

Oifig an
Office of the



Stiúrthóra Ionchúiseamh Poiblí
Director of Public Prosecutions

Annual Report | 2025

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Foreword

2025 was a year of both considerable activity and important reflection for my Office. During the year, we marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of an independent prosecution service in Ireland. This milestone provided an opportunity to reflect on the vision that informed the creation of the Office in 1975 and on the enduring importance of prosecutorial independence in maintaining public confidence in the rule of law. It also prompted us to consider the challenges and opportunities that will shape the prosecution service in the years ahead.

The statistics contained in this report demonstrate a sustained high level of activity across the criminal justice system. The Office received almost 17,500 prosecution files during the year, while court activity, particularly in the Central Criminal Court, continued at historically elevated levels. These figures highlight the volume of prosecutorial activity and the increasingly complex environment in which the prosecution service operates.

2025 was also the first year of implementation of our Strategy Statement 2025–2027. Throughout the year, the Office focused on advancing its three strategic goals: driving excellence and high professional standards; maintaining public confidence in the criminal prosecution service; and supporting improvements and innovation across the wider criminal justice system.

Disclosure remains one of the most significant challenges facing prosecution services internationally. The exponential growth in digital evidence, together with the need to balance fair trial rights, privacy rights and the interests of victims, continues to transform the prosecution landscape. During 2025, our Office received and reviewed approximately 15 terabytes of evidential material, including mobile phone downloads, CCTV footage and other digital records.

Against this backdrop, two important Supreme Court judgments – *WC* and *AM* – delivered during 2024 and 2025 respectively, required us to carefully review aspects of our disclosure practice. In response, we undertook extensive policy, operational and training work during 2025, including a fundamental revision of our approach to the disclosure of counselling records. This involved close engagement with An Garda Síochána and other stakeholders, updated internal guidance, and ongoing examination of how best to fulfil our



disclosure obligations in a manner that is fair, proportionate and consistent with the rights of all involved. Disclosure will remain a key area of focus for the Office in the years ahead.

A second major priority during 2025 was strengthening our digital capacity. We commenced a multi-year project to replace our existing case management system with a modern, flexible platform capable of supporting the prosecution service into the future. This is a significant organisational project that will play an important role in modernising the Office's digital capabilities. Alongside wider investment in digital infrastructure and information management, it will help ensure that the Office can respond effectively to increasing volumes of data, evolving methods of criminal investigation and growing demands for efficiency and service excellence.

International engagement continued to be of growing importance. Criminal activity increasingly crosses borders, and effective prosecution depends upon close co-operation between legal and law enforcement authorities across jurisdictions. During 2025, we continued to deepen our engagement at European level, particularly in relation to emerging legislative and policy developments. Much of this engagement now takes place via our prosecutors based

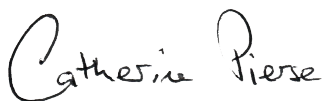
in Eurojust, the European Union agency for criminal Justice co-operation. Work progressed in areas such as e-evidence, transfer of proceedings and broader criminal justice co-operation mechanisms. As Ireland prepared for its Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2026, the importance of effective international co-operation and engagement with European partners remained a key consideration.

We also maintained a substantial programme of engagement with the Department of Justice and other stakeholders regarding legislative reform. Throughout the year, the Office contributed observations and expertise across a broad range of criminal justice initiatives, reflecting the importance of ensuring that legislative developments are informed by operational experience and prosecutorial practice.

Our 50th anniversary programme provided an opportunity to engage with colleagues, stakeholders, academics, students and the public about the role of the prosecution service in a modern democracy. While much has changed since 1975, the principles upon which the Office was founded remain constant. Independence, fairness and accountability continue to underpin the work of the prosecution service and public confidence in the administration of justice.

As this report demonstrates, the prosecution environment continues to evolve. The Office remains focused on ensuring that it is equipped to meet changing demands through investment in its people, processes and systems.

I would like to thank our staff, State Solicitors, counsel and criminal justice partners for their dedication and service throughout 2025. Together, we remain committed to delivering a fair, independent and effective prosecution service on behalf of the people of Ireland.



Catherine Pierse
Director of Public Prosecutions

September 2026

2025 at a Glance



50 Years

2025 marked the 50th anniversary of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, commemorating five decades of independent prosecution in Ireland since 1975



17,470

Investigation files submitted by An Garda Síochána and other agencies



73%

Prosecution decisions made within four weeks - maintaining timely decision-making despite increasing file complexity and volume



5,663

Central Criminal Court Sitting Dates



€12m

Criminal assets recovered and returned to the Exchequer



883

Requests from victims of crime for reasons and reviews processed



307

Staff serving the Office of the DPP at the end of 2025



€71.7m

Total cost of providing the prosecution service in 2025



66,700

People reached through LinkedIn communications

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 307 at the end of 2025, 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; and provides ongoing instruction and legal advice on cases until their conclusion, including any potential appeals involving legal or sentencing issues. 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.

An Garda Síochána – members of An Garda Síochána prosecute, in the name of the DPP, the majority of criminal cases before the District Court. This work is carried out in accordance with [General Direction No.4](#) issued by the Director under section 10 of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024. In recent years, the Office has worked closely with An Garda Síochána and the Summary Prosecution Reform Steering Committee to strengthen the systems that support summary prosecutions. This includes the development of enhanced guidance, training and oversight arrangements to promote consistency, quality and accountability in prosecutions conducted on behalf of the Director.

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

Our Office acts in the public interest to deliver on our mission and is guided by five core values. These values will continue to drive staff and the organisation over the coming years.



Our Strategic Framework 2025–2027

2025 was the first year of our Strategy Statement 2025-2027. 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 three 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 2025 in achieving our strategic goals.

The full Strategy Statement 2025-2027 is available to read or download on our website, www.dppireland.ie.

Strategic Goals

1. Driving excellence and high professional standards

We will achieve consistently high-quality professional standards, expertise and efficiency in order to deliver a fair, independent and effective criminal prosecution service that is responsive to an increasingly complex operating environment

2. Maintaining public confidence in the criminal prosecution service

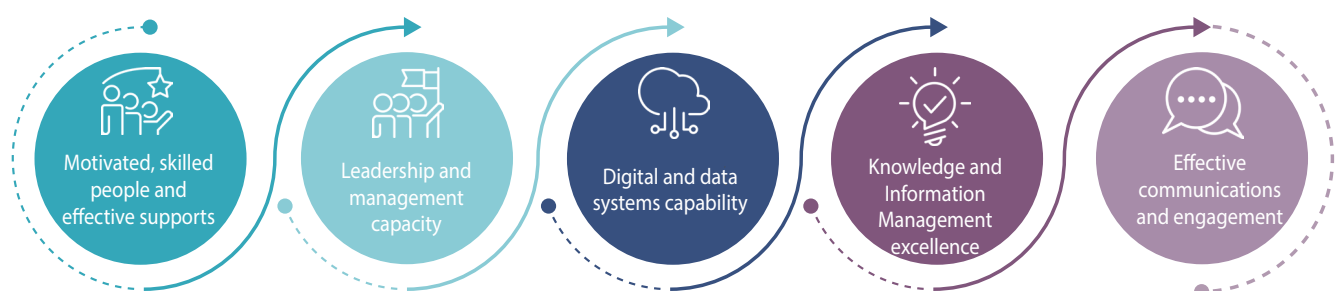
We will maintain public trust and confidence in the fairness, effectiveness and independence of our Office, demonstrated through the delivery of high standards of service

3. Building a culture of innovation and collaboration to support service improvements in the criminal justice system

We will proactively seek to bring about improvements, efficiencies and innovations to the criminal justice system, in collaboration with key stakeholders, nationally and internationally

Strategic Enablers

Meeting these high-level priorities is contingent on having a range of strong underpinning supports and resources in place to enable us to excel in the work we do. These are:





PART 1: Year in Review 2025

1.1 Progress on Strategic Goals 2025

Strategic Goal 1: Driving excellence and high professional standards

1.1.1 The operational demands on the Office continued to increase significantly during 2025. The Office of the DPP received a total of 17,470 investigation files, representing a 5% increase on 2024. Of these, 11,973 files (involving 14,975 suspects) related to serious offences requiring consideration by lawyers in the Directing and Specialist Units Division as to whether a prosecution should be initiated or continued. These figures reflect the sustained growth in the volume and complexity of prosecutorial work undertaken by the Office.

1.1.2 Of the number of suspects that were the subject of files received, a prosecution was directed in 66% of cases – 33% prosecution on indictment and 33% summary disposal.

1.1.3 The Office continued to respond effectively to unprecedented levels of court activity. As a result of the significant increase in judicial resources assigned to the Central Criminal Court in recent years, the volume of court sittings, trials and related hearings requiring support from the ODPP has grown substantially. Between 2019 and 2025, the number of Central Criminal Court sitting dates nationally more than trebled from 1,888 to 5,663, with an 8% increase from 2024 to 2025.

1.1.4 The number of Central Criminal Court sittings outside Dublin also continued to increase, rising from 271 sitting dates in 2019 to 867 in 2025. While the Office's staff demonstrated exceptional flexibility and commitment in meeting these demands, the growth in regional sittings has created additional operational and resource challenges for a predominantly Dublin-based organisation.

1.1.5 The Director continued to exercise statutory functions in relation to sentence review and proceeds of crime matters. During 2025, 34 applications were made to the Court of Appeal seeking review of sentences on the grounds of undue leniency. Of the applications heard during the year, 23 were successful. In addition, the Office dealt with 214 confiscation and forfeiture orders granted by the courts, with over €12m returned to the Exchequer.

1.1.6 At Part 2, you will find detailed statistics relating to:

- All files received by the Office in 2025;

- 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 requests; *and*
- Requests from victims of crime.

1.1.7 Part 3 outlines some of the court decisions during 2025 which are important, interesting or have precedent value for prosecution work.

Building efficient and integrated systems to support high quality case management across the prosecution service

1.1.8 To ensure that the Office remains equipped to meet future demands, a comprehensive review of the case management system and associated business processes across all divisions and units commenced during the year. This work represents a significant step towards modernising core business systems. In 2025, approval in principle was received from the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to initiate a project to replace the existing case management system with a modern and configurable platform better suited to the evolving needs of the prosecution service.

1.1.9 The Office also continued to advance the modernisation of its digital infrastructure by progressing the replacement of legacy systems used for the secure exchange of information with external partners. Alongside these developments, information security remained a key priority, with enhanced controls, updated policies and mandatory staff awareness programmes strengthening the Office's overall cybersecurity posture.

1.1.10 The complexity of criminal cases continued to increase across a broad range of offence categories, including sexual offences, theft and fraud offences, organised crime and other serious criminal activity.

Despite these increasing demands, the Office maintained a strong focus on timely decision-making. In 2025, 73% of all cases requiring a prosecution decision were dealt with within four weeks. Where

additional time was required, it was generally necessary to obtain further information or pursue additional investigative steps before a final decision could be reached.

Building on and strengthening disclosure practices

- 1.1.11** Following the Supreme Court's judgment in AM concerning the disclosure of counselling records, the Office undertook a programme of policy, operational and stakeholder engagement work to support implementation of the decision. This included engagement with the Department of Justice on potential legislative amendments, collaboration with the Legal Aid Board and Tusla and other stakeholders on emerging issues and operational responses, and the development of new internal guidance. Ongoing monitoring of issues arising in practice has also informed the Office's policy, training and guidance development.
- 1.1.12** The management and review of digital evidence remained a significant aspect of the Office's work in 2025 as criminal investigations continue to rely upon digital evidence including CCTV footage, mobile phone evidence and other electronically stored data. Over the course of the year, approximately 15 terabytes of evidential data were received and assessed for prosecutorial decision-making, disclosure review and presentation in court proceedings. This reflects the growing importance of digital evidence in modern prosecutions and the continued need for effective systems, processes and specialist expertise to support its management and use.
- 1.1.13** The transnational nature of many investigations also added to disclosure complexity, requiring co-ordination across jurisdictions and careful management of evidential materials obtained through international co-operation mechanisms. The Office continued to adapt its practices and processes to ensure that disclosure obligations were duly met in this evolving environment, while safeguarding the privacy rights and legitimate interests of victims, witnesses and other affected persons, consistent with the fundamental right to a fair trial.

Strengthening legal expertise and specialist support to effectively respond to the evolving nature and complexity of files and prosecution cases

- 1.1.14** Supporting legal excellence across the wider criminal justice system remained an important priority in 2025. The Office delivered training and specialist expertise to a range of external agencies and organisations, including An Garda Síochána and the Law Society of

Ireland, and a range of regulatory bodies helping to promote consistency, understanding and best practice throughout the sector.

- 1.1.15** During 2025, the Prosecution Policy and Research Unit developed the first in a planned series of Trends Reports to support the Senior Management Team's strategic planning, resource allocation and training priorities. These reports are designed to strengthen the Office's horizon-scanning capability by identifying significant legal, policy and operational developments that are likely to impact the work of the Office in the short to medium term.
- 1.1.16** In September 2025, the District Court Section ran a Practice Series for prosecutors and State Solicitors. The eight-part programme covered a range of key District Court topics, including domestic violence, special measures, road traffic offences, children's court proceedings, electronic evidence and appeals. Developed to support both newly appointed and experienced prosecutors, the series promoted knowledge sharing, professional development and greater engagement between the District Court Section and State Solicitors nationwide. Learning materials from the programme have also been retained to support future training initiatives.
- 1.1.17** Staff from the Solicitors' Division delivered an eight-part Trial Practitioners Programme to enhance staff capability in managing prosecution cases. Drawing on expertise from across the Office, the programme combined training, discussion and online resources to strengthen case management practices, promote consistency, and support collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
- 1.1.18** The Office commenced a Cases of Interest series in late 2025 to support knowledge sharing and professional development across the organisation. The initiative provides a forum for staff to present cases that have had a broader legal or operational impact, or that offer valuable practical insights and lessons learned. The series is intended to promote cross-functional learning and will continue as part of the Office's training and knowledge-sharing programme in 2026.
- 1.1.19** The Office continued to contribute to wider criminal justice reform initiatives. In particular, it supported the work of the Summary Prosecution Reform Steering Committee through co-design and co-hosting of discovery workshops with the Department of Justice. These workshops highlighted key challenges and practical solutions to be taken forward by dedicated workstream teams. During the year, the Joint Review Workstream Team completed a thematic proof-of-concept review involving more than 170 Garda files,

representing a significant milestone in advancing the reform model outlined in the Programme for Government.

Maximising capacity to enable the Office to anticipate, address and respond to the changing internal and external operating environment

- 1.1.20** Strengthening organisational capacity remained a key focus during 2025. The Office continued to invest in its workforce, increasing overall staffing levels through the completion of 18 recruitment competitions during the year. These appointments have helped to build organisational resilience and ensure that the Office is positioned to respond to growing and increasingly complex workloads.
- 1.1.21** The Office also maintained a strong commitment to professional development and significant investment was made in staff learning, development and talent initiatives throughout 2025. Staff participated in a total of 147 learning events and initiatives, comprising 107 external and 40 internal programmes.
- 1.1.22** We continued to strengthen our leadership capacity through a range of leadership and talent development programmes and initiatives, with 18 staff participating in programmes including the Young Ireland Programme, Common Purpose programmes, the Senior Public Service leadership programmes. In addition, nine mentoring partnerships were established through the Office's mentoring programme, supporting knowledge sharing, career development and succession planning.
- 1.1.23** Professional and personal development was further supported through the Refund of Fees Scheme and on-demand learning opportunities provided through One Learning. During 2025, 33 staff availed of our Refund of Fees Scheme, representing 11% of staff and demonstrating a strong commitment to lifelong learning. Supported courses spanned a broad range

of disciplines, including law, leadership, management, human resources, data protection and languages, helping to build organisational capability and enhance the Office's capacity to respond to evolving priorities and challenges.

- 1.1.24** The Office hosted its second All Staff Conference in Dublin Castle in January, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the prosecution service. Marking this significant milestone the Director opened proceedings by reflecting on the Office's legacy and outlining its future priorities. The conference featured a programme of external and internal speakers, covering themes such as leadership and community engagement, cyber security awareness, strategic communications, and workplace wellbeing. Presentations highlighted the importance of adaptability, public service innovation, effective communication, and staff health. The event provided a valuable opportunity for staff from across the Office to connect, reflect, and celebrate 50 years of the ODPP's work.
- 1.1.25** For the first time, tailored training was extended to State Solicitor support staff in 2025, with approximately 50 participants attending divisional sessions across three locations nationwide. This initiative provided practical instruction on the ODPP's case management system while also offering staff in State Solicitor's offices across the country a valuable opportunity to network with peers performing similar roles. The project improved consistency, quality, and collaboration across the network, and feedback has informed the development of a file review process and plans for future annual training.
- 1.1.26** Recognising that organisational effectiveness depends on employee wellbeing, the Office also delivered 14 wellbeing events throughout the year, supporting staff health, engagement and resilience in a demanding working environment.

Strategic Goal 2: Maintaining Public Confidence in the Criminal Prosecution Service

Understanding and responding to the experiences of the people who interact with the system to ensure the provision of a high-quality and fair service

- 1.1.27** Throughout 2025, the Office remained committed to ensuring that the work of the independent prosecution service is understood by those who engage with the criminal justice system and the wider public. Through a

range of outreach and engagement activities, the Office sought to improve awareness of its role, responsibilities and decision-making processes, supporting a broader understanding of how prosecution decisions are made and the safeguards that underpin prosecutorial independence.

Deepening public awareness of our service and strengthening our strategic stakeholder engagement

1.1.28 A significant element of the Office's stakeholder engagement activity in 2025 was the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Office and the appointment of the first DPP in 1975, which provided an opportunity to promote public understanding of the role and importance of an independent prosecution service. Through a programme of publications, events and engagements, the Office highlighted its contribution to the administration of justice since 1975 and reinforced awareness of its core mission and values. This included the publication of *A History of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions: 1975–2025* and an official reception in Iveagh House in March at which the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, delivered the keynote address.

The anniversary programme also supported engagement with key stakeholders across the criminal justice, legal and academic sectors through lectures, conferences and collaborative events. Further details of the 50th anniversary programme and related activities are provided in Chapter 1.2.

1.1.29 The Office delivered its most extensive outreach programme to date during 2025 as part of its Talent Outreach Strategy. Staff engaged with students, educators, prospective applicants and members of the public through a range of recruitment, educational and public engagement initiatives, including university careers fairs, secondary school visits, mock trial programmes and professional conferences. These activities helped raise awareness of the Office's role within the criminal justice system, promote careers in the prosecution and public service, and support the Office's objectives of strengthening future talent pipelines, promoting diversity and inclusion, and widening access to legal careers.

1.1.30 Between January and August 2025, the Office welcomed ten interns through three internship programmes: the Postgraduate Internship Programme, the Access Internship Programme and the Galway Internship Programme. These placements provided participants with valuable insight into the work of the Office and the wider criminal justice system, while supporting the Office's commitment to talent development, widening access to opportunities, and engagement with future legal professionals.

1.1.31 The Office participated in the National Ploughing Championships in September, where 16 staff members engaged directly with the public through

the Government of Ireland Village's 'Supporting Safe Communities – Empowering People' hub. Over the three-day event, the team recorded 704 meaningful interactions with attendees, providing information on the Office's independent role, its work within the criminal justice system, and the diverse career and training opportunities available within the organisation. The event provided a valuable opportunity to engage directly with communities and increase public understanding of the work of the ODPP.

1.1.32 The Office's LinkedIn pilot, launched in December 2024, proved a successful addition to our communications and recruitment strategies throughout 2025. By the end of the year, the page had attracted 2,400 followers, generated over 134,500 impressions and reached almost 66,700 LinkedIn members. Recruitment campaigns promoted through the platform contributed to increased applicant interest, while website analytics showed higher traffic to vacancies, organisational information, and public information resources. The results indicate that LinkedIn has become an effective channel for supporting recruitment, increasing visibility of the Office's work, and improving public access to information.

Strengthening our governance and accountability systems

1.1.33 The Office continued to support transparency, accountability and effective governance through the delivery of its statutory functions, robust decision-making processes and active engagement with stakeholders throughout the criminal justice sector. The ongoing modernisation of systems and investment in staff development also contributed to strengthening organisational governance and institutional resilience.

Accountability to Victims of Crime

1.1.34 The Office continued to fulfil its important accountability functions. During the year, 638 requests for reasons for decisions not to prosecute were received from victims of crime, along with 245 requests for reviews of such decisions. The provision of these review mechanisms remains an important means of promoting transparency and public confidence in prosecutorial decision-making. You can read more about this in [Part 2.8](#) of this report.

Audit Committee

1.1.35 The Audit Committee forms an important part of the Office's governance and assurance framework, providing independent advice and assurance to the

Accounting Officer on the effectiveness of the Office's internal control, risk management and governance arrangements. The Committee met on four occasions during 2025. Its work included reviewing internal audit reports and recommendations, monitoring the implementation of agreed actions, approving the Internal Audit Plans for 2025 and 2026, overseeing preparations for the adoption of the Global Internal Audit Standards for Government Departments and Offices, and engaging with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General on matters relating to audit and accountability.

Public Body Compliance

Freedom of Information

1.1.36 The Office of the DPP continues to meet its obligations under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014. While the Act provides a right of access information held by public bodies, including this Office, it also provides for certain restrictions, and these are included under section 42. In particular, 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.

In 2025, the Office received 41 FOI requests. Of these, seven requests were granted, ten were part-granted, one was withdrawn and 23 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 four requests for an internal review of an original decision, and the original decisions were affirmed in each instance. There were two appeals to the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) for review. In one instance, the OIC confirmed the original decision of this Office. One appeal is awaiting determination.

Official Languages Act

1.1.37 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 2025, six members of staff completed a 10-week part-time Irish Language intermediate course with Gaelchultúr, and one completed a week-long Irish Language Programme with Oideas Gael. In addition and as in previous years, Seachtain na Gaeilge in March was heavily promoted throughout the Office with events including a bilingual lunchtime concert.

Our Irish Language Officer is a member of Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge – a support and speaking network for Irish Language Development Officers in the public and state sector on the island of Ireland.

There were no case-related requirements for Irish language translation or interpretation during 2025.

Prompt Payment of Accounts

1.1.38 The Office of the DPP is subject to and complies with the terms of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 and the Late Payments in Commercial Transactions Regulations 2002.

The Office makes payments to suppliers within 30 days of receipt of a valid invoice, provided that the goods or services have been satisfactorily delivered. In relation to fees payable to counsel, it is the Office's practice to issue payment within 30 days of receiving the relevant case report form for each case.

During 2025, the Office made six late payments in excess of €317.50. The value of these payments was €20,669. The total value of late payments in the year amounted to €32,786 out of total payments of €4.8m, and interest and penalties thereon came to €1,751.93.

Protected Disclosures

1.1.39 The Office of the DPP is required under section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 to publish an annual report setting out the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and the action taken (if any). No protected disclosures were received by the Office in 2025, and the annual report is available on our website, www.dppireland.ie.

Carbon Offsets

1.1.40 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 provides that, with effect from 1 January 2020, 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 (€63.50 per tonne). The number of flights, carbon total and resulting carbon offset for the Office during 2025 is shown in the table opposite.

Number of Flights	63 round trips
Tonnes of CO ₂	16.827
Remittance to Climate Action Fund	€1068.51

Strategic Goal 3: Building a Culture of Innovation and Collaboration to Support Service Improvements in the Criminal Justice System

Addressing current and emerging challenges in the criminal justice system in collaboration with key stakeholders

- 1.1.41** Throughout 2025, the ODPP participated in a broad range of national and international bodies, forums and networks aimed at improving the effectiveness and responsiveness of the criminal justice system. Through ongoing engagement with prosecution agencies, government departments and criminal justice partners, the Office contributed to policy development, operational improvements and the implementation of key legislative initiatives.
- 1.1.42** On 21 February 2025, the Office joined 15 other criminal justice stakeholders in launching a new multi-agency Juvenile Protocol aimed at expediting the investigation and prosecution of rape and murder cases involving children. Developed under the chairmanship of Ms Justice Caroline Biggs and signed by representatives from across the criminal justice system, the protocol promotes a coordinated approach to the investigation, prosecution and trial of these serious offences. Its objectives include supporting the fair treatment of all participants, maximising opportunities for child victims to give their best evidence, facilitating the effective participation of children in criminal proceedings, and reducing delays in the progression of cases.

The protocol sets out agreed procedures and indicative timelines for cases within its scope, with signatories committed to working towards completion of proceedings within 52 weeks of the initial statement or interview. The initiative reflects a shared commitment across the criminal justice system to improving outcomes for children and enhancing the timely administration of justice in the most serious cases.

- 1.1.43** The Office actively participated in numerous user groups and liaison forums involving the Department of Justice, An Garda Síochána and other criminal justice stakeholders. These included the Criminal Justice Strategic Committee, work on Common Data Registries and participation in a High-Level Group on Human

Trafficking. Such engagement facilitated co-ordinated responses to emerging challenges and supported greater integration across the sector.

- 1.1.44** Working with the Garda Legal Division, the Office of the DPP delivered a programme of training to An Garda Síochána on the mutual legal assistance process. Further training sessions are planned for delivery nationally in 2026.
- 1.1.45** Recognising the growing importance of CCTV and electronic evidence in prosecutions, staff from our District Court Section and Legal Knowledge Management and Research team developed a practical 'CCTV and Electronic Evidence Manual' to support District Court prosecutors and stakeholders. This resource, aimed at prosecutors, translates complex legislation and case law into an accessible guide, combining legal and operational expertise.
- 1.1.46** The Office also continued to support operational policing by providing legal updates, guidance and resources through the Garda Portal, ensuring that Garda Court Presenters who prosecute on behalf of the DPP across the country had access to timely and relevant prosecutorial information.
- 1.1.47** The ODPP Excellence and Innovation Awards Programme recognises and celebrates the commitment, innovation and achievements of staff across the Office. In 2025, the programme was enhanced through the introduction of award categories aligned with the Office's values and a new People's Choice Award. A total of 30 projects were nominated, highlighting the wide range of initiatives undertaken across the organisation. The winners were announced at a ceremony on 3 December following assessment by a cross-organisational judging panel.

The award-winning projects – *CCTV and Electronic Evidence Manual*; *Proof of Concept: Quality Assurance of Garda Summary Prosecutions*; and *The ODPP at 50* – were recognised for their contribution to knowledge sharing, service delivery and organisational development.

Sharing and exchanging expertise and information to inform national and international criminal justice legislation, policy and research

- 1.1.48** The Office maintained a substantial programme of policy and legislative engagement during 2025. A total of 42 sets of legislative observations were provided to government departments, while the Office also responded to 17 international questionnaires and evaluation exercises.
- 1.1.49** More than 75 policy projects were progressed during the year. These included reports, submissions and expert advice on a broad range of significant criminal justice issues, including jury reform, juvenile court accompaniment schemes, bail laws, sentencing guidelines, human trafficking, drugs and organised crime, asset recovery, domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, electronic tagging and the use of body-worn cameras..
- 1.1.50** International engagement remained a key feature of the Office's work. The ODPP participated in a range of European and international prosecution networks, including the Eurojust Consultative Forum, the NADAL Network of Heads of Prosecution Services, the International Association of Prosecutors and the Heads of Prosecution Agencies Conference.

Eurojust

- 1.1.51** Eurojust, the European Union agency for criminal justice co-operation, is based in The Hague and supports the investigation and prosecution of serious cross-border crime. It serves as a central hub for judicial co-operation, bringing together prosecutors, judges and law enforcement authorities from all EU Member States and partner countries. Its purpose is to facilitate effective co-ordination and the timely exchange of information, evidence and mutual legal assistance requests.

The Office of the DPP contributes to Ireland's participation in Eurojust through the secondment of two Senior Principal Prosecutors as Ireland's National Member and Deputy National Member. A Principal Prosecutor from the Office's International Unit serves as Assistant National Member, helping to strengthen links between the Unit and Eurojust. In addition to staffing the Irish Desk at Eurojust, the Office has seconded a prosecutor to Eurojust's Operations Department since 2024.

The Eurojust Irish Desk, resourced by the Office of the DPP, provides operational assistance in the area of judicial co-operation to all organisations in the Irish Criminal Justice System, including the Office of the DPP, An Garda Síochána and the Department of

Justice. The Irish Desk works closely on operational matters with the members of An Garda Síochána in the Irish Liaison Bureau to Europol.

In addition to casework, the Irish Desk contributes to Eurojust's current (2025-2027) strategic objectives: co-operation; digitalisation; strategic work; and organisational capabilities and efficiency. In 2025, the Irish Eurojust Desk has also maintained a strategic focus and contacts with the Irish criminal justice system in relation to EU-level policy and legislative developments, for example in the areas of e-evidence and transfer of proceedings.

- 1.1.52** During 2025, the Office welcomed a number of international delegations seeking to learn about the Irish criminal justice system and the work of the ODPP. Delegations from Ukraine, the Netherlands, Zambia, Singapore, Slovenia, Pakistan and Malawi engaged with staff on topics including financial crime, corruption, organised crime, human trafficking, juvenile justice, prosecutorial independence, judicial co-operation, knowledge management and inter-agency collaboration. These visits provided valuable opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and international best practice.

The visits were co-ordinated by our Policy and Research Unit, with contributions from colleagues across the Office who shared their expertise through presentations and discussions. The strong level of international interest in the Irish prosecution service reflects the Office's commitment to supporting international co-operation, promoting the rule of law, and contributing to capacity-building initiatives with justice sector partners worldwide.

- 1.1.53** The Office also continued to provide valuable opportunities for knowledge-sharing and professional collaboration. The 26th Annual National Prosecutors' Conference, held in November 2025, attracted a record attendance of 335 stakeholders from across the criminal justice sector, facilitating discussion and exchange of expertise on key issues affecting the administration of justice. The Annual State Solicitors' Seminar, held in April, similarly provided a forum for engagement and professional development on matters of relevance to State Solicitors acting on behalf of the Director throughout the country.

1.2 50 Years of Independent Prosecution in Ireland

Commemorating 50 Years of the Office of the DPP

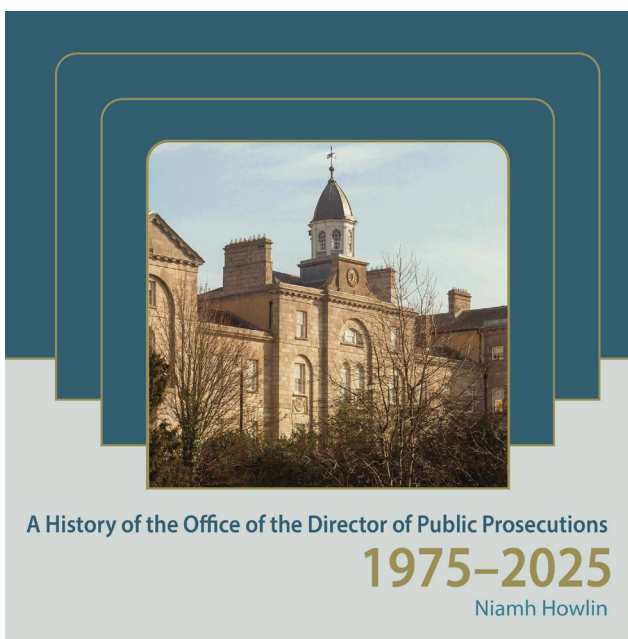
- 1.2.1** A significant focus of 2025 was the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, marking five decades of independent prosecution in Ireland. The anniversary provided an opportunity not only to celebrate the Office's contribution to the administration of justice since its establishment in 1975, but also to reflect on the values that continue to guide our work and underpin public confidence in the criminal justice system.
- 1.2.2** A year-long programme of commemorative events, publications and stakeholder engagements highlighted the evolution of the prosecution service over the past five decades and its central role within Ireland's criminal justice framework. Central to these events was an official reception held in Iveagh House in March 2025 at which the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, delivered a keynote address. Addressing current and former staff, members of the judiciary, representatives of the legal professions and criminal justice partners, the Taoiseach paid tribute to the Office's contribution to Irish public life, noting that its mission is to deliver "a fair, independent and effective prosecution service

on behalf of all the people of Ireland" and describing its work as "crucially important ... and central to the health and resilience of our society."

- 1.2.3** In her address at the reception, the Director reflected on the origins of the Office, observing that the establishment of an independent DPP fifty years ago was intended to "strengthen public confidence in the rule of law by ensuring there could be no political interference or perception of interference" in prosecutorial decision-making. She noted that prosecutorial independence remains the defining characteristic of the Office, describing it as "at the core of the origin story of the Irish prosecution service" and deeply embedded in its culture. At the same time, she emphasised that independence must be accompanied by accountability, transparency and constructive engagement across the wider criminal justice system.

Reflecting on Five Decades of Independent Prosecution

- 1.2.4** A key element of the anniversary programme was the publication of [*A History of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions: 1975–2025*](#), authored by Dr Niamh Howlin of the UCD Sutherland School of Law. Drawing on archival records, interviews and extensive historical research, the publication traces the development of the Office from its modest beginnings to a modern national prosecution service. The history highlights the enduring importance of the Office's core mission to provide a fair, independent and effective prosecution service and identifies independence, fairness and effectiveness as the principles that have guided successive Directors throughout a period of significant legal and societal change.
- 1.2.5** The launch of the publication at Iveagh House brought together former and current Directors of Public Prosecutions, members of the judiciary, criminal justice stakeholders, public servants and representatives of the legal professions. Speaking at the event, the Taoiseach noted that there was "no doubt that the Office of the DPP has played a pivotal role in our criminal justice system over the last five





ABOVE LEFT: Directors of Public Prosecutions James Hamilton and Claire Loftus pictured with current Director Catherine Pierse (centre) and **ABOVE RIGHT:** Dr Niamh Howlin, Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Director Catherine Pierse — pictured at an official reception marking the 50th anniversary of the Office of the DPP in Iveagh House on 27 March 2025. *(Cian Redmond Photography)*

decades and will continue to do so.” His remarks recognised both the Office’s historical contribution and its continuing importance in upholding the rule of law and maintaining confidence in the administration of justice.

Public Engagement and Looking to the Future

1.2.6 Throughout the year, the Director participated in a nationwide programme of university lectures, conferences and stakeholder events examining the role of the independent prosecutor in a modern democracy, the evolution of criminal justice in Ireland and the challenges facing prosecution services in an increasingly complex operating environment. These engagements provided valuable opportunities to deepen public understanding of the Office’s functions and to engage directly with students, academics and legal practitioners.

1.2.7 The anniversary programme also encouraged reflection on the significant organisational development achieved since 1975. As the Director noted, “When the Office was established, there were

four lawyers making prosecution decisions. Today we have a staff of almost 300”, working alongside State Solicitors nationwide and more than 200 barristers on prosecution panels. She observed that, through “incremental steps over the years, led by each of my predecessors, a truly national prosecution service has emerged.”

1.2.8 The Office further contributed to public discussion through articles in national newspapers and legal journals addressing the constitutional significance of prosecutorial independence and the changing nature of prosecution work. Drawing on themes explored in the commemorative history book, these contributions reinforced the importance of maintaining public confidence in the criminal justice system and highlighted the continuing relevance of the principles on which the Office was founded.

1.2.9 The anniversary programme also provided an opportunity to recognise the commitment, professionalism and public service of current and former staff who have contributed to the work of the Office over the past fifty years. Looking to the future, the Director expressed confidence that

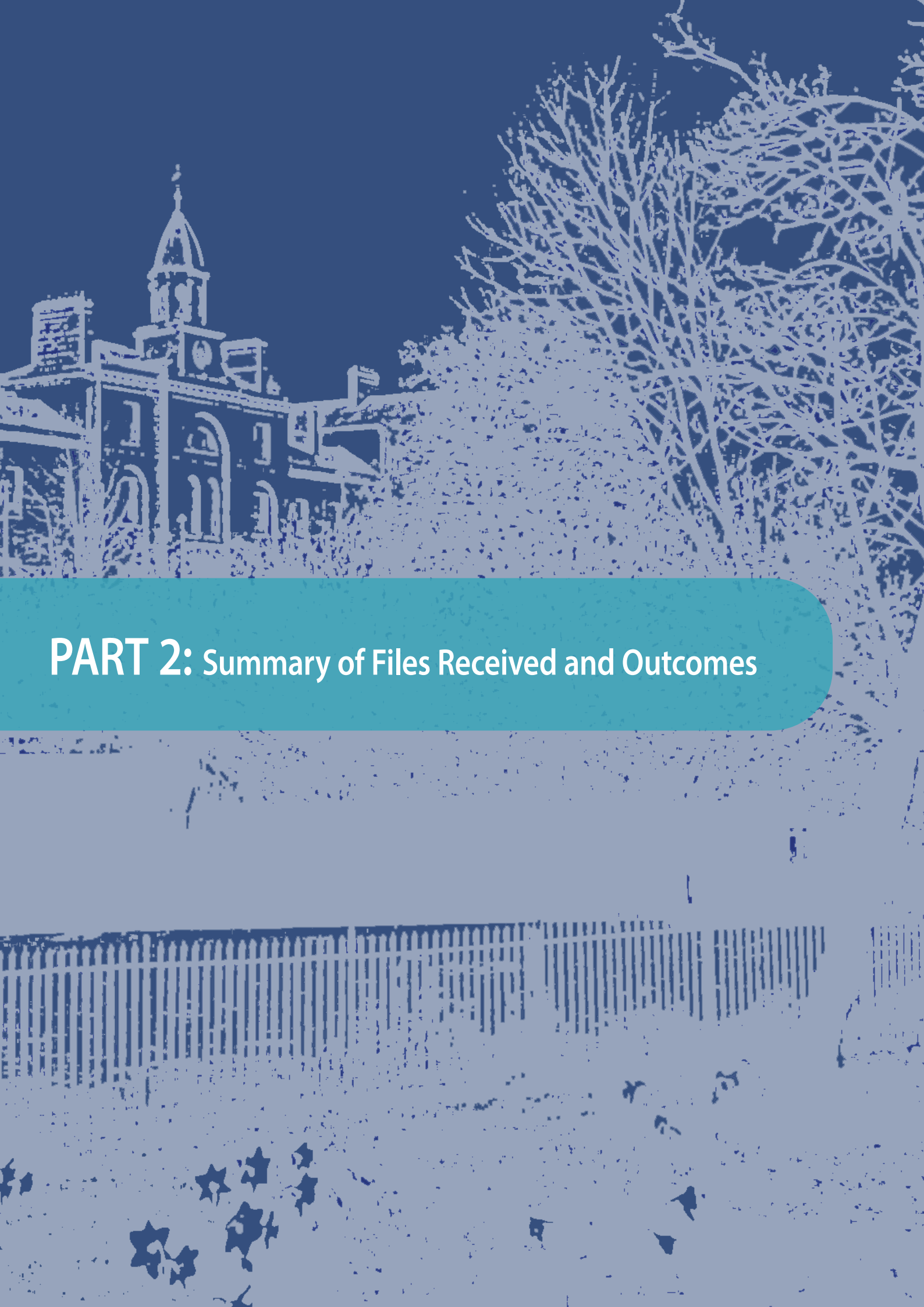
the organisation would continue to evolve while remaining firmly grounded in its founding values. She outlined a vision for “a service that is confident in its purpose and values; one that is open and questioning; and one with the ambition to strive to be the best that we can and to work with others to improve the system.” She concluded by reaffirming that the ultimate purpose of the prosecution service is to serve “the victims and witnesses and accused people who depend on us to be fair, independent and effective; and the people of Ireland, who rely on us to uphold the rule of law, without fear or favour.”

Internal Commemorative Initiatives

- 1.2.10** A number of internal commemorative initiatives were also undertaken, including the unveiling of a commemorative bronze plaque by current and former Directors of Public Prosecutions, a historical documents exhibition curated in partnership with the National Archives of Ireland, showcasing records from the Office’s formative years, and two staff-created murals now displayed at the Office’s headquarters.

Collaboration and Legacy

- 1.2.11** The anniversary programme concluded with a series of collaborative events, including joint lectures with Forensic Science Ireland and the Law Reform Commission, each of which also marked its 50th anniversary in 2025. Collectively, these initiatives strengthened engagement with stakeholders, enhanced public understanding of the role of the Office, and provided a fitting opportunity to commemorate fifty years of independent prosecution in Ireland, while looking ahead to the challenges and opportunities of the future.



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 2022 and 2024. 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 2025;
- 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 2025 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, the data included in Part 2 of this report was updated in April 2026.

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.

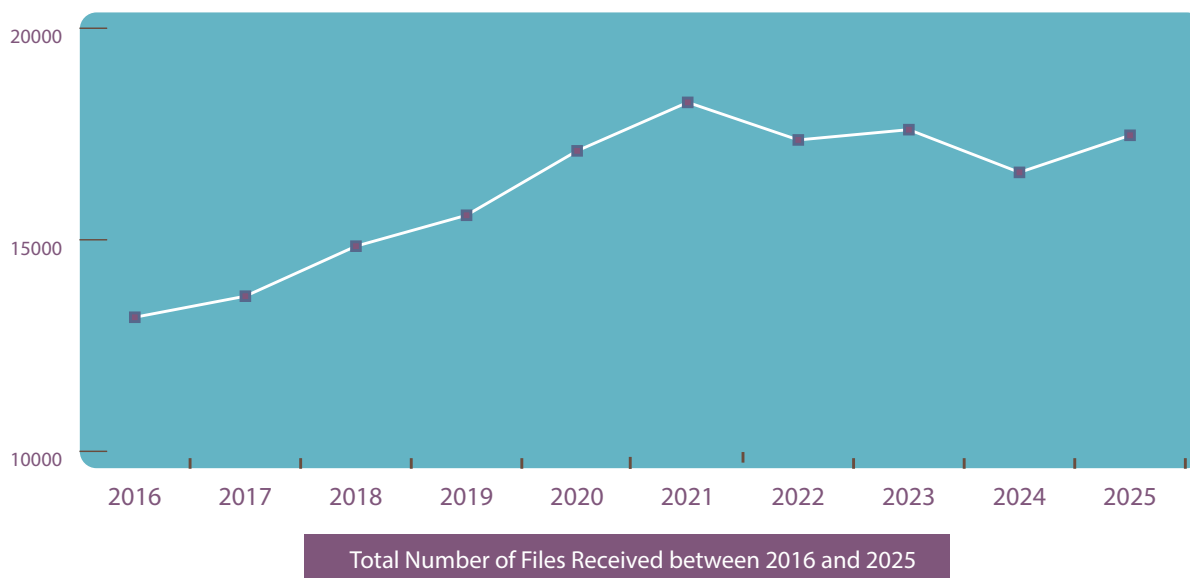
2.1 Prosecution Files Received

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
2016	13,169	2021	18,248
2017	13,667	2022	17,360
2018	14,849	2023	17,603
2019	15,580	2024	16,593
2020	17,102	2025	17,470



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.

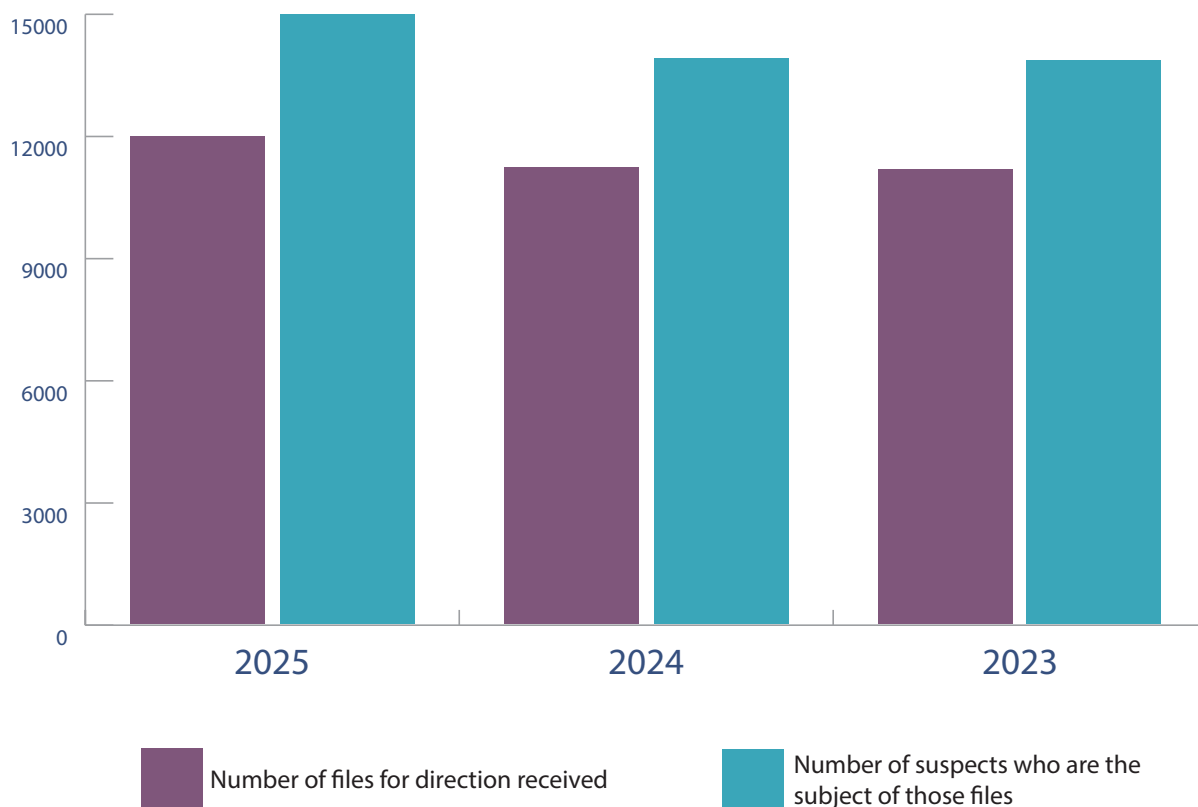
If a case is prosecuted, other decisions may need to be made in the course of a case, including whether or not to:

- 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

	2025	2024	2023
Files received for decision whether to prosecute	11,973	11,205	11,157
Number of suspects who are the subject of those files	14,975	13,894	13,831



The following chart shows a breakdown of the disposal of files received in the Office in 2025, 2024 and 2023 (as of August 2026), 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.

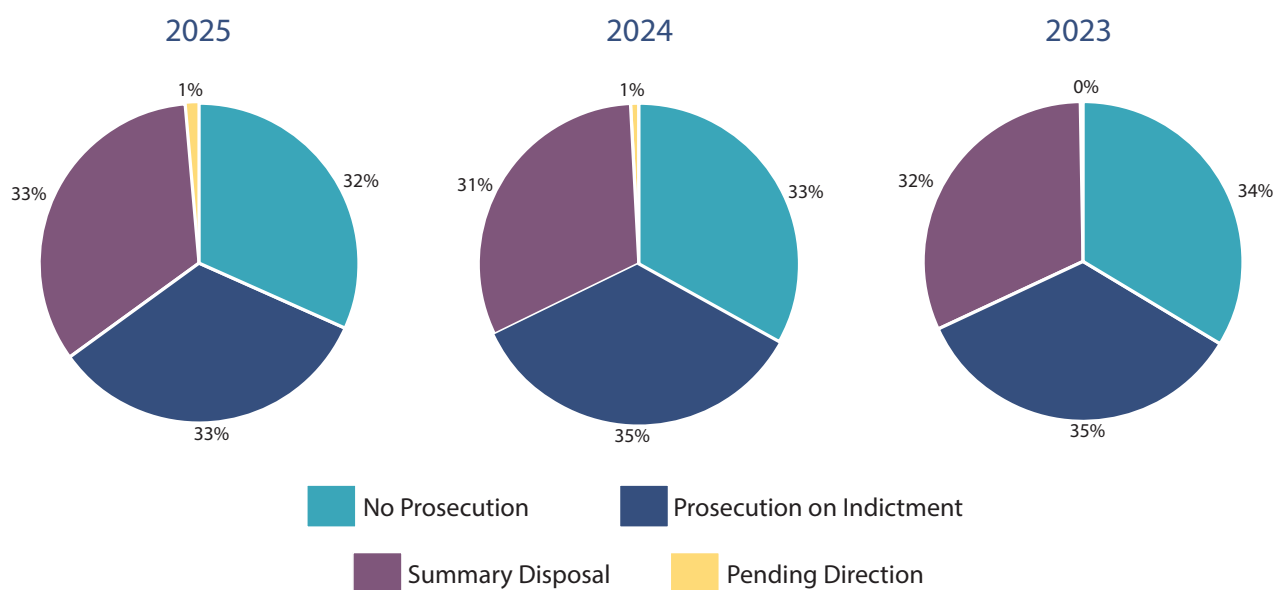
Prosecute on Indictment: It is decided to prosecute in the Circuit, Central or Special Criminal Courts.

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

Pending Direction: 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	2025	%	2024	%	2023	%
No Prosecution Directed	4,771	32%	4,599	33%	4,669	34%
Prosecution on Indictment Directed	4,994	33%	4,855	35%	4,780	35%
Summary Disposal Directed	5,010	33%	4,372	31%	4,378	32%
TOTAL OF FILES DISPOSED	14,775	99%	13,826	99%	13,827	100%
Pending Direction (<i>as of August 2026</i>)	200	1%	78	1%	7	0%
TOTAL	14,975		13,904		13,834	



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	2025	%	2024	%	2023	%
Insufficient Evidence	3,647	76%	3,459	75%	3,519	75%
Injured Party Withdraws Complaint	537	11%	521	11%	533	11%
Adult Caution	139	3%	149	3%	167	4%
Suspect Deceased	69	1%	43	1%	44	1%
Public Interest	53	1%	59	1%	44	1%
Time Limit Expired	39	1%	45	1%	37	1%
Undue Delay	46	1%	65	1%	40	1%
Other	241	5%	258	6%	285	6%
TOTAL	4,771		4,599		4,669	

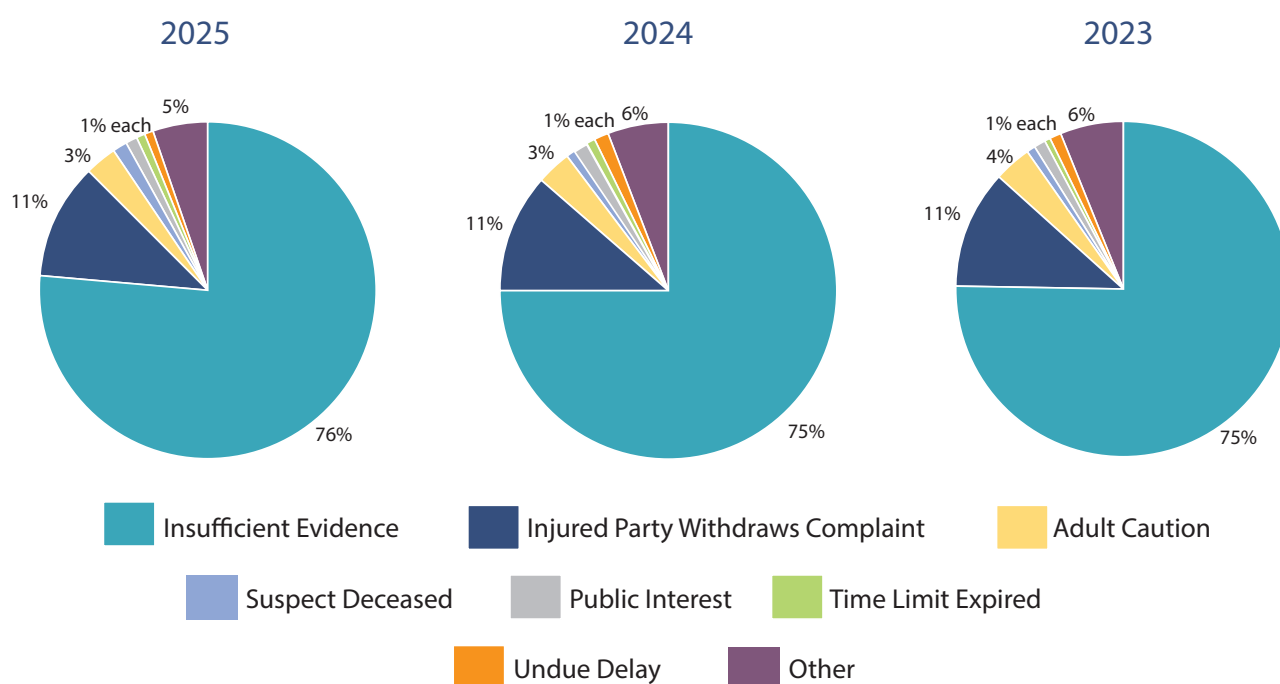


Chart 2.1.3b is a breakdown of directions to prosecute on indictment, by the county in which the offence was committed. As noted earlier, all the yearly demarcations refer to the year the file was received in this Office. This chart includes cases directed to be heard in the Circuit Criminal, Central Criminal and Special Criminal Courts. Please note that a number of cases are still 'pending direction' (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					Population				Population				Cases per 1,000 Persons					3 Year Rolling Average		
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	Population 2025*	Population 2024*	Population 2023*	Population 2022*	Population 2021*	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2025	2024	2023	2022 - 2021	2023 - 2024	2021 - 2023
Carlow	46	34	46	71	59	65,138	64,312	63,484	61,968	59,810	0.71	0.53	0.72	1.15	0.99	0.65	0.53	0.72	0.65	0.80	0.95
Cavan	68	61	38	48	63	86,339	85,321	84,163	81,704	79,705	0.79	0.71	0.45	0.59	0.79	0.65	0.71	0.45	0.59	0.58	0.61
Clare	76	72	91	85	88	135,364	133,514	131,541	127,938	123,294	0.56	0.54	0.69	0.66	0.71	0.60	0.54	0.69	0.63	0.63	0.69
Cork	409	409	352	379	350	614,678	606,325	597,396	584,156	566,157	0.67	0.67	0.59	0.65	0.62	0.64	0.67	0.59	0.65	0.64	0.62
Donegal	121	133	126	138	119	176,564	174,483	172,114	167,084	166,566	0.69	0.76	0.73	0.83	0.71	0.73	0.76	0.73	0.83	0.77	0.76
Dublin	2002	2029	1872	1776	2020	1,537,703	1,520,932	1,501,500	1,458,154	1,426,000	1.30	1.33	1.25	1.22	1.42	1.29	1.33	1.25	1.22	1.27	1.29
Galway	239	175	225	185	143	294,671	289,919	286,215	277,737	268,988	0.81	0.60	0.79	0.67	0.53	0.73	0.60	0.79	0.67	0.69	0.66
Kerry	104	119	128	90	123	164,633	162,396	160,004	156,458	154,043	0.63	0.73	0.80	0.58	0.80	0.72	0.73	0.80	0.58	0.70	0.72
Kildare	145	168	235	209	217	257,767	254,853	251,972	247,774	238,605	0.56	0.66	0.93	0.84	0.91	0.72	0.66	0.93	0.84	0.81	0.90
Kilkenny	110	63	44	61	76	109,488	108,100	106,708	104,160	104,249	1.00	0.58	0.41	0.59	0.73	0.67	0.58	0.41	0.59	0.53	0.58
Laois	79	64	88	82	94	96,464	95,143	93,784	91,877	89,014	0.82	0.67	0.94	0.89	1.06	0.81	0.67	0.94	0.89	0.83	0.96
Leitrim	22	19	22	16	29	37,490	36,758	36,259	35,199	33,528	0.59	0.52	0.61	0.45	0.86	0.57	0.52	0.61	0.45	0.53	0.64
Limerick	276	236	244	244	269	221,698	218,667	215,436	209,536	202,242	1.24	1.08	1.13	1.16	1.33	1.15	1.08	1.13	1.16	1.13	1.21
Longford	49	55	68	72	61	49,084	48,412	47,721	46,751	42,956	1.00	1.14	1.42	1.54	1.42	1.19	1.14	1.42	1.54	1.37	1.46
Louth	127	126	164	133	124	145,338	143,695	142,070	139,703	138,210	0.87	0.88	1.15	0.95	0.90	0.97	0.88	1.15	0.95	0.99	1.00
Mayo	102	70	90	102	97	146,383	144,022	142,182	137,970	136,034	0.70	0.49	0.63	0.74	0.71	0.61	0.49	0.63	0.74	0.62	0.70
Meath	114	126	105	125	114	229,732	227,135	224,567	220,826	209,157	0.50	0.55	0.47	0.57	0.55	0.51	0.55	0.47	0.57	0.53	0.53
Monaghan	40	57	45	63	72	68,992	68,179	67,253	65,288	64,230	0.58	0.84	0.67	0.96	1.12	0.69	0.84	0.67	0.96	0.82	0.92
Offaly	66	40	79	86	46	87,302	86,106	84,876	83,150	81,935	0.76	0.46	0.93	1.03	0.56	0.72	0.46	0.93	1.03	0.81	0.84
Roscommon	29	46	48	40	40	74,543	73,341	72,404	70,259	67,278	0.39	0.63	0.66	0.57	0.59	0.56	0.63	0.66	0.57	0.62	0.61
Sligo	53	48	72	55	58	74,180	73,306	72,311	70,198	68,571	0.71	0.65	1.00	0.78	0.85	0.79	0.65	1.00	0.78	0.81	0.88
Tipperary	188	177	141	148	141	177,640	175,212	172,623	167,895	165,565	1.06	1.01	0.82	0.88	0.85	0.96	1.01	0.82	0.88	0.90	0.85
Waterford	168	192	166	155	126	133,878	132,181	130,479	127,363	122,049	1.25	1.45	1.27	1.22	1.03	1.33	1.45	1.27	1.22	1.31	1.17
Westmeath	122	114	63	81	53	101,024	99,641	98,218	96,221	93,295	1.21	1.14	0.64	0.84	0.57	1.00	1.14	0.64	0.84	0.88	0.68
Wexford	100	110	117	106	170	172,304	170,120	167,929	163,919	157,291	0.58	0.65	0.70	0.65	1.08	0.64	0.65	0.70	0.65	0.66	0.81
Wicklow	138	110	110	97	156	163,217	161,372	158,491	155,851	152,730	0.85	0.68	0.69	0.62	1.02	0.74	0.68	0.69	0.62	0.67	0.78
Outside the State **	1	2	1	2	5																
TOTAL	4,994	4,855	4,780	4,649	4,913	5,421,615	5,353,445	5,281,700	5,149,139	5,011,502											

* Population figures for 2022 are taken from the final census figures for that year. The 2019, 2020, 2021 figures are based on a prorated (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 prorated 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.

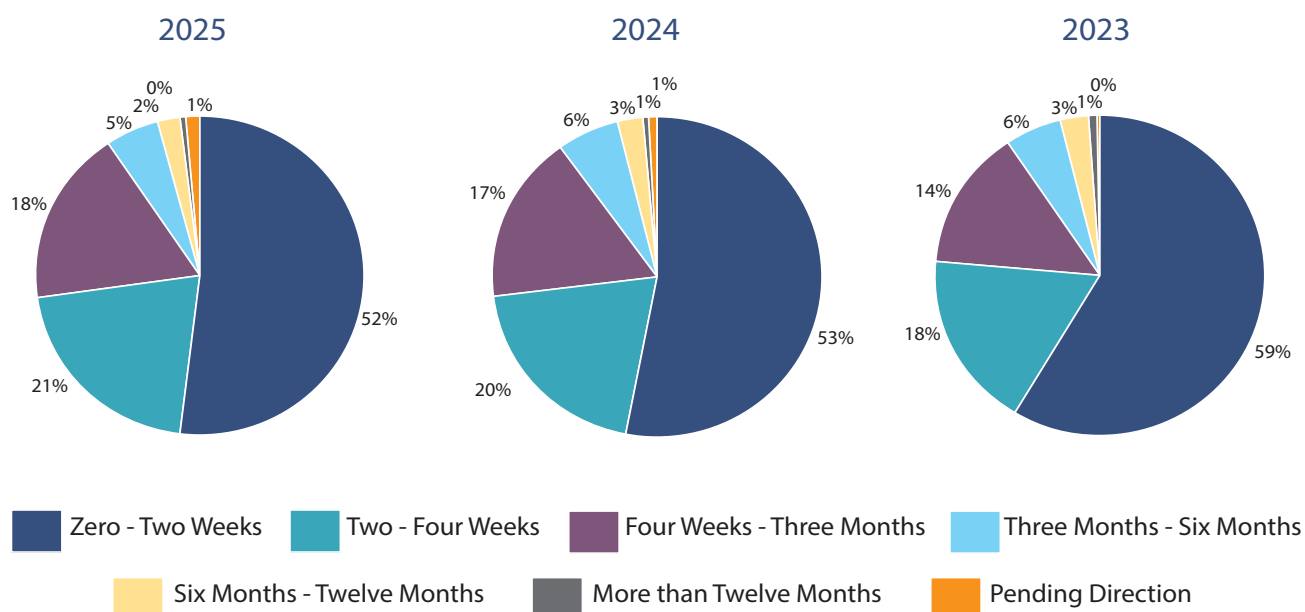
Chart 2.1.4 shows the time between the receipt of a completed prosecution file in the Office and the issuing of a direction as to whether a prosecution of a suspect should be taken or not. This information is shown by suspect rather than by file. This is because in files containing multiple suspects, 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 pending direction are therefore shown as a separate category in the table below.

Chart 2.1.4: Time Taken to Issue Directions

Time Taken	2025	%	2024	%	2023	%
Zero – Two Weeks	7,801	52%	7,404	53%	8,117	59%
Two – Four Weeks	3,112	21%	2,779	20%	2,466	18%
Four Weeks – Three Months	2,654	18%	2,365	17%	1,968	14%
Three Months – Six Months	815	5%	818	6%	777	6%
Six Months – Twelve Months	341	2%	362	3%	380	3%
More than Twelve Months	52	0%	98	1%	119	1%
TOTAL FILES DISPOSED	14,775	99%	13,826	99%	13,827	100%
Pending Direction (<i>as of August 2026</i>)	200	1%	78	1%	7	0%
TOTAL	14,975	100%	13,904	100%	13,834	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 2022 and 2024. 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 2022 to 2024. 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 2025 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	2024	%	2023	%	2022	%
Conviction by Jury	69	1%	125	3%	207	4%
Conviction Following Plea of Guilty	2,053	42%	2,707	57%	2,948	63%
TOTAL CONVICTIONS	2,122	44%	2,832	59%	3,155	68%
Acquittal by Jury	37	1%	75	2%	88	2%
Acquittal on Direction of Judge	0	0%	6	0%	9	0%
TOTAL ACQUITTALS	37	1%	81	2%	97	2%
Not Yet Heard (<i>as of April 2026</i>)	2,610	54%	1,715	36%	1,203	26%
Other Disposals	65	1%	152	3%	195	4%
TOTAL	4,834		4,780		4,650	

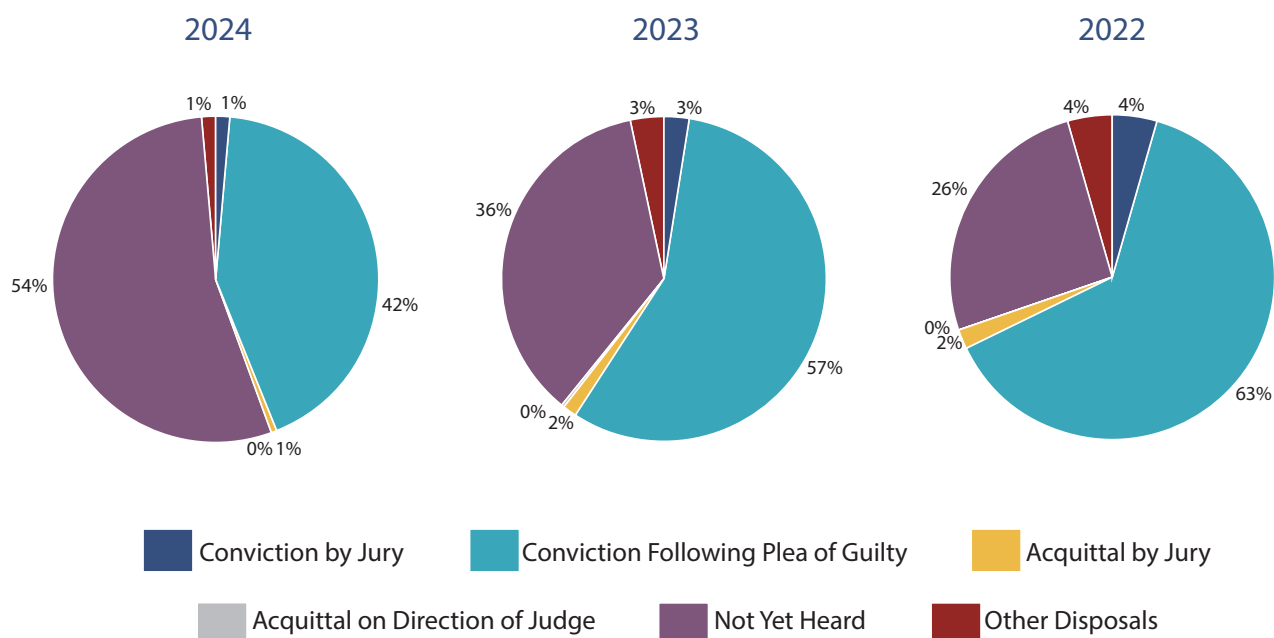


Chart 2.2.2 breaks down the prosecutions directed on indictment to be heard in the Circuit Court. The cases categorised as 'For Hearing' are those for which a verdict has not yet been recorded. In some of these cases, a trial may have begun but proceedings have been halted by a judicial review application. 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		
	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022
Fatal Accident at Work	13	11	5	0	0	0	2	4	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	7	1	0	0	0
Manslaughter	4	3	4	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0
TOTAL - FATAL OFFENCES	17	14	9	0	0	0	3	5	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	9	2	0	0	0
Burglary	360	380	372	2	4	5	173	218	248	23	34	30	0	6	0	0	1	0	156	106	78	6	11	11
Fraud	73	54	48	1	0	1	24	26	23	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	45	22	20	0	3	3
Robbery	346	324	283	0	4	5	196	213	209	9	18	12	2	1	0	0	1	1	136	83	43	3	4	13
Theft	207	209	204	0	2	4	86	107	128	5	10	13	0	3	1	0	1	1	114	79	53	2	7	4
Money Laundering	255	272	277	0	2	1	98	129	173	2	3	9	0	0	2	0	1	0	152	132	86	3	5	6
Criminal Damage	180	156	157	0	1	1	66	67	88	9	19	18	1	1	4	0	0	0	104	60	42	0	8	4
Other Offences Against Property	93	135	127	0	2	0	35	79	61	4	8	10	1	3	2	0	0	0	52	40	43	1	3	11
TOTAL - OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY	1514	1530	1468	3	15	17	678	839	930	54	95	93	5	14	9	0	4	2	759	522	365	15	41	52
Dangerous Driving Causing Death	31	26	17	0	0	0	17	16	11	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	7	3	0	1	0
Unauthorised Taking of Motor Vehicles	44	42	35	0	1	1	19	18	23	4	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	13	6	1	1	0
Other Road Traffic Offences	112	143	128	0	0	2	45	69	73	7	16	15	3	2	2	0	0	0	54	54	33	3	2	3
TOTAL - ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES	187	211	180	0	1	3	81	103	107	11	27	23	3	2	2	0	0	0	88	74	42	4	4	3
Sexual Assault	157	131	171	3	9	22	23	39	48	2	4	6	3	7	13	0	0	2	124	70	69	2	4	12
Child Pornography	95	97	80	0	0	0	49	66	55	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	28	20	0	1	2
Indecent Assault	41	34	48	0	2	7	8	13	12	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	33	16	23	0	3	4
Offences Against Children and Protected Persons	29	45	40	0	1	3	8	21	21	0	3	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	20	16	11	0	2	1
Other Sexual Offences	14	17	21	0	1	0	3	7	9	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	6	10	1	1	1
TOTAL - SEXUAL OFFENCES	336	324	360	3	13	32	91	146	145	54	53	59	3	11	16	0	0	2	231	136	133	3	11	20
Drug Offences	826	820	783	1	2	5	255	302	330	223	275	298	0	0	0	0	0	0	342	229	141	5	12	9
Firearms and Explosives Offences	173	129	134	1	0	3	49	74	65	14	14	18	0	0	5	0	0	0	106	39	38	3	2	5
Non Fatal Offences Against the Person	1028	990	967	11	8	30	345	467	525	35	58	82	12	22	23	0	1	2	598	384	243	27	50	62
Public Order Offences	324	355	345	1	0	7	104	132	162	14	24	35	3	6	5	0	1	0	202	181	127	0	11	9
Revenue Offences	15	29	18	0	0	0	7	14	12	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	15	4	0	0	0
Sea Fisheries	17	14	19	0	0	0	4	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	8	14	1	0	1
Other Offences	135	135	133	1	1	4	44	56	67	4	10	5	0	2	1	0	0	1	84	62	51	2	4	4
GRAND TOTAL	4,572	4,551	4,416	21	40	101	1,661	2,144	2,352	377	559	603	27	57	62	0	6	8	2,443	1,659	1,160	60	135	165



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

	2024	2023	2022
<i>Nolle Prosequi</i> entered	42	96	145
Struck out	0	2	0
Taken into consideration	2	4	2
Successful application to dismiss charges	2	4	3
Case terminated and no retrial	1	4	3
Case terminated by judicial review	0	0	1
Suspect deceased	1	3	4
Suspect absconded	1	3	0
Suspect found unfit to plead	0	2	0
Not guilty by reason of insanity	2	2	0
Other	5	14	6
TOTAL	56	134	164

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		
	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022
Carlow	13	29	58	0	0	1	12	26	46	1	1	9	0	1	1	0	1	1
Cavan	20	24	35	1	0	0	16	20	25	3	3	9	0	1	1	0	0	0
Clare	50	72	72	2	3	9	33	44	44	12	20	15	3	4	4	0	1	0
Cork	204	257	289	0	2	4	192	230	261	8	15	15	4	8	9	0	2	0
Donegal	41	59	52	0	0	0	39	54	47	2	5	2	0	0	2	0	0	1
Dublin	913	1141	1281	5	11	22	661	787	912	241	326	331	6	15	13	0	2	3
Galway	31	80	85	0	1	2	31	74	74	0	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kerry	68	85	66	0	4	4	58	66	50	8	13	12	2	2	0	0	0	0
Kildare	55	113	128	2	0	7	50	95	92	3	15	24	0	3	5	0	0	0
Kilkenny	43	25	49	3	2	3	30	17	36	9	6	9	1	0	1	0	0	0
Laois	5	40	26	0	0	1	5	38	23	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Leitrim	9	12	10	0	0	0	8	9	8	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Limerick	109	132	136	0	2	6	96	108	112	13	16	16	0	5	2	0	1	0
Longford	3	11	30	0	0	1	1	8	26	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	57	80	92	1	1	1	46	75	69	9	4	17	1	0	4	0	0	1
Mayo	35	55	68	0	1	2	32	49	62	1	2	2	2	3	2	0	0	0
Meath	9	21	70	0	0	1	6	18	56	3	3	10	0	0	2	0	0	1
Monaghan	5	15	26	0	0	0	5	11	22	0	2	4	0	2	0	0	0	0
Offaly	25	50	62	1	1	3	17	39	49	5	8	8	2	1	2	0	1	0
Roscommon	24	33	28	0	1	1	18	30	23	6	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Sligo	36	54	36	0	0	0	30	45	26	4	9	9	2	0	1	0	0	0
Tipperary	90	110	120	0	0	8	80	88	87	8	20	23	2	2	2	0	0	0
Waterford	80	108	118	2	5	7	62	86	87	16	17	20	0	0	4	0	0	0
Westmeath	81	53	57	1	0	2	78	48	54	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	1	0
Wexford	54	69	68	0	2	2	49	55	53	5	10	11	0	2	1	0	0	1
Wicklow	9	28	29	0	0	0	9	27	22	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outside the State *	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2069	2757	3091	18	36	87	1664	2148	2366	360	510	568	27	54	61	0	9	9

* '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		
	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022
Murder	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Attempted Murder	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Conspiracy to commit a serious offence	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Directing the activities of a criminal organisation	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Participating in / facilitating organised crime	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Membership of an unlawful organisation	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Threat to Kill	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Firearms and Explosives Offences	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
Violent Disorder	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Drugs Offence	2	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
TOTAL	28	12	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	4	1

Chart 2.2.5 outlines the result of cases received in the years 2022 to 2024 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		
	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022
Murder	35	35	25	12	21	14	1	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	22	5	1
Attempted murder	13	8	4	3	2	1	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	1
Manslaughter	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Rape	155	145	175	26	38	65	17	29	25	1	2	3	8	16	21	0	0	1	5	12	22	98	48	38
Attempted rape	5	5	8	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	2	4
Aggravated sexual assault	3	4	3	0	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Sexual act with a child under 15 years of age	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sexual act with a child under 17 years of age	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Indecent Assault on a Female	1	4	3	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Sexual assault	8	5	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	4	3	1
Other sexual offences	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
False imprisonment	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assisting an offender	2	3	3	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault causing serious harm	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possession of firearm in suspicious circumstances	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Child neglect/cruelty	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Coercive Control	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Possession of an article with intent	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Aggravated Burglary	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
TOTAL CASES	231	213	231	43	74	89	28	42	40	1	2	3	10	17	23	0	0	1	9	15	28	142	63	47

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

	2024	2023	2022
<i>Nolle Prosequi</i> entered	9	10	26
Suspect deceased	0	2	0
Not guilty by reason of insanity	0	3	2
TOTAL	9	15	28

Activity in the Central Criminal Court from 2023 to 2025

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.

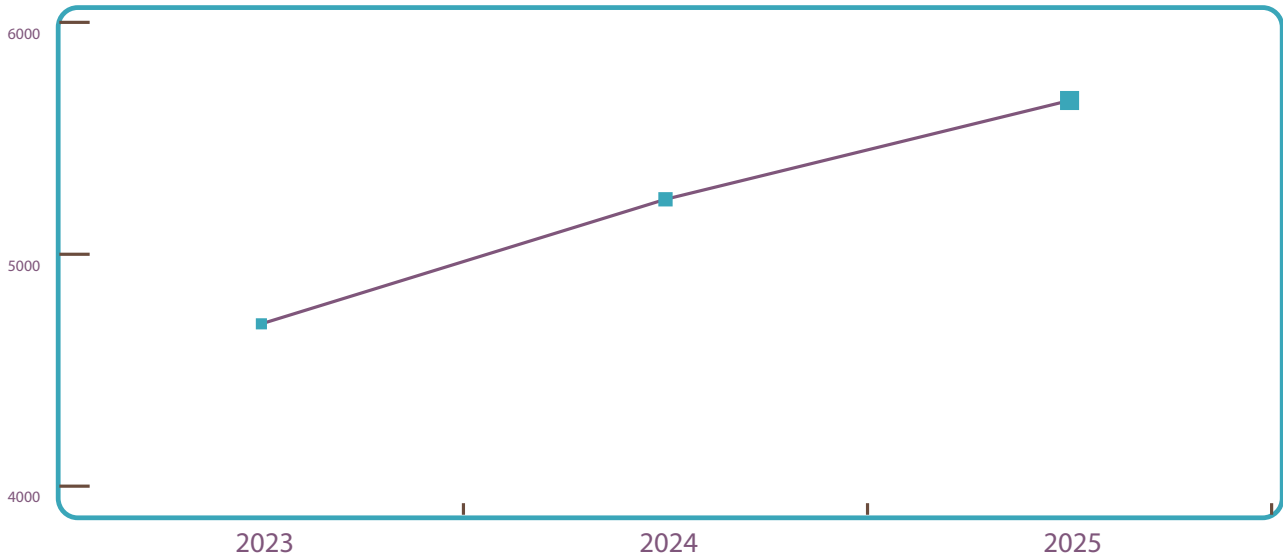
Preliminary Trial Hearing: A preliminary trial hearing is a procedural step introduced by the Criminal Procedure Act 2021. The legislation was introduced to provide for hearings to address specific matters before the trial begins, ensuring that both the prosecution and defence are prepared for trial, 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

	2025	2024	2023
Arraignments	40	31	57
List to Fix Dates	367	285	376
Case Management List	1,633	1,520	1,485
Mentions	505	586	433
Preliminary Trial Hearings	294	160	122
Trial Dates	2,333	2,185	1,833
Sentence Hearings	491	470	394
TOTAL	5,663	5,237	4,700

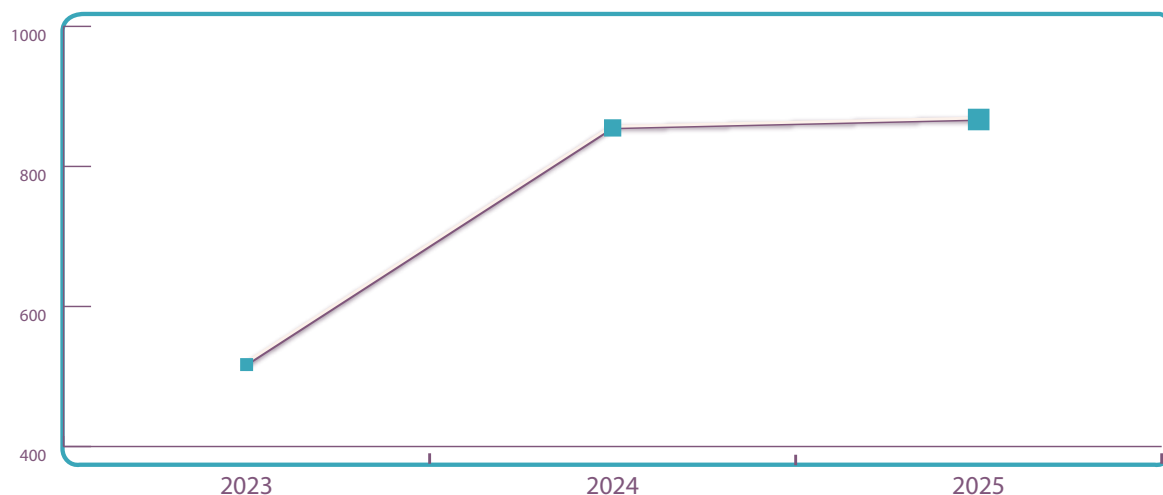


Number of Court Dates in the Central Criminal Court 2023 to 2025

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	2025	2024	2023
	Total Court Dates	Total Court Dates	Total Court Dates
Cork	260	242	134
Donegal	0	0	9
Dublin	4,796	4,382	4,183
Kerry	0	0	13
Kilkenny	29	36	33
Leitrim	30	25	12
Limerick	225	194	51
Longford	0	9	24
Mayo	32	53	51
Monaghan	0	2	10
Offaly	41	24	29
Sligo	14	24	11
Tipperary	0	0	1
Waterford	231	170	47
Westmeath	5	26	55
Wexford	0	50	37
TOTAL	5,663	5,237	4,700

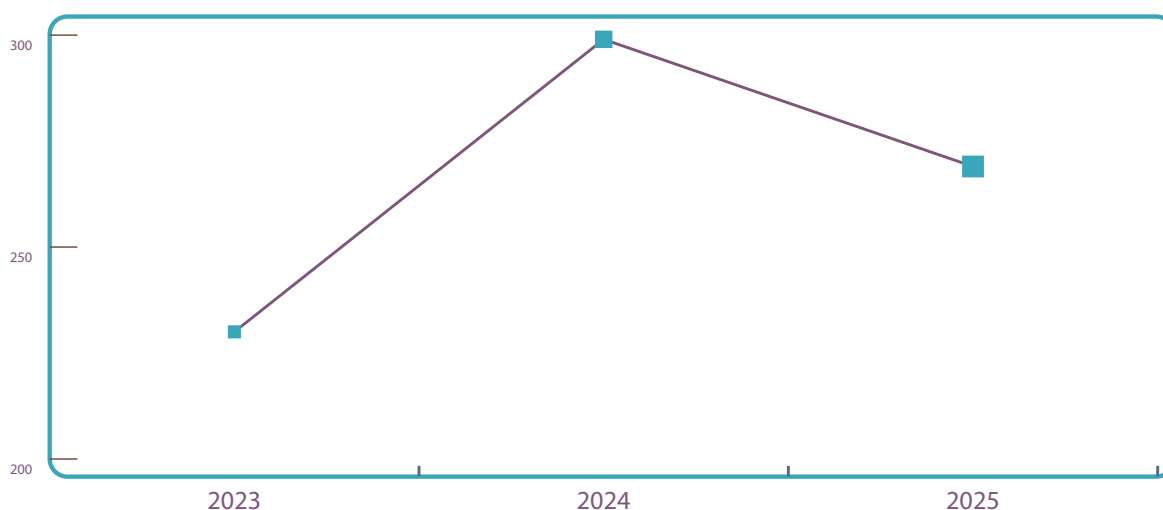


Increase in the number of Central Criminal Court cases heard outside Dublin between 2023 and 2025

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

	2025	2024	2023
Convicted	211	214	156
Convicted but not yet sentenced	4	8	13
Acquitted	26	41	30
Other disposal, for example, <i>Nolle Prosequi</i> , etc.	28	36	31
Total	269	299	230



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

2.3 District Court Prosecutions

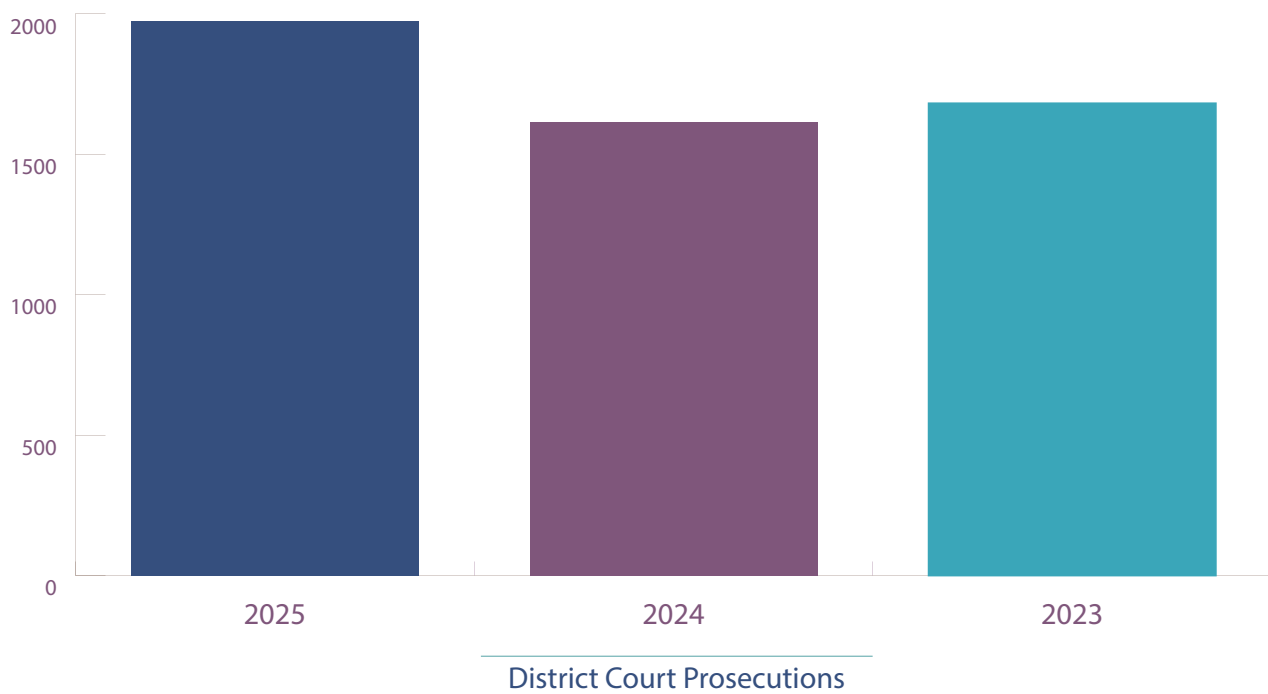
District Court prosecution files are dealt with by the staff of our District Court Section who represent the Director at summary hearings (hearings by a judge of less serious crimes) in courts throughout the Dublin Metropolitan Area. The majority of cases in the District Court in Dublin are dealt with 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 2023 to 2025.

Chart 2.3.1: District Court Prosecutions

	2025	2024	2023
District Court Prosecutions	1,973	1,616	1,681



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 2023 to 2025. 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	2025	2024	2023
Appeal by DPP (e.g. undue leniency; fitness to plead etc.)	35	43	58
Appeals where the DPP was a Respondent	2025	2024	2023
Appeal against severity of sentence	165	195	166
Appeal against conviction	39	52	37
Appeal against conviction and severity of sentence	72	72	55
Appeal against refusal of bail	11	11	1
Miscarriage of justice application	6	3	2
TOTAL	293	333	261

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 2023 to 2025.

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
2023	51
2024	43
2025	35

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
2023	32	5	1	38
2024	36	9	3	48
2025	23	5	6	34

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	2025	2024	2023
Appeals from the District Court to the Circuit Court	1,990	1,742*	2,714

* 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	2025	2024	2023
Judicial Review Applications	166	120	176

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	2025	2024	2023
High Court Bail Applications	2,054	1,920	1,899

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 2025 is set out in Chart 2.5.1 below.

Chart 2.5.1: Asset Seizing Files Opened by the Special Financial Crime Unit in 2025

Files Opened 2025	
Section 39 Forfeiture Order Applications (Revenue and Gardai)	42
Section 24 Freezing Order Applications	5
Foreign Confiscation Order (see Chapter 3 of Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act 2008)	2
TOTAL	49

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 2025, to a total value of €12,044,212, are outlined in Chart 2.5.2 below.

Chart 2.5.2: Confiscation of Criminal Assets in 2025

Orders Made Under the Criminal Justice Act 1994	Number	Amount
Asset Recovery Orders Following Conviction (on foot of DPP applications)	181	€10,666,320
Section 39 Confiscation Orders (Garda)	2	€579,018
Section 39 Confiscation Orders (Revenue)	31	€798,874
TOTAL	214	€12,044,212
Freezing Orders	1	€14,000,041

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 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 (TCA) came into effect.

Chart 2.6.1: European Arrest Warrants

	2025	2024	2023
EAW Files Received from Gardaí	84	102	101
EAWs Issued	47	23	55
Persons Surrendered	19	16	22

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 2025.

Chart 2.6.2: Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) Arrest Warrants

	2025
TCA Arrest Warrant Files Received from Gardaí	76
TCA Arrest Warrants Issued	51
Persons Surrendered	30

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, Australia and the United Arab Emirates. Additionally, Ireland has ratified the European Convention on Extradition (Paris 1957).

In 2025, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions received two 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 2025, 2024 and 2023.

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

	2025	2024	2023
Number of Requests Received	1,022	997	1,013
Number of Requests Finalised	1,076	1,070	553

Chart 2.7.1b: Breakdown of countries to which mutual legal assistance requests were issued by this Office in 2025 (Requests Finalised)

Country	2025
EU Member States	406
United Kingdom	245
United States of America	334
Other	91
TOTAL	1,076

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 2025, 2024 and 2023 and the categories of offences which were the subject of those requests.

Chart 2.8.1: Requests for summary of reasons

	2025	2024	2023
Reasons given	617	533	481
Reasons refused *	7	35	35
Reasons deferred **	5	3	25
Pending (as of July 2026)	5	0	0
TOTAL requests for reasons received	634	571	536

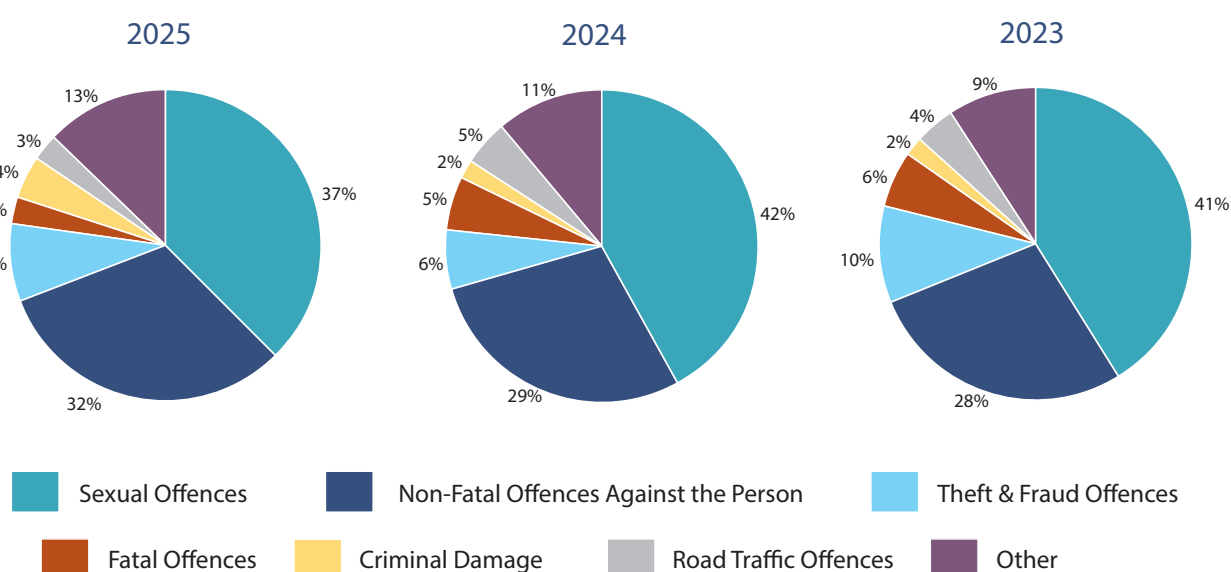
* An example of instances in which requests are refused would include requests relating to decisions made prior to 16 November 2015.

** 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	2025	2024	2023
Sexual Offences	269	241	221
Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person	186	162	149
Theft and Fraud Offences	46	36	54
Fatal Offences	32	31	31
Criminal Damage	14	12	11
Road Traffic Offences	13	26	21
Other	78	63	49
TOTAL	638	571	536

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.

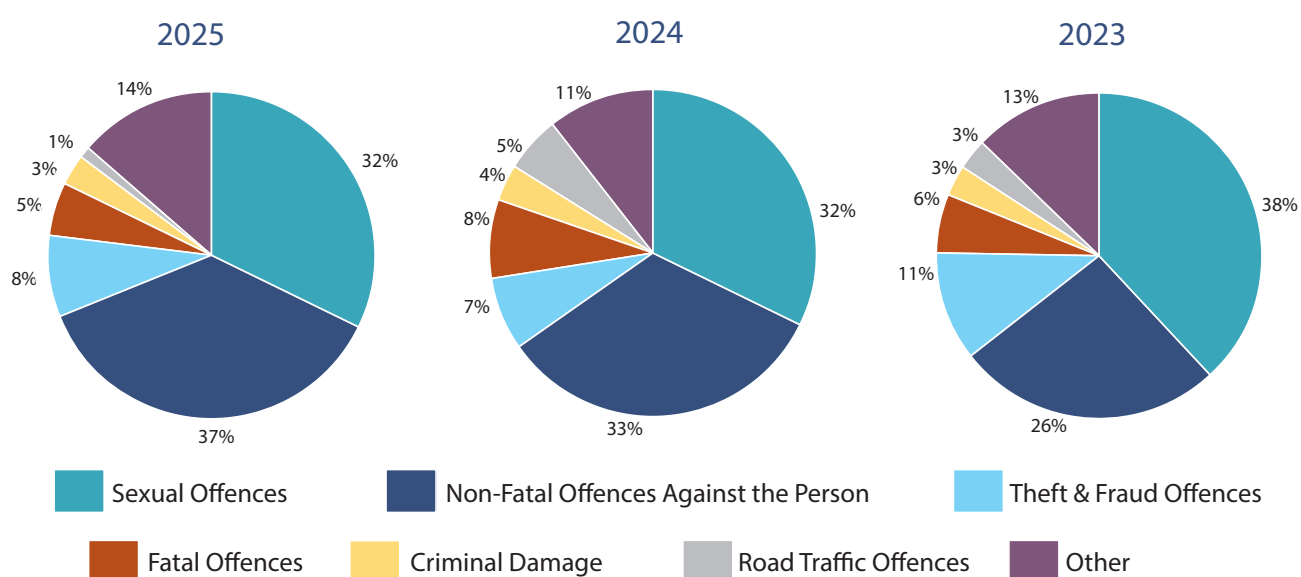
Chart 2.8.2: Requests for review of a decision not to prosecute

	2025	2024	2023
Decision Upheld	202	210	207
Decision Overturned	12	5	10
Invalid Request *	3	1	1
Pending (as of July 2026)	28	3	2
TOTAL requests received for review of a decision	245	219	223

* 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	2025	2024	2023
Sexual Offences	79	71	84
Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person	90	72	58
Theft and Fraud Offences	20	16	24
Fatal Offences	13	17	7
Criminal Damage	7	8	6
Road Traffic Offences	3	13	15
Other	33	22	29
TOTAL	245	219	223



A large, multi-story brick house with a white picket fence in the foreground and trees on the left. The house has a gabled roof with three chimneys and a central entrance. The picket fence is white and runs across the foreground. The trees on the left are green and leafy.

PART 3: Legal Developments 2025

Legal Developments 2025

- 3.1 This chapter gives a brief outline of some of the court decisions during the past year which are important, of interest, or have precedent value for prosecution work. Space does not permit a comprehensive review of all of the case law from 2025, 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.

Sentencing

DPP v. Cathal Crotty [2025] IECA 33 (Court of Appeal, Kennedy J, 23 January 2025)

- 3.2 The accused in this case had been walking home from a night out with friends and had been shouting homophobic slurs at a passing male. When the victim asked them to stop, the accused assaulted her, punching her in the face and head onto the ground causing significant injuries. The accused subsequently commented about the assault on social media. Following a guilty plea, the accused received a wholly suspended sentence and was ordered to pay €3,000 in compensation to the victim. The Director appealed the undue leniency of this sentence, arguing that it did not reflect the gravity of offending or the need for general deterrence. The Court of Appeal agreed with the Director and overturned the original sentence, imposing a three-year prison sentence and suspending the final 12 months. The Court highlighted the vicious and unprovoked nature of the assault, the “reprehensible” message on social media and the serious injuries to the victim in assessing the gravity of the offending.

DPP v. Michael Scott [2025] IECA 266 (Court of Appeal, O’Moore J, 3 December 2025)

- 3.3 This case concerns an appeal against severity of sentence in relation to gross negligence manslaughter. The appellant had pleaded not guilty to the murder of his aunt on jointly owned farmland in County Galway. The appellant had reversed a teleporter in the farmyard of the land and fatally injured his aunt. After a trial, the jury found him not guilty of murder, but guilty of gross negligence manslaughter. The trial judge fixed a headline sentence of eight years, reducing the sentence to six years after mitigation. The Court of Appeal found that the trial Court had incorrectly assessed where the sentencing range lay. The Court proceeded to re-sentence the appellant to a headline sentence of six years, which they reduced to four and a half years based on the relevant mitigating factors in the case.

DPP v. Dominik Biber [2025] IECA 264 (Court of Appeal, Charleton J, 14 November 2025)

- 3.4 In this case the Court of Appeal considered whether a headline sentence of 17 years for attempted murder – reduced to 13 with two years suspended for mitigation – unduly severe. The Court upheld the sentence, noting that the gravity of the crime of attempted murder is not diminished merely because injuries inflicted are not of a life-altering nature.

DPP v. PH [2025] IECA 89 (Court of Appeal, Kennedy J, 31 March 2025)

- 3.5 The accused was convicted of rape and sexual abuse of his daughter over a protracted period when she was between three and a half to 15 years of age. The gravity of offending was placed in the category warranting up to life imprisonment. The Central Criminal Court imposed a headline sentence of 16 years and reduced this to 13 years with the final 18 months suspended. The DPP appealed the sentence on the grounds that it was unduly lenient, contending that insufficient weight was afforded to aggravating factors such as breach of trust, age of the victim and frequency of abuse.

The High Court agreed the case fell into the category requiring up to life imprisonment and nominated a headline sentence of 22 years, reduced to 19 years taking into account the accused’s age (70 years) and health issues.

Privacy Rights and Data Protection

DPP v. AM [2025] IESC 16 (Supreme Court, Collins J, 2 May 2025)

- 3.6 The appellant had been convicted of sexual assault against the victim in respect of a single incident when she was 12 years of age. The existence of further counselling records within which the victim had referenced more than one incident, only became apparent after the trial. The appellant argued that his conviction was unsafe due to the non-disclosure of counselling records.

The Supreme Court emphasised that in the criminal justice system, and in the area of disclosure specifically, it is not only the interests and rights of defendants that are engaged. Victims also have important rights and interests derived from the Constitution, EU law, the European Convention on Human Rights, statute, and the common law. The Supreme Court noted the high level of constitutional protection afforded to counselling records, and held

that, in enacting section 19A of the Criminal Evidence Act 1992 (inserted by section 39 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017), the intention of the Oireachtas was to create a higher threshold for disclosure of counselling records. The Court held that there needs to be a “compelling basis” for the Court to direct disclosure and requires “showing that the records are likely to be of real forensic value to the accused’s defence”. The Court also ruled that victims must have access to independent legal advice in order to provide informed waiver of their right to a disclosure hearing.

DPP v. Gordon Smith [2025] IESC 42 (Supreme Court, Donnelly J and Collins J, 30 October 2025)

- 3.7** This judgment sets out the conditions under which a court can grant access to Digital Audio Recordings (DAR) of criminal proceedings. The Supreme court held that an application for access to the DAR or part thereof is deemed to be a civil application even where it relates to criminal proceedings. Access will only be granted where the court is satisfied that it is necessary and in the interests of justice and the applicant must demonstrate this criterion. There is no strict rule that victims must be notified in relation to DAR applications, however, the court must be guided by the degree of impact on the victims’ rights and the adequacy of the other safeguards in place to protect those rights. Where access to the DAR is granted, the court may impose conditions and restrictions on its use. Breaches of such conditions will be deemed to be contempt of court.

DPP v. Stephen Tynan and Raymond Fitzgerald [2025] IECA 118, (Court of Appeal, Kennedy J, 10 April 2025)

- 3.8** The appellants were both convicted of murder and appealed their convictions. Two of the various grounds of appeal they raised involved the admission of CCTV evidence and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) evidence.

Regarding CCTV evidence, the Court held that it is recognised that persons in public places, including driving on public roads, do not have a reasonable expectation that their movements will not be recorded on CCTV. Regarding the operation of the ANPR system, the Court held that in the context of other available evidence, the jury was adequately able to assess the reliability of this evidence. The Court did not find favour with any of the grounds of appeal raised by both appellants.

Right to Silence – Passwords for Digital Devices

Yavor Poptoshev v. DPP, The Commissioner of An Garda Síochána, Ireland and the Attorney General [2025] IESC 47 (Supreme Court, Charleton J, 24 November 2025)

- 3.9** This case arose following the execution of a search warrant under section 48(2) of the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001 (‘the 2001 Act’) during which Gardaí seized two smartphones and a computer belonging to the appellant. The appellant refused to disclose the passwords for these devices and was charged with failure to comply with a requirement under section 49(1)(c) of the 2001 Act. The appellant initiated judicial review proceedings and contended that the offence under section 49(1)(c) violated his constitutional right against self-incrimination, and his right to privacy.

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of section 49(1)(c), finding that the password disclosure requirement is a proportionate measure supported by safeguards including judicial authorisation of search warrants and limits on the use of compelled evidence. The Court confirmed that mobile phones fall within the definition of a ‘computer’ and emphasised the importance of such powers in investigating crime in the digital age.

Guilty Pleas and Mitigation

DPP v. Noel McLoughlin [2025] IECA 86 (Court of Appeal, McCarthy J, 10 March 2025)

- 3.10** The appellant had attempted to rob a petrol station with an imitation firearm which he pointed at the shop keeper when chased into a neighbouring estate. Admissions were made at a late stage, and he was sent forward to the Circuit Court on a signed plea of guilty.

The sentencing judge imposed a sentence of five years imprisonment with no portion suspended. The appellant appealed the severity of this, principally on the basis that the judge failed to afford adequate discount from the headline sentence for his entry of a signed plea of guilty. The Court of Appeal held that there was no hard and fast rule as to the discount which should be applied in the case of signed pleas – it is merely one of a number of factors in the context of the facts of any case – and there had been no error in the judge imposing a five-year sentence on the basis of all mitigating factors. The appellant in this case had the benefit of a suspended sentence previously and had committed these offences during the currency of a suspended sentence.

Greaney v. DPP [2025] IEHC 731 (High Court, Ferriter J, 18 December 2025)

- 3.11 The applicant was charged with assault contrary to section 3 of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997 involving an unprovoked and serious assault. The DPP directed trial on indictment and refused consent to the applicant going forward on a signed guilty plea. The applicant brought judicial review proceedings seeking to quash that decision of the DPP. The applicant argued he was arbitrarily deprived of the opportunity at sentencing stage to rely on a signed plea of guilty, resulting in a breach of his constitutional right to a fair hearing. He also sought a declaration that the DPP was obliged to provide reasons for the refusal to consent to him going forward on a signed guilty plea.

The High Court reiterated that it is the timing of a guilty plea or indication of an intention to plead guilty that is the relevant consideration for mitigation purposes, not the precise form of the indication of the plea, i.e. a signed plea. The Court also outlined that, absent “exceptional circumstances”, the Director is not obliged to give reasons for her decisions to refuse to consent to a case been sent forward from the District Court on a signed plea of guilty.

Constitutional Challenge

Darragh Galvin v. DPP and Others [2025] IESC 35 (Supreme Court, Donnelly J, Murray J, Dunne J, 17 July 2025)

- 3.12 The applicant in this case was charged with the offence of selling cigarettes without the appropriate stamp/tax being paid. He raised a constitutional challenge to section 126(6) of the Finance Act 2001, which excludes section 1 of the Probation of Offenders Act 1907 from applying to revenue offences relating to excise duties. Section 1(1) of the Probation of Offenders Act 1907 permits a judge of the District Court, having considered the charge proved, to dismiss the charge or discharge the offender conditionally as opposed to proceeding to conviction. Before his case was heard in the District Court, the applicant issued judicial proceedings. The High Court refused the reliefs sought and this was subsequently upheld by the Court of Appeal.

The Supreme Court held that the constitutional challenge was premature and should not have been adjudicated upon unless and until the prosecution was determined in the trial court, stating that only in exceptional circumstances should a constitutional challenge be determined pre-conviction.

Special Criminal Court

DPP v. Trevor Byrne [2025] IECA 18 (Court of Appeal, Edwards J, 13 January 2025)

- 3.13 The appellant in this case had pleaded guilty before the Special Criminal Court to a range of offences including robbery, threats to kill and carrying firearms with intent to commit an indictable offence. The Court imposed a sentence of eight and a half years to run consecutive to a previous sentence of nine years. The appellant argued that the sentence was excessive, disproportionate and did not sufficiently consider the totality principle. The Court of Appeal upheld the sentence finding that the overall sentence was proportionate to the severity of the crimes and the serious criminal history of the accused.

Alan Harte v. Special Criminal Court, DPP and Others [2025] IECA 249 (Court of Appeal, Hyland J, 3 December 2025)

- 3.14 This appellant brought an appeal in relation to a decision of the High Court rejecting his challenge to the constitutionality of section 40 of the Offences Against the State Act 1939. This provision allows for majority verdicts (as opposed to unanimous decisions) in the Special Criminal Court and provides that no disclosure shall be made as to whether the determination was or was not unanimous. The Court of Appeal agreed with the High Court decision and held that the trial judge did not err in law in concluding that section 40 was compatible with the Constitution. The Court was not satisfied that there was any breach of the appellant’s constitutional rights under Articles 38, 40.1 and 34.1 of the Constitution and the appeal was dismissed.

Sexual Offences

DPP v. BK [2025] IECA 18 (Court of Appeal, O’Moore J, 14 July 2025)

- 3.15 This case concerns an appeal against conviction for sexual assault and child neglect. The appellant had made a number of admissions in relation to offences against her children to a psychologist who interviewed her for the purposes of a safeguarding investigation regarding access and custody. The admissions were excluded by the trial judge in the appellant’s first trial, and the jury was directed to return a verdict of not guilty. The Director appealed this ruling to the Supreme Court and a re-trial was ordered.

In the second trial, further evidence emerged from the psychologist in relation to the interviewing of the appellant, which gave rise to serious concerns regarding the voluntary nature of the admissions.

Notwithstanding these concerns, the trial judge felt bound by the decision of the Supreme Court and admitted this evidence. The appellant was convicted.

The appellant lodged an appeal challenging the fairness of the conviction given the new evidence in relation to the conduct of the interviews and the evidence that emerged. The Court of Appeal found that the trial Judge erred in believing she was bound by the earlier judgments of the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. The Court found that the interviews were unfair in a very fundamental way. The Director did not oppose the appeal indicating that in the event of an acquittal, a retrial would not be sought.

DPP v. SM [2025] IECA (Unapproved) (Court of Appeal, Charleton J, 20 November 2025)

- 3.16** This case concerned an appeal against conviction on 10 counts of sexual assault, contrary to section 2 of the Criminal Law (Rape) (Amendment) Act 1990. The Court of Appeal held that a statement made by the appellant in the presence of family members was not obtained under duress and had therefore been correctly admitted into evidence by the trial judge. However, while describing the trial judge's charge as otherwise impeccable, the Court of Appeal found that the description of being "fairly sure of guilt means having a probable appreciation of guilt but to a moderate or reasonable degree only", undermined the high standard of proof required in criminal trials. Accordingly, the Court quashed the convictions and ordered a retrial.

Corruption

DPP v. Ryan Fitzpatrick [2025] IECA 20 (Court of Appeal, Edwards J, 4 February 2025)

- 3.17** The appellant in this case was prosecuted for corruption and perverting the course of justice after he paid a civilian employee of An Garda Síochána money to provide him with information from the Garda Pulse system. When his home was searched, the appellant threw his phone into the toilet leading to the destruction of evidence. Following extradition from Spain, the appellant pleaded guilty and received a sentence of four years' imprisonment. He argued that his sentence was unduly harsh, given the lower headline sentence afforded to his co-accused. The Court refused the appeal, highlighting the gravity of corruption offences as well as the motive, pre-planning and personal benefit to the accused. The appellant had also destroyed evidence thereby perverting the course of justice. The co-accused pleaded guilty at the earliest stage, had no previous convictions and was young and immature.

Misuse of Drugs

Denise Lynch v. Minister for Health and Others [2025] IECA 26 (Court of Appeal, Collins J, 31 October 2025)

- 3.18** In this case, the applicant argued that the 'drug products' underlying her criminal prosecution contained less than 0.2% THC and therefore should not be included in the schedule of controlled drugs. The applicant relied on the European Court of Justice (ECJ) case of *Kanavape* and sought a declaration that the prohibition of cannabis products containing <0.2% THC breaches Articles 34 and 36 of the TFEU (Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union – free movement of goods).

In dismissing the appeal, the Court found that the 0.2% THC criteria referenced in the ECJ's *Kanavape* judgment applied to the plant from which the THC was extracted as opposed to the end product. The Court also found that the *Kanavape* judgment was primarily concerned with whether Articles 34 and 36 applied to CBD (Cannabidiol) rather than with the THC content of the end product actually being sold in that case. The Court of Appeal also refused to make a reference to the ECJ and upheld the High Court orders regarding costs against the appellant.

The appellant subsequently lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court.

DPP v. DT [2025] IESC 25 (Supreme Court, Charleton J, 4 June 2025)

- 3.19** In this case, the Supreme Court clarified the meaning of 'possession' in Irish law. The case involved an alleged 'cannabis factory' discovered in a Dublin apartment, where the appellant was found amidst several thousand cannabis-infused sweets. Within the apartment, cannabis was found growing in two distinct areas, along with other drug preparation paraphernalia. In the Supreme Court, Charleton J set out a framework to be followed in determining possession, through facts and statutory inferences. The Court held that possession requires control and knowledge. Joint or constructive possession is possible where an accused willingly assists or encourages the custodianship of contraband. The accused's bank card, passport and mobile phone were found in different locations in the apartment which suggested that he was more than a visitor to the premises. The accused had also not accounted for his presence at the location during his interview and an adverse inference could be drawn from this under sections 18 and 19 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984.

Road Traffic Law

***DPP v. Edel O'Brien* [2025] IEHC 237 (High Court, Regan J, 23 April 2025)**

- 3.20** This was a consultative case stated to the High Court following the hearing of legal submissions by the District Court judge. The defendant had been served with a fixed charge notice for the offence of speeding contrary to sections 35 and 36 of the Road Traffic Act 201. In the District Court the defendant accepted she had been speeding but raised the issue that the fixed charge notice did not refer to 'average speed' of 131 kmph, which was clarified following her phone call to the Garda Fixed Charge Processing Office during the period in which she had the opportunity to accept and pay the fine.

The defendant argued before the High Court that the fixed charge notice was deficient, and she was not adequately informed of the particulars of the case against her. The High Court did not find any evidence of prejudice or interference with the defendant's fair trial rights.

***Andrejs Ratinskis v. DPP* [2025] IECA 428 (High Court, Phelan J, 30 July 2025)**

- 3.21** The applicant in this case was charged with drink driving and provided a blood sample for testing by the Medical Bureau of Road Safety (MBRS). The applicant challenged the lack of evidence in relation to the integrity of the sample between the time it was stored in the station and posted to the MBRS for testing. The applicant argued that the chain of custody was not covered by the statutory presumption under section 15 of the Road Traffic Act 2010. The High Court found for the applicant, stating that the statutory presumptions under section 15(4), 17(4) and 20(2) the Road Traffic Act 2010 would not assist the prosecution where the chain of custody evidence was not led in the District Court.

This judgment was subsequently overturned by the Supreme Court in June 2026.

Juvenile Justice

***F v. DPP* [2025] IEHC 279 (High Court, Bolger J, 11 April 2025)**

- 3.22** The applicant in this case was alleged to have committed the offence of attempted money laundering when he was aged 16 years and two months. As a result of delays in the investigation, he was charged over three years later and issued judicial review proceedings seeking to prohibit his trial. Due to the special duty owed to children involved in criminal proceedings, together with the negative

impact that proceedings appearing online would have on the applicant's future career prospects, the High Court made an order prohibiting the trial. Unlike in *DOE v. DPP* [2024] IEHC 112, the Court did not apply its inherent jurisdiction restricting publication of anything that might identify the accused, as the offence was not of a sexual nature and would not normally involve such reporting restrictions. To make such an order would be of greater interference with justice being administered in public than in *DOE*.

***DOE and Others v. DPP* [2025] IESC 17 (Supreme Court, O'Malley J, 9 May 2025)**

- 3.23** The applicants were charged with sexual assault and false imprisonment offences committed when they were juveniles. Charges were not brought until after they turned 18 years old, leading to a loss of protections under the Children's Act 2001. The High Court had previously found that there was in this case culpable and unexplained delay by the prosecution but refused prohibition on the basis of the seriousness of the charges. The High Court deemed that the protections lost, specifically the reporting restrictions, could be addressed by way of a court order called a 'Gilchrest Order'. The Supreme Court also refused prohibition and clarified that if an offence is serious, it will generally be in the public interest to continue a prosecution even if there is culpable delay. Each case must be assessed on its own facts, and a Court should consider granting other remedies, including a Gilchrest Order, to address the breach of a defendant's rights.

***K v. DPP* [2025] IEHC 470, (High Court, Simons J, 1 September 2025)**

- 3.24** The applicant was charged with assault causing harm contrary to section 3 of the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997, alleged to have occurred when he was 16 years and nine months old. He was still below the age of 18 years when sent forward for trial in the Circuit Court but subsequently 'aged out', that is, he reached the age of 18 years old prior to a trial date. The applicant issued judicial review proceedings arguing, among other points, that the District Court in deciding whether to retain jurisdiction pursuant to section 75 of the Children Act 2001, erred in its approach by conducting a section 75 hearing *before* considering alleged prosecutorial delay.

The High Court held that there was no blameworthy prosecutorial delay, remarking that there are few cases where less than 18 months was considered culpable delay. Regarding the applicant's argument that the District Court judge should have assessed delay before conducting the section 75 hearing, the

High Court held that the District Court was correct in establishing jurisdiction before it considered delay, as a Court must be satisfied that it has jurisdiction before making any substantive order in a case.

***Oscar (a Pseudonym) v. DPP and the Attorney General* [2025] IECA 278 (Court of Appeal, Kennedy J, 16 December 2025)**

- 3.25** The applicant, who was aged 15 years old at the time of the offence, was charged with the defilement of a twelve-year-old child contrary to section 3 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006, and sexual exploitation of a child contrary to section 3 of the Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998. The applicant challenged the criminal prosecution on a number of grounds including prosecutorial delay, choice of charge and the constitutionality of section 3 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006. The applicant sought to restrain his prosecution on grounds of delay and sought a declaration that section 3 of the 2006 Act was unconstitutional. He also sought a declaration that section 3(8) of the 2006 Act should be interpreted to apply where an accused believed the child complainant to be 15 years of age and within two years of the age of the accused, even if this was not in fact the case. The High Court had previously rejected these arguments, and the applicant appealed the rulings.

The Court of Appeal upheld the constitutionality of section 3, commenting that it was open to the legislature to address the different approaches to *mens rea* by creating a defence such as mistake to age. The defence of reasonable mistake was not available to the appellant in this case. The Court also held that the prejudice caused by the delay in this case could be dealt with by way of *ad hoc* reporting restrictions.

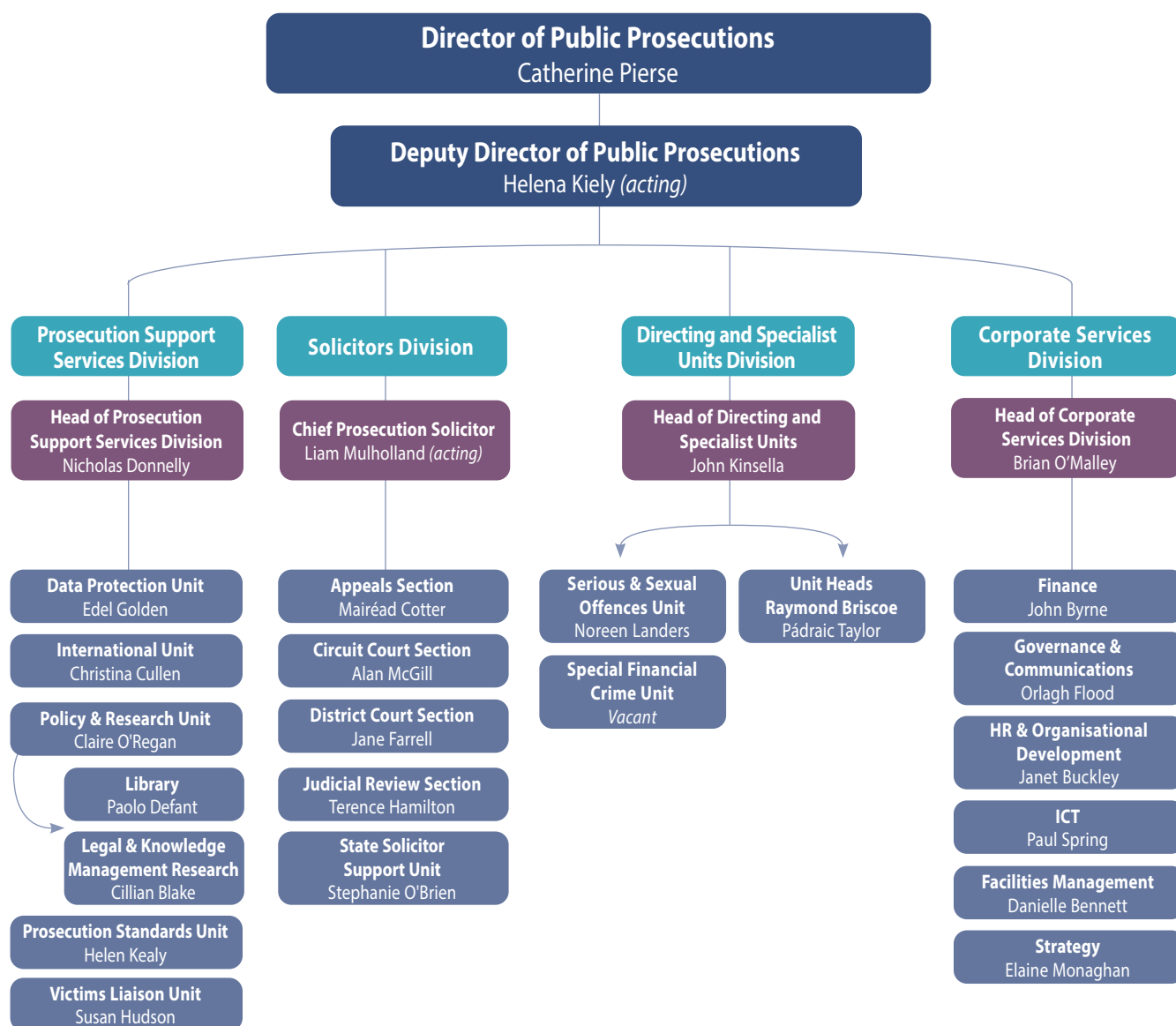
The Court of Appeal also rejected the appellant's argument that it was fundamentally unfair to charge him with section 3 as opposed to section 2 of the 2006 Act, stating that it is entirely a matter for the Director what charges are directed, and that such a decision will only be subject to intervention in the most exceptional circumstances.



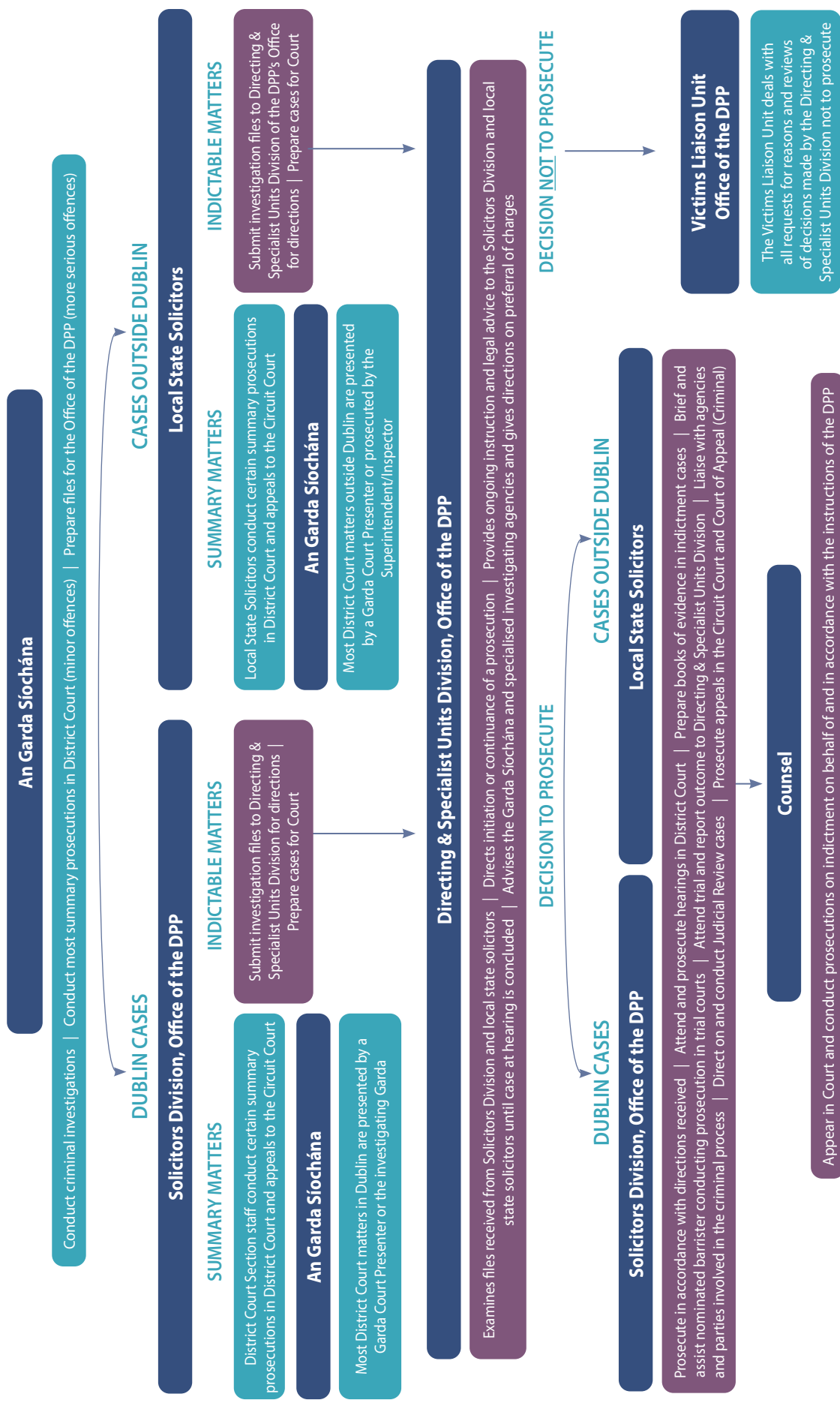
Appendices

Appendix 1: Organisation Structure

(August 2026)



Appendix 2: Criminal Prosecution Process in Ireland



Appendix 3: Office Expenditure

Chart A3.1 shows the breakdown of Office expenditure for 2025, 2024 and 2023.

Salaries and Wages: This represents the cost of salaries of staff employed in the Office. The total staff complement at 31 December 2025 was 307 (300.7 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.

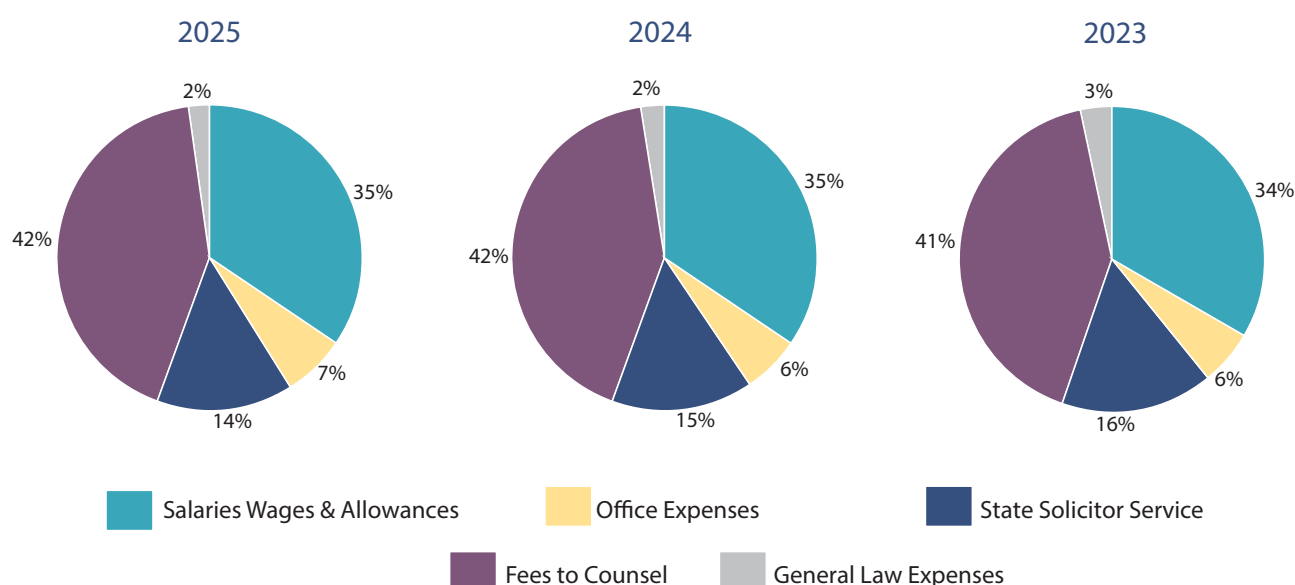
Fees to Counsel: These are fees paid to the barristers who prosecute cases on behalf of the Director in the various criminal courts. Fees are set within the parameters set by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform.

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

	2025	%	2024	%	2023	%
	€		€		€	
Salaries Wages and Allowances	24,726,824	35%	22,614,814	35%	19,617,719	34%
Office Expenses	4,781,303	7%	3,993,965	6%	3,384,673	6%
State Solicitor Service	10,381,233	14%	9,649,845	15%	9,516,091	16%
Fees to Counsel	30,278,364	42%	27,363,547	42%	24,115,087	41%
General Law Expenses	1,573,159	2%	1,592,382	2%	1,912,582	3%
TOTAL	71,740,883		65,214,553		58,546,152	



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

	2025	%	2024	%	2023	%
	€		€		€	
Circuit Court	13,807,682	46%	11,933,870	43%	10,697,182	44%
Central Criminal Court	12,507,809	41%	10,872,500	40%	8,711,777	36%
High Court	1,924,920	6%	2,498,591	9%	1,839,503	8%
Supreme Court	331,275	1%	452,115	2%	541,432	2%
Court of Appeal	1,261,458	4%	1,031,375	4%	1,297,271	5%
Special Criminal Court	398,512	2%	506,637	2%	981,572	5%
District Court	46,708	0%	68,459	0%	46,350	0%
TOTAL	30,278,364		27,363,547		24,115,087	

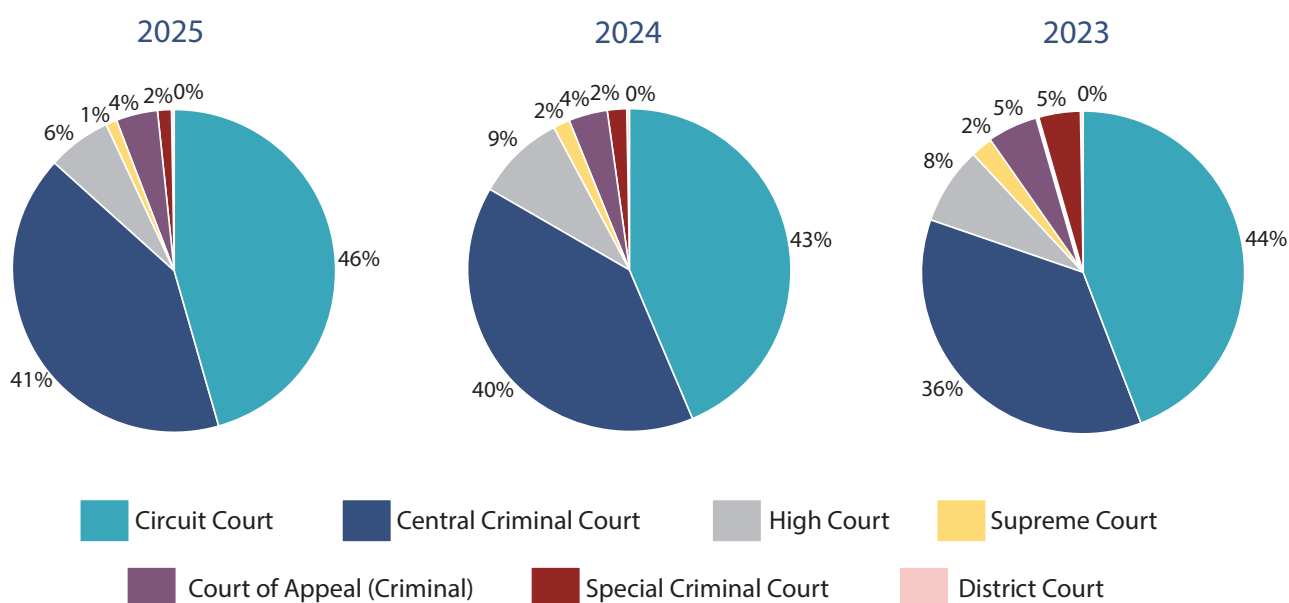
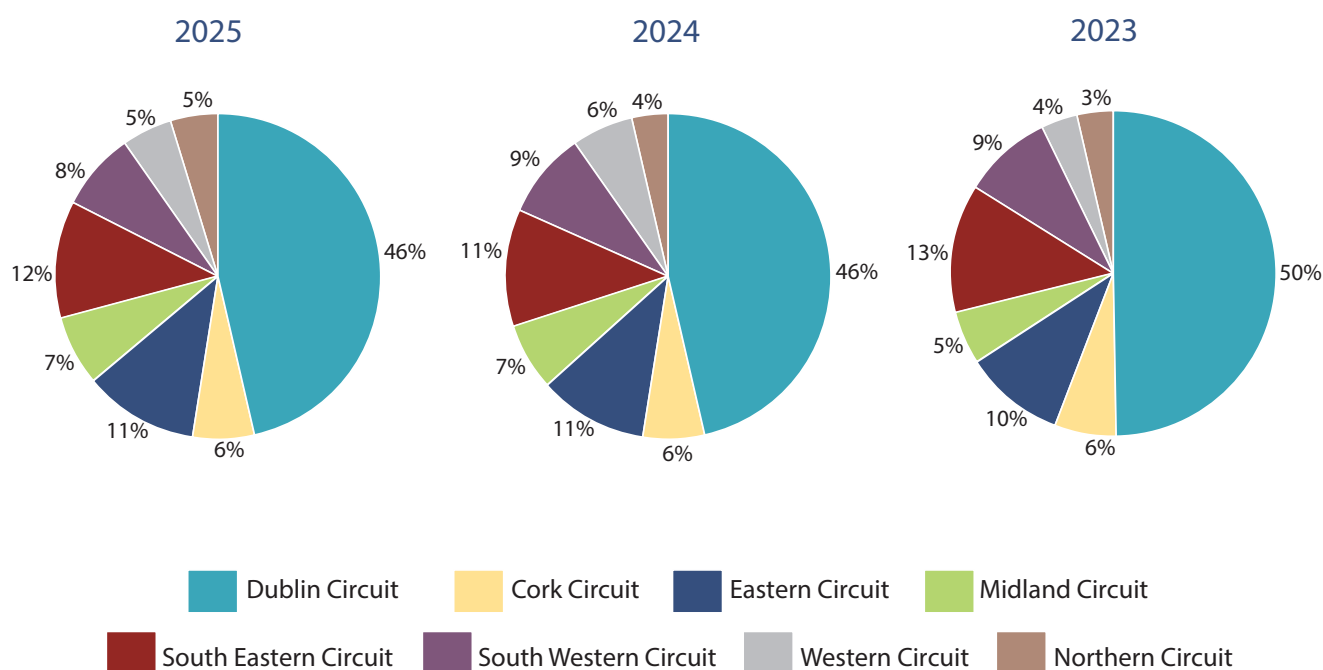


Chart A3.3: Fees to Counsel Paid by Circuit

	2025	%	2024	%	2023	%
	€		€		€	
Dublin Circuit	6,416,642	46%	5,542,706	46%	5,323,871	50%
Cork Circuit	870,257	6%	733,315	6%	670,446	6%
Eastern Circuit	1,570,773	11%	1,289,074	11%	1,075,354	10%
Midland Circuit	948,913	7%	803,340	7%	542,458	5%
South Eastern Circuit	1,611,248	12%	1,383,014	11%	1,374,826	13%
South Western Circuit	1,073,862	8%	1,052,528	9%	959,771	9%
Western Circuit	675,111	5%	698,983	6%	392,885	4%
Northern Circuit	640,876	5%	430,910	4%	357,571	3%
TOTAL	13,807,682		11,933,870		10,697,182	



Extract from Appropriation Account 2024

			Estimate Provision €000	€000	2024 Outturn €000	2023 Outturn €000
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE						
A.	Provision of Prosecution Service					
		Original	62,149			
		Supplementary	4,845			
				66,994	66,237	59,445
	Gross Expenditure			66,994	66,237	59,445
	Deduct					
B.	Appropriations-in-Aid			1,048	1,022	889
	Net Expenditure					
		Original	61,279			
		Supplementary	4,667			
				€65,946	€65,251	€58,546
Surplus						
The surplus of the amount provided over the net amount applied is liable for surrender to the Exchequer						
					2024	2023
Surplus to be Surrendered					€731,447	€1,271,848



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 also available in Irish and 10 foreign languages. They 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.
- Staff from our Office participate in **Public Sector Equality Networks** to share learning and best practice.

A4.4 The Office of the DPP's gender ratio was 64% female to 36% male during 2025. The Office ensures appropriate gender representation on interview boards during recruitment. At the end of 2025, 44% of our Senior Management Team were female.

Appendix 5: Annual Energy Efficiency Report 2025

Overview of Energy Usage in 2025

A5.1 In 2025 the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions consumed 1031.07MWh of energy. This includes 96.17MWh of energy at our new office premises in Smithfield.

The total energy consumption is in respect of space heating, air conditioning, hot water, lighting, computer systems and other office equipment.

This figure is compiled as follows:

- 391.48MWh of Electricity
- 639.59MWh of Natural Gas

While the usage of Natural Gas was up on 2024, electricity consumption was reduced by 26.35MWh and this included electricity usage at our new office in Smithfield. Although energy management measures were maintained throughout 2025, there was an increase in energy consumption over the whole year compared to 2024 amounting to 6.9% overall due to the addition of the new Office.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) in 2025

A5.2 In 2025 the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions generated total GHG emissions of 213.685kg/CO₂, equivalent to a 44.1% 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 108.274kg/CO₂.

Actions Undertaken in 2025

A5.3 During 2025, energy efficiency monitoring continued in collaboration with external consultants and maintenance contractors. Small project-based savings were made. Actions taken otherwise during 2025 include the following:

- Continued monitoring of existing energy management systems and the powering off of gas boilers over the summer and during warm periods throughout the year.
- 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.

- The continued adoption of energy saving measures in line with the 'Reduce your Use' energy saving initiative in the public sector.
- A Radiator Upgrade Pilot was completed successfully in 2025. Radiators in several of the building's coldest rooms were replaced, which improved conditions and has reduced energy consumption in these areas. To aid this measure, our boiler-house valves were upgraded, and the heating system was fully flushed.
- Inspections commenced on roof spaces for an upgrade of roof insulation at Infirmary Road. This will aid heat retention and further improve energy efficiency.
- Our yearly 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 2026

A5.4 Actions planned for 2026 include the following:

- Continuing to maximize the use of the Building Management System to identify and achieve incremental savings in energy consumption.
- Continued investigation and commencement of possible solutions on the planned upgrade of roof insulation at Infirmary Road.
- With the success of the radiator upgrade pilot, an extension of these works has been requested for plan and implementation before the end of 2026.
- PAT testing to be completed before the end of the year.
- 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.

