

The background is a solid blue color with several thin, wavy, light blue lines near the top edge, creating a sense of movement or a horizon line.

# Counter-Terrorism Radicalisation and Brexit the Irish Perspective



# The Muslim Community

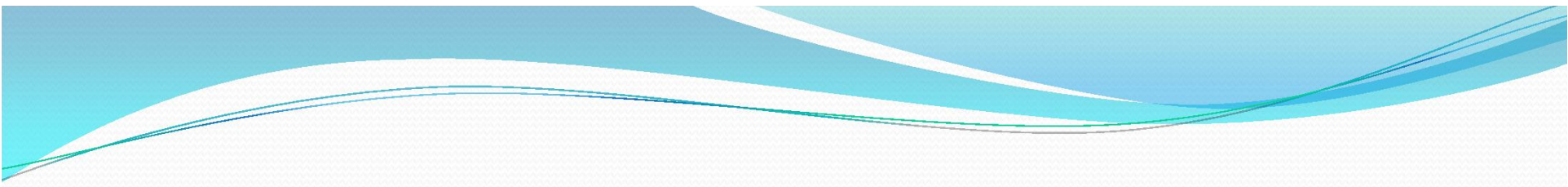
- Last Census – 65,000, probably closer to 80,000
- Peaceful
- Integrated into Irish society
- Open
- Tolerant
- Good relations with Gardai
- Garda Community Relations - ethnic liaison Gardai



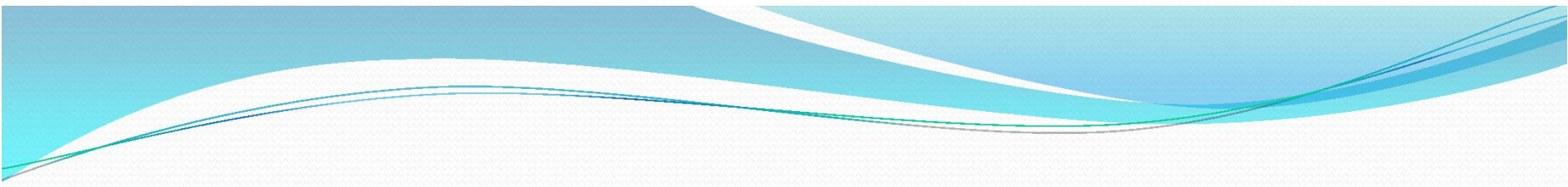


# The Current Threat

- No Islamist inspired attacks or attempted attacks.
- No direct attack planning either within Ireland or internationally.
- Is this a coincidence?
- Have they forgotten about us?
- Is it just that they are too busy and will get around to us in good time.
- Or is there some other reason?
- Terrorism is always rational.

- 
- Very significant Islamist personalities in Ireland.
  - Involved in recruitment
  - Radicalisation
  - Facilitation
  - With significant connections to European terror networks.



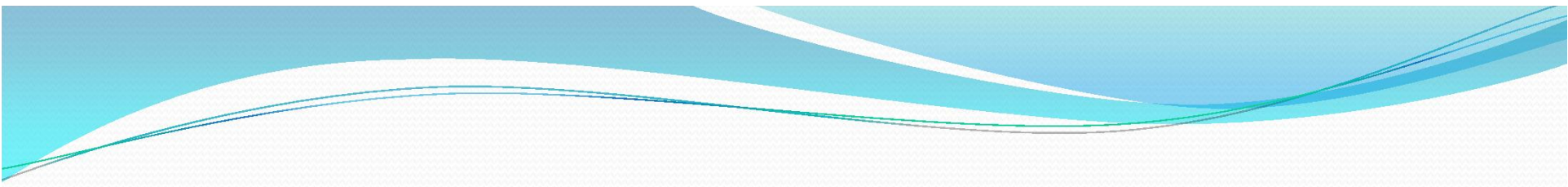
- 
- Despite the stable security landscape in Ireland, recent media reporting states :
  - ***“EVIL MURDER NETWORK IS HERE”***
  - ***“DOZENS OF FANATICS BAND TOGETHER TO RECRUIT FIGHTERS”***
  - ***“FEARS BREXIT WILL LEAD TO INFLUX OF ISIS EXTREMISTS”*** and



***“SECURITY OFFICIALS BELIEVE EXTREMISTS  
WILL FLOCK TO IRELAND BECAUSE WE ARE  
EXPECTED TO HAVE FREE TRAVEL TO ALLOW  
PEOPLE TO MOVE EASILY BETWEEN IRELAND  
AND BRITAIN”***

*Michael O'Toole (Crime Correspondent)  
Daily Star September 13<sup>th</sup> 2017*



- 
- Suggestions are that Brexit will in some way increase the threat from terrorism in Ireland.
  - This threat will be related to immigration and cross border movement of people.
  - With particular reference to the border between the Republic and NI.
  - Are these fears realistic ?
  - The following are possible scenarios for the border:



# Scenario 1.

- The UK remains a part of the single market through membership of the European Economic Area or through a special arrangement.

## *Likely outcomes*

- Border customs posts likely
- Passport controls unlikely

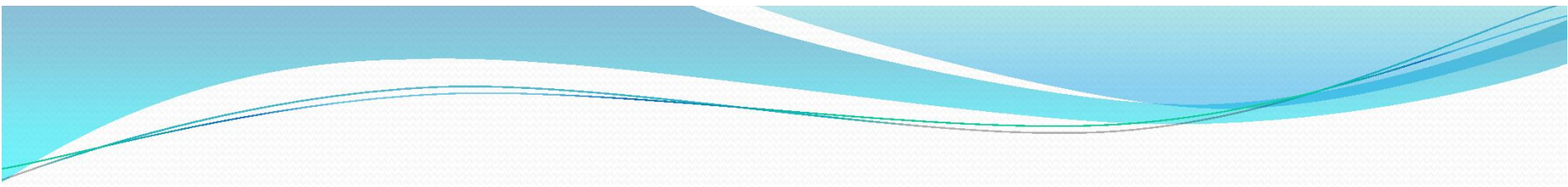


## Scenario 2

- The UK cannot negotiate single market access, receives no special arrangement with the EU and trades on the basis of WTO rules.

### *Likely outcomes*

- Customs controls certain
- Passport controls possible but not certain, depending on an EU derogation

- 
- Regardless of either scenario :
  - The border remains porous and cannot effectively be sealed.
  - Given the possible hardening of UK borders with the rest of Europe it may become the easiest way to enter the UK illegally.
  - So are the Daily Star 's fears founded, and what are the implications for the security of the Irish state ?





# Some Possible Scenarios

- Immigrant flows from Europe to the UK will diminish due to hardened borders and will default to Ireland as an alternative, bringing possible security concerns.

## *The reality*

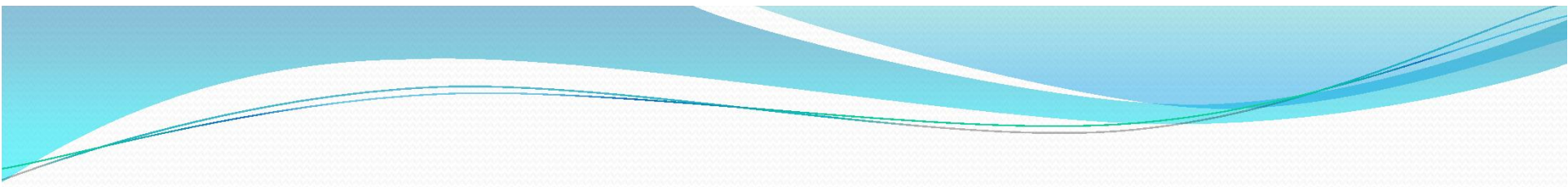
- Favoured points of entry into the UK from Europe are already almost impregnable and this has not had any measurable effect on immigration into Ireland.
- A significant increase of illegal immigration into Ireland as a result of Brexit appears unlikely.

- 
- Terrorists wishing to travel to the UK to commit terrorist attacks will in future travel through Ireland or may attack Ireland instead of the UK.

### *The reality*

- Since 9/11 most terrorist attacks have been home-grown with the perpetrators being radicalised and committing attacks close to where they live.
- Why is this ?



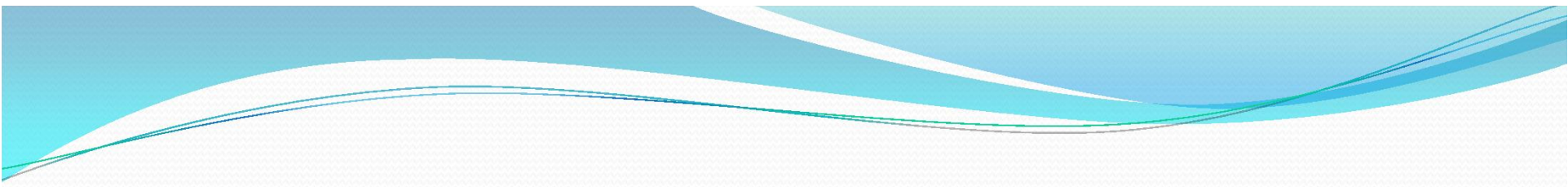
- 
- Trans-national travel to commit a terrorist attack requires extensive planning in terms of pre-existing networks, logistics and surveillance. It is resource intensive in terms of funding and personnel and carries a high risk of failure.
  - Local attacks with weaponised everyday implements and vehicles are encouraged by al'Qaeda and Islamic State.
  - This scenario is not considered likely.



# Foreign Terrorist Fighters

- Travelling FTF's
- May travel through Ireland en-route to Syria.
- Humzah Ali (case study).
- Difficult to counter.
- May increase in frequency.



- 
- Returning FTF's.
  - Considered to be the main danger to the West inherent in this phenomenon.
  - Why?
  - Combat experience (battle hardened)
  - Trained.
  - Traumatized.
  - Mental issues.
  - Further radicalised.
  - May radicalise others

- 
- May be sent to commit attacks in the West.
  - Where is the risk to Ireland ?
  - British FTF's may remain in Ireland as an alternative to going home.

*however*

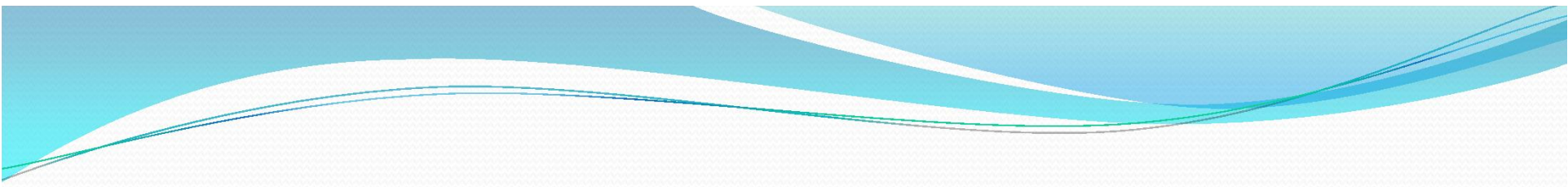
- Throughout Europe with some exceptions (Belgium/France) these fears have not been founded.
- Returned FTF's have mostly dis-engaged from terrorism and re-integrated into their communities.
- The fears however regarding returning FTF's are legitimate.



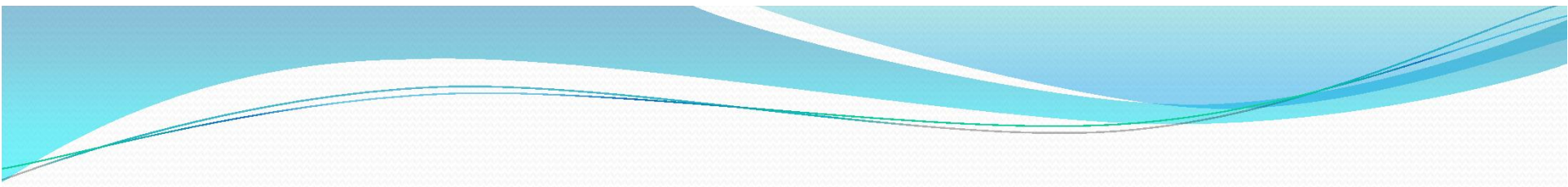


# Radicalisation

- Radicalisation is a process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that reject or undermine the status quo or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice.

- 
- Many factors contribute to radicalisation, they may be:
  - Psychological
  - Sociological or
  - Socio-economic
  - In addition Social movement theory, group dynamics, relative deprivation and frustration aggression, are all thought to have relevance to the process of radicalisation.



- 
- Two of the most important factors insofar as radicalisation is concerned are:
  - Radicalising settings
  - Individual vulnerabilities
  - Without societal factors which contribute to these settings and create personal vulnerabilities. Radicalisation is unlikely to flourish.
  - To date these conditions have not been prevalent in Ireland.
  - Will Brexit alter that ?



# Domestic Radicalisation

- An entire generation with no living memory of the NI troubles
- Dissident Republicans are using Brexit and the threat of the return of a hard border as a physical representation of their ideology.
- This is being used as a radicalising mechanism to recruit impressionable young people.