member state.

Requests for the preparation of EAWs are submitted to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions by the Extradition Unit of the Garda Síochána. Applications for EAWs are normally made to a judge of the High Court. An EAW can be issued by a Court if the person requested would, if convicted of the offence, be potentially liable to serve a term of imprisonment of twelve months or more. Alternatively, if the person requested has already been convicted of an offence, an EAW can be issued in respect to that offence, if the requested person is required to serve as a sentence a term of imprisonment of at least four months.

When issued by the High Court, the EAW is sent to the Department of Justice for transmission to the country where it is believed the requested person is residing. The offences for which EAWs are sought cover a wide range of serious offences including murder, sexual offences, drugs offences, thefts and serious assaults.

Chart 2.6.1 below outlines the number of European Arrest Warrants dealt with in the years 2024, 2023 and 2022. It should be noted that the issue of the EAW and the surrender of the person will not necessarily correspond to the year the file is received. Of the total files received, some were not issued by the end of the year. This happens for various reasons, for example, because the application is still pending, or the requested person died or was arrested in Ireland, or because a decision was taken not to proceed with the EAW. During 2020, European Arrest Warrants issued as normal to the United Kingdom under the Brexit transitional arrangements. On 31 December 2020, the surrender procedures in the Trade and Co-operation Agreement came into effect.

Chart 2.6.1: European Arrest Warrants

	2024	2023	2022
EAW Files Received from Gardai	102	101	100
EAWs Issued	23	55	50
Persons Surrendered	16	22	65

Trade and Co-operation Agreement Arrest Warrants

Title VII of Part Three of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement provides for new surrender arrangements between the European Union and the United Kingdom. These new arrangements came into effect on 31 December 2020.

As in the case of an EAW, a TCA Arrest Warrant can be issued by a Court if the person requested would, if convicted of the offence, be potentially liable to serve a term of imprisonment of twelve months or more. Alternatively, if the person requested has already been convicted of an offence, a TCA Arrest Warrant can be issued in respect to that offence, if the requested person is required to serve as a sentence a term of imprisonment of at least four months.

Chart 2.6.2 below outlines the number of TCA Arrest Warrants dealt with in 2024.

Chart 2.6.2: Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) Arrest Warrants	
	2024
TCA Arrest Warrant Files Received from Gardaí	115
TCA Arrest Warrants Issued	23
Persons Surrendered	17

Extradition Requests

Requests for the preparation/issue of Extradition Requests (seeking the extradition of individuals who are not present in EU member states, the United Kingdom, Iceland or Norway) are submitted to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions by the Extradition Unit of An Garda Síochána.

Once completed, these Extradition Requests are issued by forwarding the requests to the Central Authority in Ireland in the Department of Justice. The Extradition Requests are then transmitted via diplomatic channels by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

At present, Ireland has bi-lateral extradition treaties with the United States of America and Australia. Additionally, Ireland has ratified the European Convention on Extradition (Paris 1957).

In 2024, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions received nine files from An Garda Síochána seeking the completion and issue of Extradition Requests.

2.7 Mutual Legal Assistance

Under the Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act 2008, Ireland can provide mutual legal assistance to, and ask for mutual legal assistance from, other countries in criminal investigations or criminal proceedings. For example, the Gardaí might want to ask the relevant authorities in another country to interview witnesses, or to provide details about an individual involved in a criminal investigation. These details might include:

- witness interviews
- bank records
- police records
- emails
- social media posts of an individual involved in a criminal investigation

The Gardaí or Revenue Commissioners send requests for mutual legal assistance to the International Unit in the Office of the DPP for approval. Once finalised and signed, these requests are then sent to the Central Authority in the Department of Justice, which then sends them to the relevant country.

Chart 2.7.1 outlines the total number of requests received in this Office from An Garda Síochána, seeking mutual legal assistance from other countries (outgoing requests) in 2024, 2023 and 2022.

Chart 2.7.1: Requests Dealt with by this Office Seeking Mutual Legal Assistance from Other Countries

	2024	2023	2022
Number of Requests Received	997	1,013	933
Number of Requests Finalised	1070	533	777

Chart 2.7.1b: Breakdown of countries to which mutual legal assistance requests were issued by this Office in 2024 (Requests Finalised)

Country	2024
EU Member States	322
United Kingdom	267
United States of America	360
Other	121
TOTAL	1070

2.8 Victims of Crime

In November 2015, an EU Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime came into effect. The EU Directive was transposed into Irish law with the enactment of the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017 in November 2017.

Since the coming into effect of the Victims Directive and subsequent Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017, victims now have specific rights to information. They also have procedural rights during court proceedings. Victims now have the right to a summary of the reason for the decision not to prosecute in all cases where the decision was made on or after 16 November 2015 (the date on which the Victims Directive came into effect), subject to some limited exceptions. A victim can also ask for a review of a decision not to prosecute. In most cases, the review is carried out by a lawyer who was not involved in making the original decision.

The Victims Liaison Unit deals with all requests for reasons and reviews received from victims of crime. The Office has produced information booklets for victims on 'How we make prosecution decisions' and 'How to request reasons and reviews'. Both booklets - along with others that may be of assistance to victims of crime - are available on the 'Victims and Witnesses' section of our website, www.dppireland.ie.

In addition to the work of the Victims Liaison Unit, all legal staff in the Office, state solicitors and counsel representing the Office have responsibilities for ensuring that the Office meets its obligations in respect of the rights, support and protection of victims as set out in the Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2017. This includes facilitating pre-trial meetings with victims in certain types of cases, and applying for special measures to assist victims in giving evidence where this is necessary.

Requests for Reasons and Reviews

Charts 2.8.1 and 2.8.1a below set out the number of requests for a summary of reasons received in 2024, 2023 and 2022 and the categories of offences which were the subject of those requests.

Chart 2.8.1: Requests for summary of reasons

	2024	2023	2022
Reasons given	530	481	551
Reasons refused *	35	30	20
Reasons deferred **	3	25	20
Pending (<i>as of September 2025</i>)	3	0	1
TOTAL requests for reasons received	571	536	592

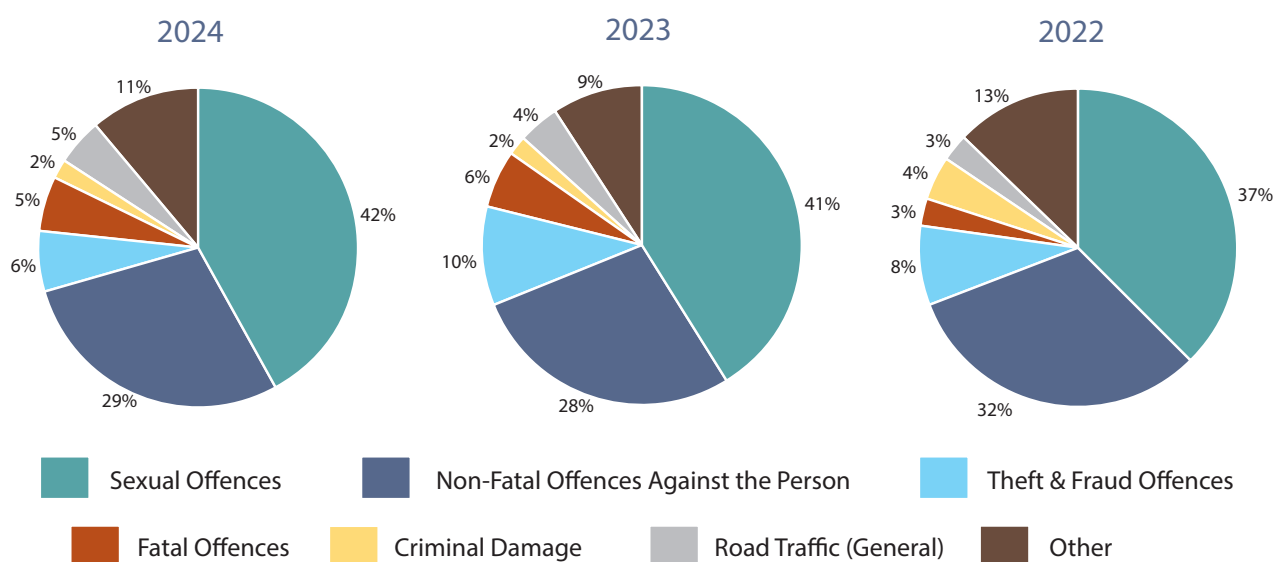
* An example of instances in which requests are refused would include requests relating to decisions made prior to 16 November 2015.

** Deferred cases include cases where giving a reason has been deferred due to the risk of prejudicing an existing prosecution.

CHART 2.8.1a: Categories of offences which were the subject of requests for reasons

Categories of Offences	2024	2023	2022
Sexual Offences	241	221	223
Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person	162	149	188
Theft and Fraud Offences	36	54	47
Fatal Offences	31	31	16
Criminal Damage	12	11	27
Road Traffic (General)	26	21	16
Other	63	49	75
TOTAL	571	536	592

NOTE: Figures may vary from our previous Annual Report due to a re-categorisation of offences



Charts 2.8.2 and 2.8.2a below set out the number of requests for review received in 2024, 2023 and 2022 and the categories of offences which were the subject of those requests.

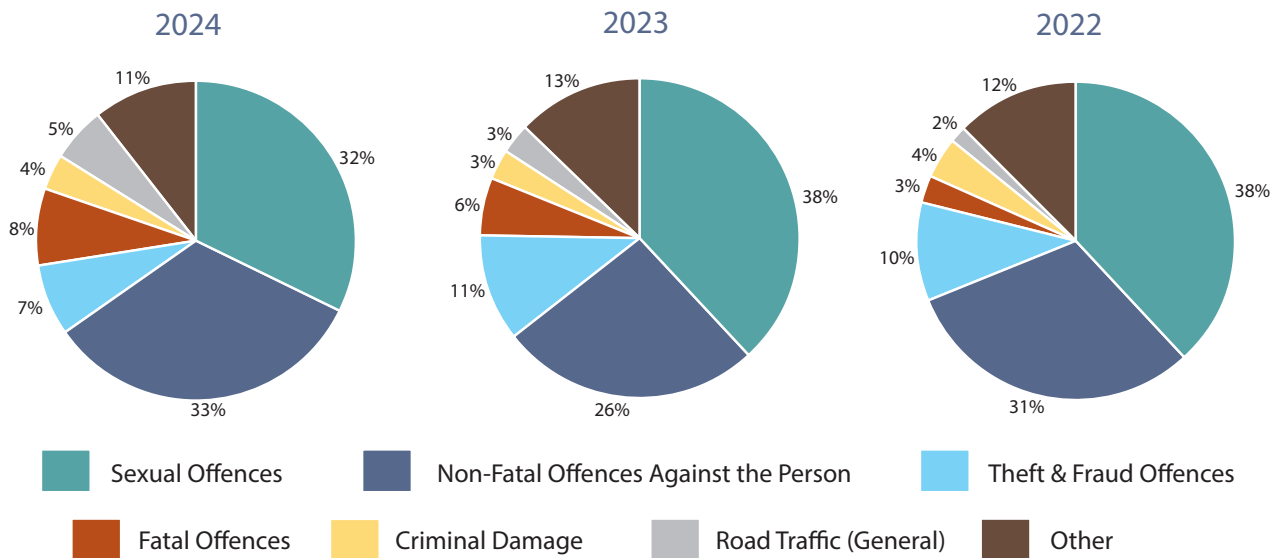
Chart 2.8.2: Requests for review of a decision not to prosecute

	2024	2023	2022
Decision Upheld	199	198	236
Decision Overturned	5	10	10
Invalid Request *	1	5	1
Pending (as of September 2025)	14	10	1
TOTAL requests received for review of a decision	219	223	248

* An invalid request would include, for example, a request to review a decision not to prosecute made by An Garda Síochána and not by the Office of the DPP.

CHART 2.8.2a: Categories of offences which were the subject of requests for reviews

Categories of Offences	2024	2023	2022
Sexual Offences	71	85	95
Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person	72	59	76
Theft and Fraud Offences	16	24	25
Fatal Offences	17	13	7
Criminal Damage	8	7	10
Road Traffic (General)	12	7	4
Other	23	28	31
TOTAL	219	223	248





PART 3: Legal Developments 2024

Legal Developments 2024

- 3.1 This chapter gives a brief outline of some of the court decisions during the past year which are important, or interesting, or have precedent value for prosecution work. Space does not permit a comprehensive review of all of the case law from 2024, but the cases outlined below should give the reader an idea of the issues which arise from time to time in the prosecution of offences.

Juvenile Justice

LT (A Minor) v. DPP & Ors [2024] IEHC 224, (High Court, Barr J., 18 April 2024)

- 3.2 Having been charged with an offence under section 4 of the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994, the applicant challenged the unavailability of a Fixed Charge Notice under Article 40.1 of the Constitution, the right to equal treatment before the law. The High Court found the Oireachtas was entitled to reach a decision that children accused of offences contrary to this section would benefit from the supervisory provisions in the Children Act 2001, as opposed to the informal nature of the Fixed Charge Notice regime.

DOE & Ors v. DPP [2024] IEHC 112, (High Court, Simons J., 29 February 2024)

- 3.3 These Judicial Review proceedings involved three male applicants accused of sexual assault and false imprisonment of a 15-year-old female. The applicants were juveniles at the time of the offences and turned 18 before being charged. The applicants argued that the delay in charging resulted in the loss of the statutory protections provided by the Children Act 2001 and in particular the anonymity provision contained in section 93. The Court emphasised that prosecutorial delay must meet a high threshold to impede a prosecution, and it required additional factors beyond mere delay to prejudice an accused. The Court determined that the loss of anonymity in this case was the only substantial prejudice suffered by the applicants which could be mitigated by imposing *ad hoc* reporting restrictions. This case was appealed to the Supreme Court who upheld the High Court decision in May 2025.

Oscar (Pseudonym) v. DPP, Ireland & the Attorney General [2024] IEHC 279, (High Court, Simons J., 16 May 2024)

- 3.4 The applicant was charged with defilement of a child under 17. The complainant was 12 at the time of the alleged offences and the accused was 15. The applicant challenged section 3 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006 for failing to provide a defence of honest mistaken belief that the complainant was over 15, sometimes known as the 'close in age' defence. The court held that 'close in age' defence as set out in section 3(8) of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offence) Act 2006 was not available unless the child victim concerned has reached the age of 15.

The High Court concluded that the defence under section 3(8) of the 2006 Act was not available where the accused person has a reasonable, but mistaken, belief as to the age of the child.

On the issue of delay, the Court found that while there had been blameworthy delay, this could be remedied by directing *ad hoc* reporting restrictions. In relation to the choice of charge, the Court stated that there is no principle of constitutional law that precludes the Director from electing to prefer charges for a particular offence, notwithstanding that it would be more difficult for an accused person to defend such a prosecution, than had he been charged with a different offence.

The applicant has appealed this High Court judgment, and a hearing date has been fixed in the Court of Appeal for the 13 November 2025. The *ad hoc* reporting restriction element of the appeal has been determined by the Supreme Court in *DOE v. DPP [2024] IEHC 112*.

McC v. DPP [2024] IEHC 314, (High Court, Simons J., 29 May 2024)

- 3.5 The applicant was 15 years and seven months old when the offences were alleged to have occurred but was not charged with assault until 43 months after the alleged offence, by which time he had reached 18 years of age. The Court found that the only prejudice established was the loss of the opportunity to avail of the reporting restrictions as provided under section 93 of the

Children Act 2001, which was outweighed by the public interest for an adjudication by trial of the allegation of a serious assault causing harm.

SB v. DPP, Ireland & the AG [2024] IEHC 392 (High Court, Phelan J., 2 July 2024)

- 3.6 The lawfulness of the applicant's exclusion from section 75 of the Children Act 2001 was challenged on the basis he was a juvenile when the alleged offence occurred but had attained the age of 18 when brought before the Children's Court. The High Court dismissed the challenge on the grounds that the legislative intent of the statute is to shield children from the adult criminal justice system, and that the procedural protections were never intended for adults. The applicant has appealed this decision to the Supreme Court.

SO'S v. DPP [2024] IEHC 430 (High Court, Barr J., 12 July 2024)

- 3.7 The applicant was 17 years and one month old when he was arrested for an offence under section 15 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977. Directions to prosecute issued after the applicant had turned 18. The applicant issued judicial review proceedings seeking prohibition based on blameworthy prosecutorial delay and losing his protections under the Children Act 2001. The High Court rejected the claim of blameworthy prosecutorial delay, finding no undue delay in the investigation or prosecution process, from the seizure of the drugs to the applicant reaching the age of majority.

DPP v. DK [2024] IECA 230 (Court of Appeal, Kennedy J., 30 July 2024)

- 3.8 The applicant was charged with money laundering offences between 22 April 2019 and 1 May 2019. He turned 18 on 1 February 2021 and was charged on 6 October 2021. The applicant's prohibition proceedings on the basis of delay were successful before the High Court. The Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's decision, despite finding that the period of culpable delay had been miscalculated. The Court highlighted the significance of the loss of anonymity for the applicant, reiterating the duty on State authorities to act quickly in prosecutions concerning a juvenile.

M & A v. Ireland & Ors [2024] IEHC 523 (High Court, Simons J., 2 September 2024)

- 3.9 The two applicants were charged with a murder alleged to have taken place when they were both under the age of 18. The applicants 'aged out' before their criminal trials and argued that as a result, it was unfair that they could be subject to mandatory life sentences, as opposed to the sentencing principles under the Children Act 2001, had they been sentenced as children. The High Court held the difference in treatment of a juvenile offender sentenced whilst a child and a juvenile offender who had 'aged out' on their sentence date, was predicated on an arbitrary feature (the age of the juvenile offender at the date of sentence). The Court held this difference in treatment was not objectively justified or justifiable.

(The Oireachtas enacted the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act 2024 on 4 October 2024 to disapply the mandatory life sentence for murder for those accused who 'age out' following the commission of the offence as a child.)

Road Traffic Law

DPP v. Murphy [2024] IEHC 147 (High Court, Bolger J, 13 March 2024)

- 3.10 This case concerns a consultative case stated to the High Court asking whether a Fines Notice served under section 7(4) of the Fines (Payment and Recovery) Act 2014 was properly delivered to the accused. The notice was sent to an address where she did not ordinarily reside, and no alternative service address or court direction was provided. The accused's attendance was procured by the execution of a bench warrant and not by the service of the notice as required under section 7(4). The High Court held that the notice was not properly served on the basis that it was sent to an address where she did not ordinarily reside; no alternative service address or court direction was provided; and the accused was not adequately informed of the court date due to incorrect service of the notice.

Conor McGuinness v. DPP [2024] IEHC 317, (High Court, Bolger J., 27 May 2024)

- 3.11 In this application for judicial review, the High Court considered the interpretation of section 4(1A) and the mandatory nature of the requirement to provide a blood sample under

section 13B(1) of the Road Traffic Act 2010. After the applicant was stopped and tested positive for cannabis, he was arrested under section 4(8) and subsequently convicted in the District Court. However, the High Court quashed the conviction, ruling that the arresting officer had not formed the necessary opinion to lawfully demand a blood specimen pursuant to the Act of 2010, rendering the evidence inadmissible. The Director appealed the High Court's decision.

Patrick White v. DPP [2024] IECA 190 (Court of Appeal, Edwards J, 16 July 2024)

- 3.12** In this case, the accused – who was convicted of drunk driving, driving without a licence, and driving uninsured – challenged his conviction by disputing the validity of the Garda checkpoint authorisation issued under the Road Traffic Act 2010 (as amended by the 2016 Act). The appellant argued that a dating anomaly in the authorisation – that the signature of the inspector post-dated the authorisation of the second unrelated checkpoint – rendered it invalid. Both the High Court and the Court of Appeal rejected this challenge, holding that the minor discrepancy did not compromise the validity of the checkpoint at which the appellant was stopped, and severance of the flawed portion of the document was appropriate.

Casserly v. DPP [2024] IECA 268 (Court of Appeal, Burns J, 10 October 2024)

- 3.13** This appeal by way of case stated concerned a drunk driving detection at Longford Garda Station. The appellant opted to provide a urine specimen, instead of a blood sample. It was alleged that the appellant did not make any meaningful effort to provide a urine specimen and was summoned for refusing to comply with the Garda requirement under section 12 of the Road Traffic Act 2010. The appellant argued that Gardaí were obliged to require a blood specimen when a valid urine sample was not provided. The appellant was convicted in the District Court, and the Director was successful in the subsequent appeal by way of case stated before the High Court. The Court of Appeal ruled that the High Court had erred in finding that there was no obligation for Gardaí to require a blood specimen. The uncertainty around the commission of the offence could have been avoided had the requirement to provide a blood sample been made.

Disclosure/Discovery

David James Bourke v. Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and Ors [2024] IECA 181 (Court of Appeal, Burns J., 14 June 2024) and [2024] IESCDT 107 (Supreme Court, Dunne & O'Malley & Hogan JJ., 2 September 2024)

- 3.14** The applicant, a serving member of An Garda Síochána, was charged with two counts of corruption and sought pre-trial disclosure of all information in relation to a police informant whom he had previously recruited. After applications for disclosure were refused by the Circuit Court on the basis of privilege, the applicant sought leave to apply for judicial review. The High Court refused the applicant leave to apply for judicial review. The Court of Appeal and Supreme Court ultimately dismissed the applicant's appeals in relation to the refusal of leave. The Supreme Court also dismissed his appeal on the basis it did not identify any specific grounds of alleged incompatibility in the existing common law rules in relation to disclosure and that the applicant had not identified any issue of general public importance.

WC v. DPP [2024] IESC 48 (Supreme Court, Charleton J., 24 October 2024)

- 3.15** The applicant in this case challenged the refusal of the complainant to disclose information regarding previous complaints of sexual assault against other persons. Following rulings by the High Court and Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court heard the challenge and set down some general guidelines in relation to disclosure of private material.

The Supreme Court held that disclosure in criminal trials was ordinarily not a matter for the judicial review process. The Court held that the principles of remoteness, materiality and relevancy should be at the forefront of a trial judge's mind in considering matters of disclosure.

Regarding counselling records, the Court held that a balance had to be struck between the right to a fair trial and the privacy rights of the complainant. The Court noted that central to the counselling relationship is "to expect that the counselling space will not be transformed into analysis by lawyers" and that "there should be a justifiable reason for trespassing into the private lives of witnesses beyond the facts essential for a fair trial".

Misuse of Drugs

Lynch v. Minister for Health & Ors [2024] IEHC 463 (High Court, Simons J., 25 July 2024)

- 3.16 The principal issue raised in this case was whether the designation of cannabinol derivatives, specifically tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), as controlled drugs for the purpose of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1977 is contrary to EU law. The Court rejected the contention by the applicant that a CBD product containing THC should not be regarded as a controlled drug provided that the proportion of THC content was below 0.2%. The Court held that any substance that contains even a low level of THC comes within the concept of narcotic drugs under the EU Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, and is not a good entitled to benefit from the principle of free movement under Article 34 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Legislative restrictions on the freedom of movement of such a substance or preparation do not require justification under Article 36 of the TFEU.

Legal Aid

DPP v. Gerard Joyce [2024] IEHC 717, (High Court, Barr J., 20 December 2024)

- 3.17 In this case, an accused charged with possession and intent to supply drugs challenged the chain of custody evidence presented through a certificate issued pursuant to section 30 of the Criminal Justice Act 1999. The District Court judge, by way of consultative case stated, asked whether a judge is entitled to receive evidence by way of a section 30 certificate, in circumstances where the defence objected to the certificate due to the absence of the certifying officer for cross-examination. The High Court affirmed that the certificate is prima facie proof of the matters stated within it and the trial judge has discretion to require oral evidence if justice necessitates. A trial judge may admit a certificate as evidence regarding the custody of exhibits, unless the judge deems it in the interests of justice to require oral evidence.

Prohibition of Trial

Sutton v. DPP & Ors [2024] IEHC 155, (High Court, Gearty J. 19 March 2024)

- 3.18 The applicant sought to prohibit his retrial following the quashing of his conviction by the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal quashed

the conviction based on the editing at trial of the applicant's interviews and the decision in *DPP v. Almasi* [2020] IESC 35. The applicant sought to appeal the re-trial decision to the Supreme Court which declined to grant him leave. The applicant then filed a miscarriage of justice application before the Court of Appeal, which ruled that the application would have to await his retrial. The applicant then applied to the High Court for leave to apply for judicial review to prohibit his retrial. The matter was heard by Gearty J. who refused the applicant's leave application on the basis the case law made it clear that the applicant had to demonstrate a real risk of an unfair trial, but that he had failed to do this.

Covid-19 Regulations

Ring & Ors v. Minister for Health, Ireland & the Attorney General [2024] IEHC 323, (High Court, Nolan J. 31 May 2024)

- 3.19 The applicant issued plenary proceedings seeking declarations that the Regulations introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 were unconstitutional. The High Court rejected the applicant's proceedings, finding that the legislation and Regulations were constitutional. The Court held that given the unprecedented pandemic, coupled with the unprecedented difficulty of forming a Government, the laying of the Regulations before the Seanad was "soon as may be after it was made" as stipulated in section 5 of the Health Act 1947.

Mulreany & McGrath v. DPP & Ors [2024] IESC 50, (Supreme Court, Donnelly J. 14 November 2024)

- 3.20 The appellants were arrested and prosecuted for offences of resisting being transferred to a designated facility and refusal to quarantine. The appellants' judicial review applications concerned two issues:
- i) whether the designation of the United Arab Emirates as a designated State was an impermissible exercise of the exclusive law-making power of the Oireachtas, and
 - ii) whether the power of review exercised by the Designated Appeals Officer was an impermissible exercise of the judicial function.

The Supreme Court affirmed the High Court Orders and found no unconstitutional delegation of legislative power in the designation process, and determined that the review by the Designated Appeals Officer did not constitute an impermissible exercise of judicial function.

Syringe Offences

Phelan v. Ireland, the AG & the DPP [2024] IEHC 653 (High Court, Gearty J., 1 October 2024)

- 3.21 The applicant was charged with an offence contrary to section 6(1)(b) of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997. The applicant sought a declaration by way of judicial review that this statutory offence was unconstitutional as the offence mandated an objective standard of recklessness. The Court determined that the statutory language “where there is a likelihood” of causing fear of “infection” does not unambiguously mandate an objective standard of recklessness and can be interpreted to require that the accused must have consciously disregarded a substantial and unjustifiable risk. The application was dismissed.

Legislative Power to Create Indictable Offences by Way of Regulation

Gerry Gearty & Sean Beirne v. DPP & Ors [2024] IESC 45, (Supreme Court, Charleton J., 17 October 2024)

- 3.22 The appellants were charged with refusing to allow authorised officers of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to enter their boglands to ensure compliance with legal obligations under the European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations 2011 regarding the harvesting of turf. The central issue was whether there was an abdication by the Oireachtas of their sole and exclusive law-making power in creating this indictable offence by way of statutory instrument. The Supreme Court affirmed the High Court’s decision that a Minister’s Regulation creating indictable offences, with penalties of up to three years imprisonment, to protect bog habitats does not constitute an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power.

Search Warrants

Poptoshev v. DPP & Ors [2024] IEHC 721, (High Court, Bradley J., 11 December 2024)

- 3.23 The applicant issued judicial review proceedings seeking inter alia to prohibit his prosecution for alleged offences arising from his failure to comply with a statutory requirement to provide a password to an electronic device (section 48 of the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001). The applicant contended that this requirement – and the offences created by any failure to comply with it – constituted a disproportionate interference with the privilege against self-incrimination. The Court stated that the privilege against self-incrimination is not engaged by the use in criminal proceedings of material obtained from an accused through compulsory powers, but which has an existence independent of the will of the accused or suspect. This case has been appealed to the Supreme Court.

District Court Jurisdiction

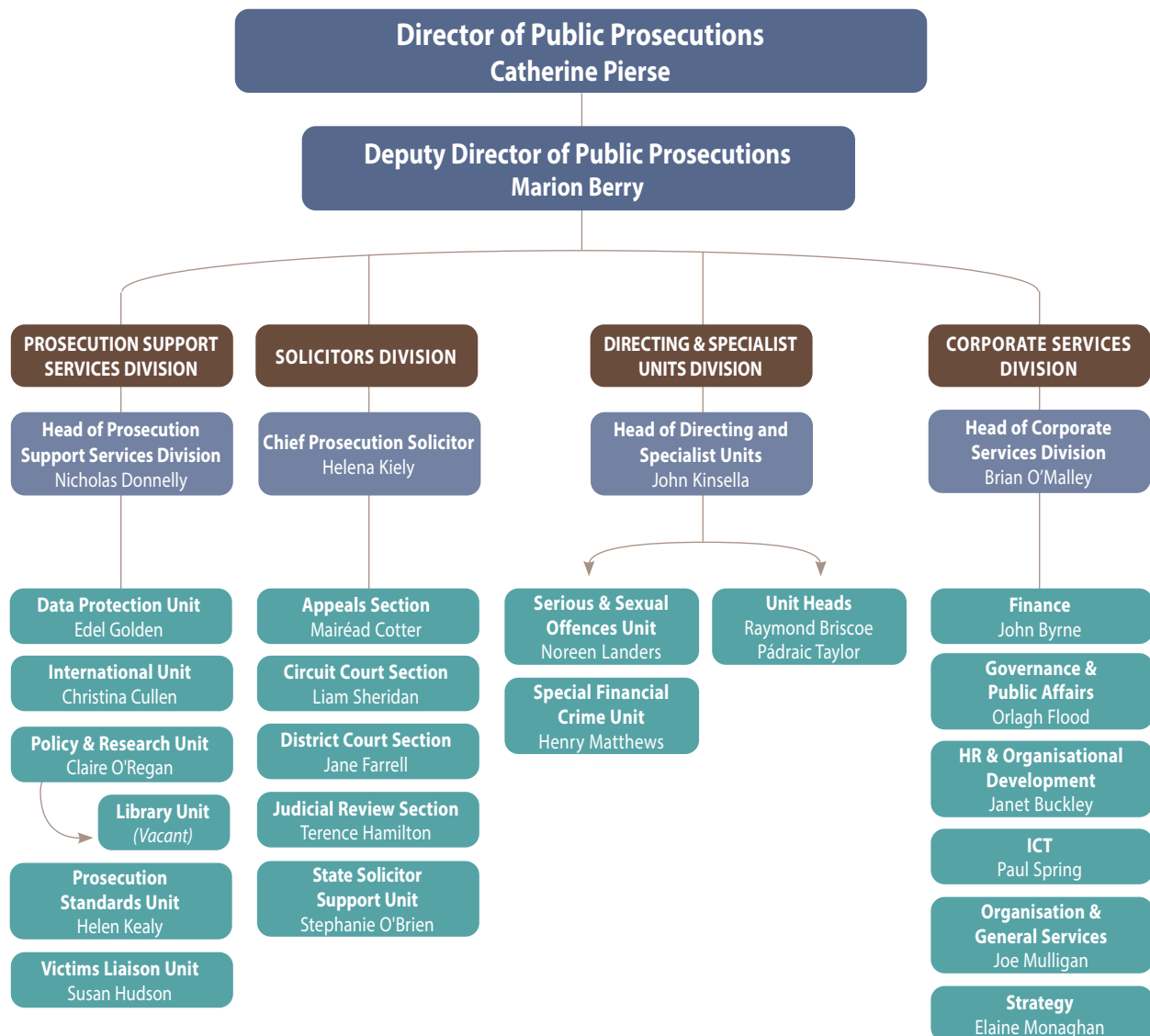
Corcoran, Doherty & Rooney v. The People (at the suit of the DPP) & the Attorney General [2024] IESC 52, (Supreme Court, Dunne J., Charleton J., O’Malley J., Woulfe J., Hogan J., 12 July 2024)

- 3.24 A District Court judge accepted jurisdiction to hear cases for seven accused. The accused were charged with posting pictures and names of accused children in a murder case contrary to sections 252 and 51(3) of the Children Act 2001. The cases were adjourned for mention. When the cases were before the District Court again, in front of a different presiding judge, that judge declined jurisdiction because of the seriousness of the offences. Judicial review proceedings issued challenging the District Court judge’s decision to refuse jurisdiction. The Supreme Court held that, in general, there is no necessity for a judge coming new to a case to reconsider jurisdiction. However, the Supreme Court held that in this instance, the District Court judge was correct to reconsider jurisdiction, on the basis that part of his role in case management was to determine whether the offences were minor or non-minor.

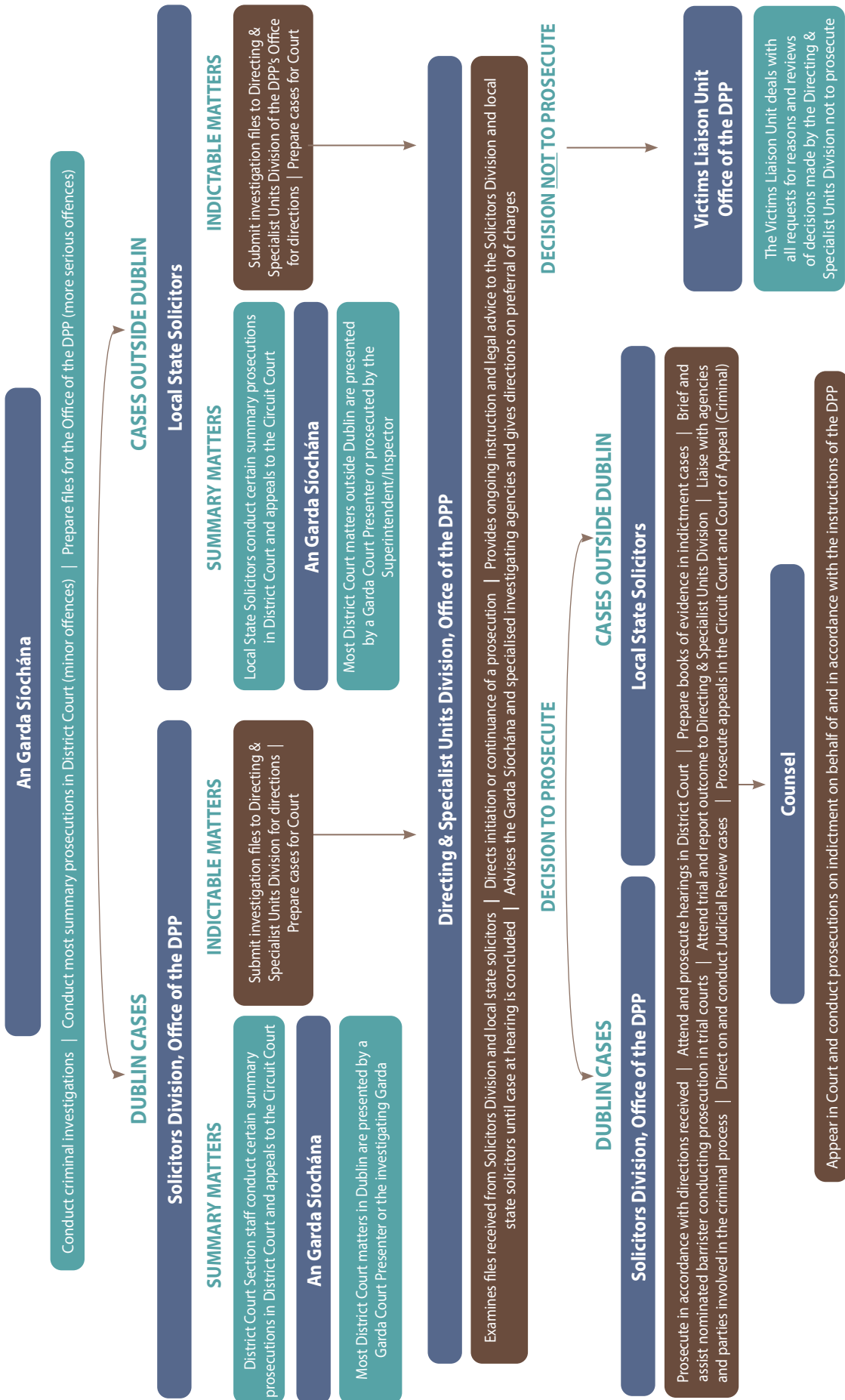
Appendices

Appendix 1: Organisation Structure

(September 2025)



Appendix 2: Criminal Prosecution Process in Ireland



Appendix 3: Office Expenditure

Chart A3.1 shows the breakdown of Office expenditure for 2024, 2023 and 2022.

Salaries and Wages: This represents the cost of salaries of staff employed in the Office. The total staff complement at 31 December 2024 was 283 (276.70 full-time equivalent).

Office Expenses: This relates to general office administration costs including purchase and maintenance of office equipment, office supplies, library costs, office premises maintenance, travel and other incidental expenses.

State Solicitor Service: This refers to payment of amounts agreed by contract with 30 State Solicitors in private practice who are contracted to this Office to represent the Director in courts outside Dublin.

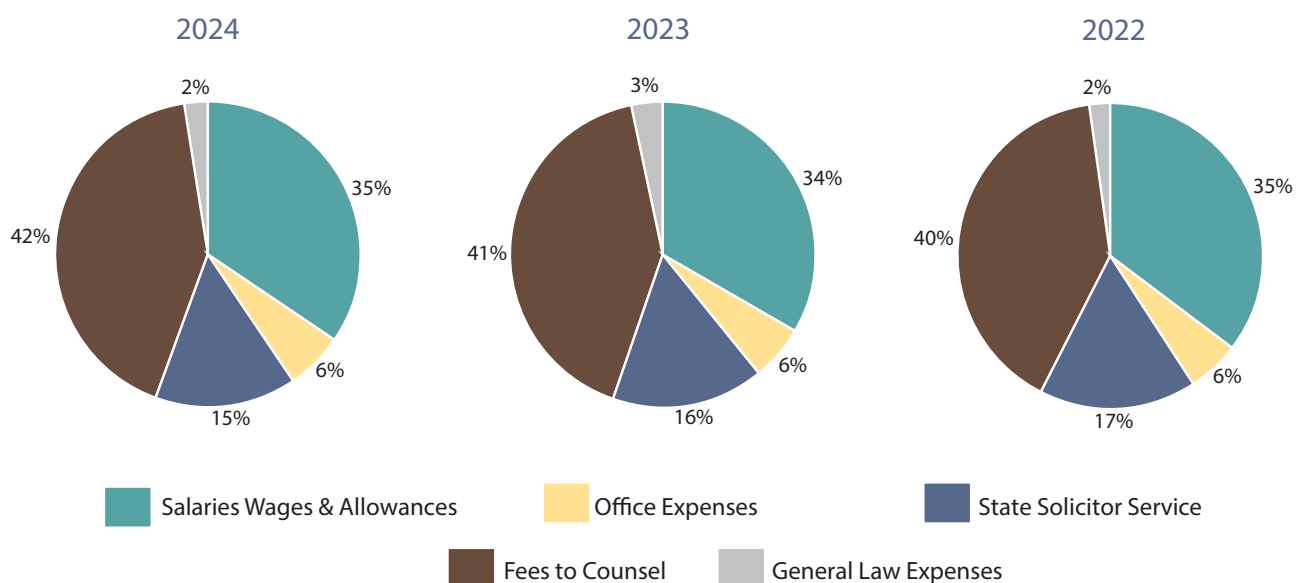
Fees to Counsel: These are fees paid to the barristers who prosecute cases on behalf of the Director in the various criminal courts. Fees are set within the parameters set by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

General Law Expenses: This refers to the payment of legal costs awarded by the courts in legal proceedings against the Director.

NOTE: The amounts outlined in Chart A3.1 for Salaries, Wages and Allowances and Office Expenses are net of pension-related deductions and Appropriations-in-Aid respectively.

Chart A3.1: Office Expenditure

	2024	%	2023	%	2022	%
	€		€		€	
Salaries Wages and Allowances	22,614,814	35%	19,617,719	34%	17,704,360	35%
Office Expenses	3,993,965	6%	3,384,673	6%	2,842,772	6%
State Solicitor Service	9,649,845	15%	9,516,091	16%	8,333,219	17%
Fees to Counsel	27,363,547	42%	24,115,087	41%	20,071,958	40%
General Law Expenses	1,592,382	2%	1,912,582	3.0%	1,094,932	2%
TOTAL	65,214,553		58,546,152		50,047,241	



Despite an increase to our annual gross budget, we had to seek a supplementary estimate of €4.667m in November 2024. There were a number of factors which gave rise to this, but primarily it was due to demand led pressures on expenditure on counsel fees which is to a large extent dependent on the level of activity in the courts at any time. In this regard, there was a general increase in the number of indictable prosecutions directed across all courts in 2024, and a significant and ongoing increase in activity in the Central Criminal Court where the number of judges assigned has more than doubled in recent years.

Charts A3.2 and A3.3 show a breakdown of expenditure on fees to counsel in the various criminal courts and by region in respect of the Circuit Criminal Court.

Fees paid to counsel in the Circuit, Central and Special Criminal Courts cover advising on proofs, drafting indictments, holding consultations, arraignments, presentation of the case and other necessary appearances, for example, for sentence.

Expenditure on fees in the High Court covers mainly bail applications and the preparatory work and hearings associated with judicial reviews.

Chart A3.2: Fees to Counsel Paid by Court

	2024	%	2023	%	2022	%
	€		€		€	
Circuit Court	11,933,870	43%	10,697,182	44%	9,179,868	46%
Central Criminal Court	10,872,500	40%	8,711,777	36%	7,274,706	36%
High Court	2,498,591	9%	1,839,503	8%	1,655,887	8%
Supreme Court	452,115	2%	541,432	2%	188,245	1%
Court of Appeal	1,031,375	4%	1,297,271	5%	830,969	4%
Special Criminal Court	506,637	2%	981,572	5%	891,798	4%
District Court	68,459	0%	46,350	0%	50,485	0%
TOTAL	27,363,547		24,115,087		20,071,958	

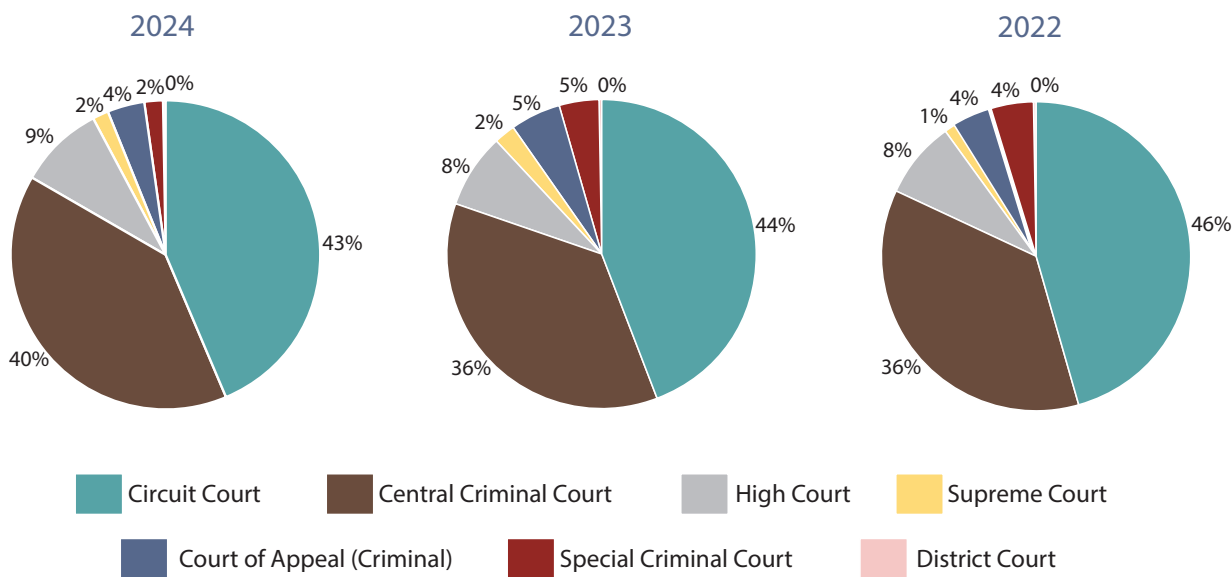
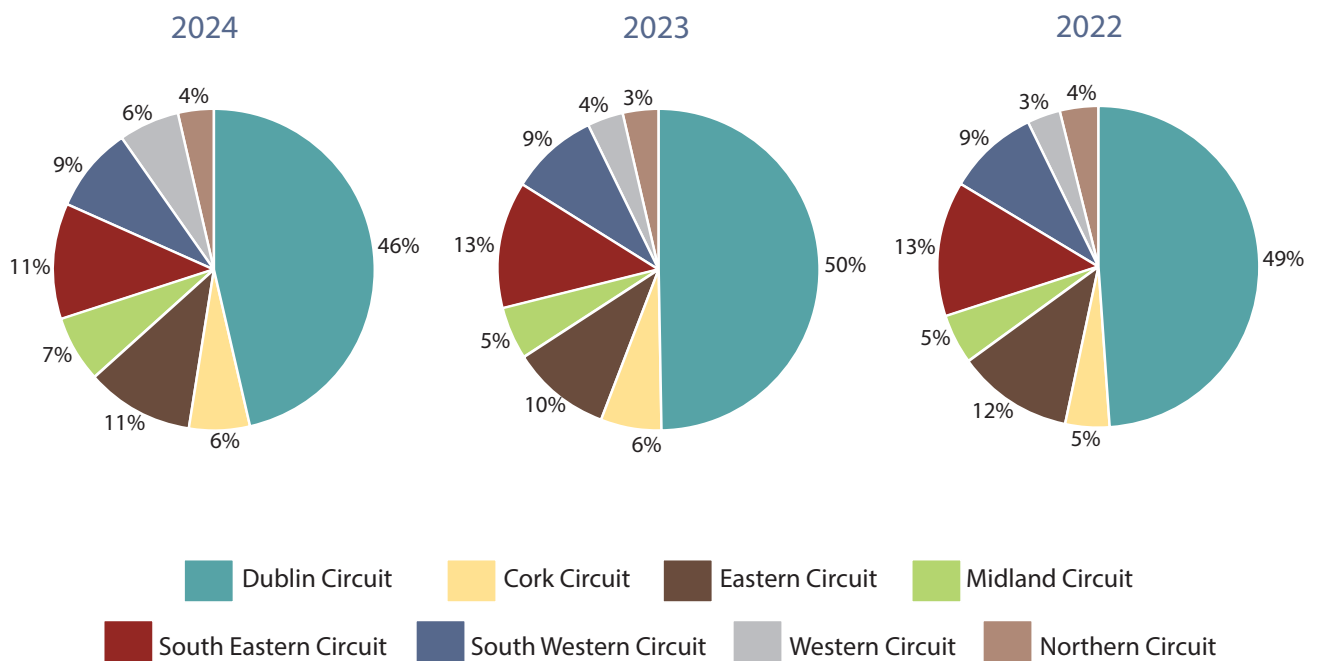


Chart A3.3: Fees to Counsel Paid by Circuit

	2024	%	2023	%	2022	%
	€		€		€	
Dublin Circuit	5,542,706	46%	5,323,871	50%	4,506,464	49%
Cork Circuit	733,315	6%	670,446	6%	414,511	5%
Eastern Circuit	1,289,074	11%	1,075,354	10%	1,064,775	12%
Midland Circuit	803,340	7%	542,458	5%	456,502	5%
South Eastern Circuit	1,383,014	11%	1,374,826	13%	1,242,909	13%
South Western Circuit	1,052,528	9%	959,771	9%	849,310	9%
Western Circuit	698,983	6%	392,885	4%	309,766	3%
Northern Circuit	430,910	4%	357,571	3%	335,631	4%
TOTAL	11,933,870		10,697,182		9,179,868	



Extract from Appropriation Account 2023

		Estimate €000	Provision €000	2023 Outturn €000	2022 Outturn €000
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE					
A. Provision of Prosecution Service					
	<i>Original</i>	56,078			
	<i>Supplementary</i>	4,500			
			60,578	59,445	50,878
Gross Expenditure			60,578	59,445	50,878
	<i>Deduct</i>				
B. Appropriations-in-Aid			760	899	831
Net Expenditure					
	<i>Original</i>	55,318			
	<i>Supplementary</i>	4,500			
			€59,818	€58,546	€50,047
Surplus					
The surplus of the amount provided over the net amount applied is liable for surrender to the Exchequer					
				2023	2022
Surplus to be Surrendered				€1,271,848	€1,229,759

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

Late Payments in Commercial Transactions Regulations 2002

Operation of the Act in the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions makes payments to suppliers after the goods or services in question have been provided satisfactorily and within 30 days of the supplier submitting an invoice. In the case of fees to counsel, while invoices are not generated, the practice of the Office is to pay counsels fees within 30 days of receipt of a case report form in each case.

In the period in question, the Office made two late payments in excess of €317.50. The value of these payments was €5,087.50. The total value of late payments in the year amounted to €5,719.84 out of total payments of €4 million, and interest and penalties thereon came to €356.09.

Statement of the Accounting Officer

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is one of the organisations which is subject to the terms of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997 and the Late Payments in Commercial Transactions Regulations 2002. The Act came into force on 2 January 1998, and since that time the Office has complied with the terms of the Act.

All invoices from suppliers are date stamped on receipt. Invoices are approved and submitted for payment in a timely manner to ensure that payment is made within the relevant period. When the invoices are being paid the date of receipt and the date of payment are compared, and if the relevant time limit has been exceeded, an interest payment is automatically generated. In cases where an interest payment is required, the matter is brought to the attention of management so that any necessary remedial action can be taken.

The procedures which have been put in place can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material non-compliance with the Act.

Marion Berry
Accounting Officer
September 2025

Appendix 4: Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

Implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in the Office of the DPP

A4.1 Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) Act 2014 establishes a duty on public bodies to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect the human rights of both staff and the people to whom services are provided. The Act requires public bodies to assess, address and report on progress in relation to equality and human rights, in a manner that is accessible to the public.

A4.2 The Office of the DPP's [Strategy Statement](#) details how we will continue to emphasise and promote equality and human rights through our day-to-day work, delivering the prosecution service in an effective and fair way, with integrity and respect for human dignity. We also ensure that these duties are emphasised for our staff. We have continued to promote the equality and human rights training provided by the civil service wide initiative, OneLearning, in conjunction with IHREC within the Office and this is considered required training for all staff.

A4.3 The following key channels are used by the Office of the DPP to address our Public Sector Duty obligations:

- The **Guidelines for Prosecutors**, incorporating a Code of Ethics, set out the human rights and equality standards which the Director expects all prosecutors to comply with in discharging their functions in relation to victims and those suspected or accused of criminal offences. The Guidelines and Code of Ethics are kept under continuous review.
- Our **Human Resources and Organisational Development (HR-OD) policies** give effect to the human rights and equality issues relevant to staff in the Office. We keep these

policies under review to ensure that they meet appropriate human rights and equality standards. As part of their equality work, the HR-OD Unit ensures that when filling roles, the requirements for each are inclusive, and the supports for persons with disabilities who wish to apply for such roles are clearly set out.

- Our **Disability Liaison Officer (DLO)** within the Office plays a critical role in advancing issues for staff with disabilities. The DLO will ensure that the working environment where colleagues with disabilities are employed is supportive of and recognises their particular needs. The DLO will also assist in the assignment of new staff, and identify specific needs (for example, assistive technology) of staff prior to their assignment, transfer or promotion. The DLO will monitor Office statistics in relation to exceeding the minimum 3% target for the employment of people with a disability in the public sector.
- The Civil Service Policy '**Dignity at Work: An Anti-Bullying, Harassment and Sexual Harassment Policy for the Irish Civil Service**', developed in partnership between Civil Service management and staff unions, is in place in the Office. As part of this Policy, the role of the Contact Person is generally provided by the Civil Service Employee Assistance Service. A Contact Person is an individual who can provide general information regarding the Dignity at Work Policy, and other matters related to bullying, harassment and sexual harassment.
- Our **Access Officer** is responsible for ensuring equality of access to information and services provided by the Office of the DPP. This includes ensuring that our website, www.dppireland.ie, is accessible to the

widest possible audience, including older people and people with disabilities who may be using assistive technology. To this end, our website is kept under continuous review for accessibility in line with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

- The Office also maintains a **suite of information booklets written in plain language approved by the National Adult Literacy Agency**, which are available for victims of crime and the public generally. These booklets are kept under review and updated as required. Further plain language publications are in development.
- Our **HR-OD Unit** is proactive in providing a broad range of learning and development opportunities for all staff. A module on unconscious bias is covered as part of the training required for all new interview board members. In addition, a programme on the topic of unconscious bias, first developed in 2023, was continued in 2024. Phase 1 of this programme, involving 23.5% of our legal staff, was completed in 2024.
- Staff from our Office participate in **Public Sector Equality Networks** to share learning and best practice.

Appendix 5: Annual Energy Efficiency Report 2024

Overview of Energy Usage in 2024

A5.1 In 2024 the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions consumed 959.87MWh of energy.

The total energy consumption is in respect of space heating, air conditioning, hot water, lighting, computer systems and other office equipment at our office buildings on Infirmary Road.

This figure is compiled as follows:

- 417.89MWh of Electricity
- 541.98MWh of Natural Gas

While energy management measures were maintained, this represented an increase in energy consumption over 2023 amounting to 3.2%.

This can, for the most part, be attributed to the following:

- An increase in staff levels following recent recruitment and an increase in Office based working arrangements.
- Technical problems were encountered with our boiler systems which impacted heating system controls over several weeks.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) in 2024

A5.2 In 2024 the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions generated total GHG emissions of 210.683kg/CO₂, equivalent to a 44.9% reduction on the 2016-2018 baseline.

The Office remains on course to achieve the 51% public sector emissions target by 2030, with a current gap to target of 102,409kg/CO₂.

Actions Undertaken in 2024

A5.3 During 2024, energy efficiency monitoring continued in collaboration with external consultants and maintenance contractors.

Small project-based savings were realised. Actions taken otherwise during 2024 include the following:

- Continued monitoring of existing energy management systems and powering off gas boilers for extended periods over the summer.
- The OPW Building Management System (BMS) continued to be used to facilitate the isolation of buildings on the site with the purpose of increasing efficiency in the management of energy on a per building basis as required.
- Adoption of energy saving measures in line with the 'Reduce your Use' energy saving initiative in the public sector.
- Sensor controlled lighting was installed on a pilot basis in designated common areas.
- An investigation into our temperature-controlled ICT server rooms took place resulting in approval for these rooms to run at a slightly higher temperature, saving energy.
- An Energy Efficiency Awareness Day was held in conjunction with our energy consultant. This was aimed at increasing staff understanding and participation in actively implementing measures to assist the Office in reaching our targets.

Actions Planned for 2025

A5.4 Actions planned for 2025 include the following:

- Continue to maximise the use of the Building Management System to identify and achieve incremental savings in energy consumption.
- Progress proposals for targeted insulation measures. This will require extensive survey work, planned to be undertaken in 2025.

- Progress pilot schemes for radiator equipment upgrade.
- Extend our sensor-controlled lighting systems following a successful pilot in 2024.
- Continuation of awareness campaign using signage and posters.
- Explore and incorporate specific energy saving measures in all build projects in the future; and
- Develop proposals for further reduction in energy consumption arising from an energy audit report on buildings carried out in 2023.

