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18TH MARTIN  
TANSEY MEMORIAL  
LECTURE 2025

Criminal Courts of Justice,  
Thursday, **27th March**  
(registration 5.15pm)

**Dr. Stephanie O'Keeffe**  
CEO, CUAN

**Strategy to tackle  
domestic, sexual and  
gender based violence  
in Ireland**

Register now

[www.acjrd.ie/news/events](http://www.acjrd.ie/news/events)

Association of Criminal Justice Research & Development

ACJRD Events  
Calendar 2025

**New date announced** May 1st:

[The 18<sup>th</sup> Martin Tansey](#)

[Memorial Lecture](#) (registration

5.15pm, Criminal Courts of

Justice). 'Strategy to tackle

domestic, sexual and gender

based violence in Ireland'. Dr

Stephanie O'Keeffe, CEO of

Cuan.

June 12th: **The 28th ACJRD**

**Annual Conference** (full day,

details to be announced)

October 10th: **The 11<sup>th</sup> Irish**

**Criminal Justice Agencies**

**Conference** (full day, details to

be announced)

Keep an eye on [ACJRD's Events](#)

[page](#) for updates.

## Upcoming Events

[Data as a Driver – Informing](#)

[Criminal Justice Policy and](#)

[Practice with Evidence,](#)

Department of Justice open

event. 7 March, 10am to 3pm.

Department of Justice Dublin 2.

[Council of Europe HELP course](#)

[on Anti-discrimination](#) Anti-

discrimination standards under

the ECHR for legal professionals.

(Online).

## Latest News

Welcome to Orla O'Neill,  
ACJRD's Executive Director

We are delighted to welcome Orla O'Neill, ACJRD's new Executive Director, who started in February. Prior to joining ACJRD, Orla was Executive Director of St. Stephen's Green Trust (SSGT), leading the charitable foundation for over two decades between 2004 and 2025. SSGT is an all-island independent grant-maker which supports groups to effect positive social change in critical areas of social justice.

As part of her grantmaker role in SSGT Orla worked with community and voluntary organisations in the prison and probation sectors, most recently around contributing to improving systems of support for families affected by convictions and imprisonment to improve rehabilitation and resettlement outcomes.

"I'm delighted to be joining ACJRD as its vision of a fair and effective criminal justice system accords with my own passion for and commitment to social justice. I believe the mission of ACJRD to inform the collaborative development of effective evidenced-based policy and practice in criminal justice systems can contribute to that vision. There is enormous potential and value in networking, collaboration and learning to effect positive sustainable change and I look forward to supporting ACJRD's continued contribution to that change over the coming years," said Orla.

Orla is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland (FCA) and was previously Executive Director of Schizophrenia Ireland (now Shine). She also worked in Nexus Research, Edelman PR and several accountancy practices. Her education includes a Professional Cert in Governance (IPA), Postgraduate Diploma in Grantmaking Management (Bayes Business School, London), a Cert in Voluntary Sector Management (DCU), Diploma in PR and BA in Economics & Politics from Trinity College.

# The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

The ACJRD marks the contribution Martin Tansey made to Criminal Justice in Ireland and to this association with a [Memorial lecture each spring](#). We are delighted to announce that booking is now open for the 18th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, with Dr Stephanie O’Keeffe, CEO of Cuan, statutory agency under the remit of the Department of Justice dedicated to tackling and reducing domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Dr O’Keeffe will be speaking on '**Strategy to tackle domestic, sexual and gender based violence in Ireland**'. Drawing on her experience of national strategy development and implementation, Dr. O’Keeffe will discuss national strategies over the last 15 years to address Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Ireland, with a particular focus on Zero Tolerance, the current, third national strategy. This talk will draw out the main domains of activity to prevent domestic and sexual violence, to protect victims and survivors and to ensure effective pathways to and through justice. Dr. O’Keeffe will explore the complex issues at hand, the importance of partnership and critical success factors for implementation and impact.

**New date announced** The Lecture will take place on **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025**, registration **5.15pm**, in the Criminal Courts of Justice, Dublin 8. For further details and to register [please see the ACJRD website](#).

## ACJRD Membership 2025

ACJRD membership runs from January to December every year, so members will be receiving communications about renewing membership, or you can [renew now online](#). We are currently planning our 2025 events calendar, to include the AJCRD Annual Conference, the Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture and the Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference, among others, and will publish details of events soon as possible.

If you aren't already a member, membership of ACJRD gives you access to Conferences, Seminars and other events - full details of our Membership packages for Organisations, Individuals or Students can be [found on this page](#).

## Gender-based violence survivors call for reform of 'barbaric' legal system

Survivors called on the Government to enact judicial reforms that would see the use of counselling notes and character references banned in gender-based violence trials. They also urged women to join them on March 8 when a number of protests will be held around the country to demand government action and reform of the justice system. Click [here for the report in The Irish Independent](#).

## Events cont.

[Accelerate Action: The Bar of Ireland's 10th International Women's Day Celebration](#), 6 March, King’s Inns, Dublin 7: Keynote speaker: Ms. Justice Marie Baker (retd.). Panel: Sinéad Burke, CEO & Founder of Tilting the Lens; Senator Eileen Flynn; Rosemary Adaser, Former CEO, The Association of Mixed-Race Irish.

[Body-worn Cameras: Practice, Procedures and Policy Considerations](#), 11 March, Dublin 7: Irish Council for Civil Liberties & The Bar Council of Ireland.

**King’s Inn seminars:** [Diploma in Legal Studies](#) on 22 March (online); [Degree of Barrister-at-Law and Diploma in Legal Studies](#) on 12 April.

[Supporting Survivors: Understanding the Criminal Justice Process \(England and Wales\)](#), 2 April, Survivors’ Network is the Rape Crisis centre for Sussex (online).

[27th Annual Transnational Crime Conference](#), 14-16 May, Santiago, Chile. IBA Business Crime Committee and the IBA Criminal Law Committee.

[13th International Seminar of the European Forum for Restorative Justice](#) (EFRJ), 16-17 May, Athens.

[2025 North South Criminology Conference](#), 'Criminology in Polarised Times: Navigating the Future', 23-25 June. MU.

[Ethnic inequalities in the CJS: Evidence from the Crown Court in England and Wales](#), 23 October (online).

## Vacancies

**International Protection Panel and Repatriation Panel** (The International Protection Office). There is currently no closing date for submitting an application however the IPO/ ISD may introduce a closing date at a later stage, if necessary. Click [here for more information](#).

**Senior Security Compliance Officer** (European Public Prosecutor's Office).  
Deadline: **10 March**. For [more information click here](#).

**Legal Officer (various), Malta** (European Union Agency for Asylum): Legal Officer in the Litigation and Complaints Sector; Legal Officer in the General Legal Affairs Sector.  
Deadline: **11 March**. For [more information click here](#).

**State Solicitor (fixed-term)** (Chief State Solicitor's Office).  
Deadline: **13 March at 3pm**.  
Click here to [access information on this role and the application process](#).

**Chief Executive Officer** (Le Chéile Mentoring). Deadline: **31 March at 5pm**. For [more information click here](#).

## New Armed Support Unit at Enniscorthy Garda station

The Minister of State James Browne at the Department of Justice officially opened a new Armed Supported Unit facility at Enniscorthy Garda Station. The ASU Centre in Enniscorthy will comprise of specialist trained Garda and Supervisory personnel managed by a member of Inspector rank under the command of the Regional Detective Superintendent. Click [here to learn more about the story](#).

## Programme for government

The programme for government included expansion of the Department of Justice to include home affairs and migration; the introduction of live facial recognition technology in specific cases with safeguards; a ban on face coverings at protests; a commitment to the retention of the Special Criminal Court; building a prison at Thornton Hall; a new rural safety strategy; the recruitment of 5,000 Gardaí over five years; expansion of the training college at Templemore; reestablishing the Oireachtas Committee on Drugs Use and a health-led approach to drug addiction, among other provisions.

- The [Programme for Government can be downloaded here](#) (see pages 116-122 for Justice).

Responses to the programme for government can be found at the following links:

- *The Irish Times*: [What's in the programme for government: the main points, from housing and health to transport and trade](#)
- *Bar of Ireland* [Law and Justice priorities within Programme for Government welcomed](#)
- *Law Society of Ireland* [Law Society welcomes 2025 Programme for Government](#)
- *Irish Council for Civil Liberties* [Statement on the Programme for Government](#)
- *Irish Penal Reform Trust* [Securing Our Future – Programme for Government 2025+](#)
- *Rape Crisis Ireland* [RCI welcomes the new Government's commitment to the continued prioritisation of talking Domestic, Sexual, and Gender-Based Violence, and the full implementation of the Zero Tolerance Strategy](#)
- *Social Justice Ireland's* [response to 'Securing our Future'](#)

## Much-delayed Mental Health Bill to progress to next stage

A Mental Health Bill, which is set to overhaul of Ireland's mental health laws, has been restored as part of new government legislative programme. The long-awaited legislation will strengthen regulation around people consenting to the type of treatment they receive. It will also regulate all community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Click [here to read more on the story](#).

## Defamation Bill among planned laws to be revived in new Dáil

Legislation proposed to reform Ireland's defamation laws is among 11 other Bills set to be revived by the Government for progression in the new Dáil. Changes to Ireland's defamation regime have been long sought after by the media, with newspapers and other outlets arguing that Ireland's libel laws are a threat to media freedom. Click [here to read more on the story](#).

## Objections to CCTV failing, event hears

A webinar on legal trends in prosecutions has heard that the courts have "largely dismissed" many arguments against the admission of CCTV evidence in recent years. Click [here to read article](#)

## New Hate Crime Laws in Ireland Came into Force on December 31st

New hate crime legislation has come into effect, which increases prison sentences for certain crimes motivated by hatred. Ireland had previously faced criticism from the Council of Europe and other international human rights bodies for not having specific or statutory provision for hate-aggravated offences. Click [here to read more on the story](#).

## Garda Inspectorate review ToR

The Garda Síochána Inspectorate has commenced a post implementation review to assess progress with implementing its 2020 report, Countering the Threat of Internal Corruption. The [Terms of Reference can be found here](#).

## Northern Ireland News

### CJINI proposed inspections

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJINI) has published terms of reference for the following proposed inspections:

- 'Inspection of Special Measures in Northern Ireland's Criminal Courts' will look at adjustments to typical Court practices, which are made to help Court users, particularly vulnerable or intimidated witnesses, participate fully in Court proceedings and give the best possible evidence before the Court. Click [here to view CJINI press release](#).
- 'Inspection of Child Criminal Exploitation in Northern Ireland' will focus on How the PSNI deals with CCE; other justice organisations will also be examined. Duplication with CJI's Follow-Up Review of its 2020 inspection of how the criminal justice system dealt with Child Sexual Exploitation will be avoided. Click [here to view CJINI press release](#).
- 'Inspection of harbour and airport policing' will focus policing of Belfast Harbour, George Best Belfast City Airport and Belfast International Airport. Click [here to view CJINI press release](#).

## Volunteering

**Victim Support at Court**, or V-SAC, is dedicated to court accompaniment for victims of crime, their families and witnesses. Volunteers are provided with training and support to carry out the work effectively. [Find out about being a volunteer here](#), and [fill out a volunteer application form here](#).

## Internships

**Bar Council of Ireland** pilot internship programme running 23 June - 3 July. Expressions of interest to universities **14 March**; Nominations by universities/institutions **18 March**. Click [here for more information](#).

## Competitions

### Law Student Essay Competition 2025

(Chief State Solicitor's Office). This year's essay title is: *'Please explain the nature and importance of the rule of law generally, together with your views on its current status in Ireland and in a broader international context.'* The first prize is €500, the second prize is €250 and the third prize is €150. Deadline: **Friday 28 March at 5pm**. Click [here to find out more](#).

## Research

**Criminal justice Open Research Dialogue (CORD) Partnership launches Agenda for 2025-26 and Implementation Group.**

Launched in January 2024 with [National Open Research Forum](#) funding, the CORD Partnership aims to embed a culture of interdisciplinary open research in criminal justice in Ireland. Click [here to view the Agenda](#).

## Call for Abstracts

**Help harness the power of administrative data to enhance lives.** The ADR UK Conference 2025, hosted by ADR Wales and taking place in Cardiff from **17-18 September**. Submissions that address the main theme and one of the following sub-themes are invited: 1. Data Linking and Analysis Methods, Systems, and Innovations. 2. Ethics, Governance, Public Engagement, and Involvement. 3. Research Findings and Impact. 4. Training and Capacity Building. Click [here for more details](#).

## Creswell Review terms of reference published

The terms of reference for an independent review into the Jonathan Creswell case, have been published by the NI Justice Minister. Naomi Long has further announced Jan Melia as the Independent Reviewer – a current Domestic Homicide Review Chairperson and the former CEO of Women’s Aid Federation NI. Click [here for further information](#).

## Agreed vision and priorities needed to transform NI criminal justice system

The lack of a collectively agreed vision and strategic priorities shared by the Department of Justice and the key criminal justice organisations in Northern Ireland has been identified as a barrier to delivering change in the criminal justice system. Click [here to view the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland \(CJINI\) press release](#).

## More than 5,400 apply to Recruitment campaigns 2025

The Police Service of Northern Ireland’s latest recruitment drive for Student Officers, which launched on Wednesday 22 January and closed on Wednesday 12 February, has attracted a total of 4,822 applications. The Call Handler competition which launched on Monday 27 January and closed on Monday 17 February attracted 587 applicants seeking to pursue a career in policing. Click [here for more information](#).

## Delivery plan for justice reform published

NI Justice Minister Naomi Long has published a programme to improve how access to justice is delivered. The Enabling Access Programme Delivery Plan will be subject to consultation for eight weeks. The consultation is available on the [Citizenspace platform](#) on NIdirect website and will be open until 27 March 2025. Click [here for more information](#).

## Judges stressed and unhappy with pay

Judges in Northern Ireland are highly stressed, feel under-paid and are increasingly concerned about their personal safety, according to new research. Researchers published the findings of the 2024 UK Judicial Attitude Survey (JAS), a biennial longitudinal survey of all serving judges in the UK carried out on behalf of the judiciaries of Northern Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland. Click [here for more information](#).

## Irish language to be used in NI courts with repeal of 18th Century law

The Irish language is set to be used in court in Northern Ireland due to the repeal of a law that is almost 300 years old. A proposal to allow the use of Irish in court was contained in the [New Decade New Approach deal in January 2020](#). Click [here for more information](#).

## International News

### Joint enterprise law reform will help solve UK justice system crisis

Reform of joint enterprise laws can help to solve the crisis facing the justice system, a review of the criminal courts has been told by experts. Joint enterprise law allows someone to be charged with another person's crime if it is believed that they foresaw it and intended to encourage or assist them. Black people are 16 times more likely to be prosecuted under the principle than white people. Click [here to view article in The Guardian](#).

### New Eurojust-hosted project widens scope of actions against impunity for war crimes and genocide beyond EU

Cooperation with countries outside the European Union to fight impunity for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity will be bolstered by a dedicated new project launched today at Eurojust. This should lead to fewer 'safe havens' for perpetrators of such core international crimes. The collaboration with civil society organisations (CSOs) and coordination of their efforts can also be strengthened via this four-year [National Authorities against Impunity Project](#) (IMPNA). Click [here to read more](#).

### Female prison population growing faster than male, worldwide

According to the sixth edition of the World Female Imprisonment List, over 733,000 women and girls are currently incarcerated worldwide. This List, published by the Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research (ICPR) at University of London, provides information on female prisoners in nearly every country. Click [here to see summary findings and to download the World Female Imprisonment List](#).

### PACE General Rapporteur appalled by planned firing squad execution in US

Gala Veldhoen (Netherlands, SOC), General Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on the abolition of the death penalty, has expressed her dismay at the announcement of a firing squad execution in the United States. Click [here to view](#).

## Funding

[Cork Equal and Sustainable Communities Alliances Grassroots Grant Scheme 2025](#).  
Deadline: **14 March**.

Access Europe. [JUSTICE - Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects on training of justice professionals covering civil law, criminal law or fundamental rights](#). Deadline: **26 March**, 5pm Brussels time.

Access Europe. [ESF+ Framework partnership agreements and annual operating grants to support EU level Social NGO Networks](#). Deadline: **8 April**, 5pm Brussels time.

Access Europe. [ESF+ Annual operating grants to support EU-level Social NGO Networks](#).  
Deadline: **15 April**, 5pm Brussels time.

Access Europe. [Justice - Call for proposals for action grants to promote judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters](#).  
Deadline: **April 23**, 5pm Brussels time.

[Rethink Ireland Funding Supporting Marginalised Communities](#). Deadlines: various.

## Invitations to Tender

**Exploring the links between social deprivation and the criminal justice system**. Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT).  
Deadline: **18 March at 12 noon**.  
Click [here for details](#).

**Office of the Inspector of Prisons: Technical Support for More Effective and Resilient NPM**. Deadline: **10 March**. Click [here for details](#).

## Listen/Watch

**Behind the walls of Mountjoy prison for the Mountjoy Prison Park Run.** The Claire Byrne Shown on RTE Radio 1 was given exclusive access to Ireland's most unique Park Run inside Mountjoy Prison. Click [here to listen to the Podcast and learn more about the Mountjoy Run](#).

**Reith Lectures: forensic psychiatrist Dr Gwen Adshead - Four Questions about Violence.** In her 2024 Reith Lectures, Dr Gwen Adshead addresses the most pertinent questions that she has faced in her work as a forensic psychiatrist in secure psychiatric units and prisons. Click [here to listen to episodes](#). See also: [Five things I've learned from working with violent perpetrators](#).

**The justice minister to establish a public sex offenders list.** Drivetime, RTE. The Minister for Justice said he will establish a domestic violence register of people convicted of rape or sexual assault in response to a motion on gender-based violence "Valerie's Law". Click [here to listen](#).

**Do we need the International Criminal Court?** BBC, The Inquiry. Despite its high-profile cases, the court has only secured 11 convictions in 23 years. Its slow trials and high costs have drawn criticism, leading some to question whether reform—or even an alternative—is needed. But with 125 member states still backing its mission, is the ICC an institution the world can afford to lose? Click [here to listen](#).

**PACE hearing on the alleged use of Pegasus and similar spyware, including in Serbia and Spain.** Click [here to view on YouTube](#).

## New Legal Framework on Collection and Transmission of Advance Passenger Information

On 8 January 2025, the new legal EU framework on the collection and transfer of advance passenger information (API) for border control and law enforcement purposes was published in the EU's Official Journal. Click [here for information on the regulations](#).

## 'Tough on crime' policies behind UK prison crisis, says review

Successive governments trying to look "tough on crime" have driven the rising prison population which forced the early release of thousands of inmates last year, a review suggests. The report by the Independent Sentencing Review found governments over the past 25 years jailed more criminals, despite evidence it does not prevent re-offending. Click here to read [the BBC article](#) and [click here to view the report](#).

## Frontex Reprimanded for Data Exchange with Europol

In early January 2025, the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) reprimanded Frontex for failing to comply with its Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/1896) when transmitting the personal data of suspects of cross-border crimes to Europol. Click [here for further information](#).

## EU+ asylum applications decrease

The EUAA has published its annual analysis of asylum trends in 2024. The number of asylum applications received in the EU+ decreased by over one tenth (11%) in 2024. Evaluating which EU+ countries receive the most applications for asylum is important, but a simple like-for-like comparison is not always appropriate because their asylum and reception capacities can vary. Click [here for more information](#).

## You may have missed...

### Drogheda Implementation Board thanked for improving safety

The extended term of the Drogheda Implementation Board came to an end on 31 December 2024. The Board was established to oversee the implementation of the report '*Drogheda: Building a Bridge to a Better Future*'. Significant progress has been made on the 74 recommendations as set out in the *Drogheda Report Implementation Plan*. To view the [press release please click here](#). Further information can be found on [the Drogheda Implementation Board website](#).

## Appointments to the Legal Services Regulatory Authority

The Department of Justice appointed eight members to the Legal Services Regulatory Authority in December. The LSRA is responsible for regulating the legal professions in Ireland. Eight members were appointed to the government, which includes six new appointments and two reappointments. Mr. Tom Boland was also appointed to be the Authority's new chairperson.

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority is responsible for the regulation of the provision of legal services by legal practitioners. The 2015 Act sets out, at section 13(4), the six statutory objectives of the Authority:

- protect and promote the public interest
- support the proper and effective administration of justice
- protect and promote the interests of consumers relating to the provision of legal services
- promote competition in the provision of legal services in the State
- encourage an independent, strong and effective legal profession
- promote and maintain adherence to the professional principles of legal practitioners as specified in the Act

Click [here to read more](#).

## Ireland's first Mental Health Research Strategy

The Health Research Board (HRB) and Department of Health launched Ireland's first Mental Health Research Strategy in December. The strategy's vision is an Ireland with a thriving mental health research system that strengthens our understanding of mental health and positively impacts mental health and wellbeing for all.

The strategy aligns with [Sharing the Vision – A Mental Health Policy for Everyone](#) and was a key recommendation of its Implementation Plan 2022-2024. It reflects the policy's commitment to evidence-informed mental health services and supports. Click [here to read more](#).

## Campaign on supports for victims of domestic and sexual violence

The campaign 'Always Here' has been raising awareness on the pathways to safety and support available to victims of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence. The Department of Justice describe their central message being that when someone takes that brave step to seek help from state agencies such as An Garda Síochána and the Court Service or from any other vital organization the community and voluntary sectors that work with victims - that they will be listened to, they will be taken seriously and they will be given the support they need. Click [here to learn more about the story](#).

## Listen/Watch cont.

**Criminal Justice Inspection Unpacked**, CJINI. If you are curious about the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland and what is being done to improve it, CJI's podcast is dedicated to bringing you the findings of our inspection in a relax and accessible way. Click [here to access podcast episodes](#) including: Probation Practice Follow-up Review; Youth Interventions; Effective Criminal Court Administration; Education and Health at Hydebank Wood.

**Architecture and Hope**, BBC Thinking Allowed. Yvonne Jewkes, Professor of Criminology at the University of Bath and author of *An Architecture of Hope: Reimagining the prison*, talks to Laurie Taylor about the design of prisons and the importance of an architecture of hope which nurtures the possibility of rehabilitation, from Limerick to Norway. Click [here to listen](#).

**Should Gardaí be allowed to search for stolen goods without a warrant if they're geo-tagged?** RTE Drivetime. With mobile phone, bike, and car thefts increasing could the UK's new warrantless search law be a model for Gardaí? Former Garda Inspector and currently Risk Security and Event Manager with the Ashtree Risk Group, Tony Gallagher. Click [here to listen](#).

**Why people stalk: The psychology of 'Baby Reindeer'** (RTE). Dr John O'Connor, assistant professor in clinical psychology at Trinity College Dublin, has specialised in examining the causes of stalking and tells Katie Hannon how it has changed in the digital age. Click [here to listen](#).

## Listen/Watch cont.

**You Do Not Have to Say Anything**, BBC. Some questions, raised and answered on the British Justice system. Presented by criminal defence barrister Joanna Hardy Susskind. Click [here to access episodes](#).

**PACE hearing: Magnitsky funds frozen in Switzerland should not be returned to their Russian holders**. Following a decade of legal wrangling, Switzerland's top court ruled that around 14 million Swiss francs in frozen funds, alleged to have been embezzled from the Russian Treasury as part of a massive fraud uncovered by Russian lawyer and whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky, could be returned to three Russian citizens suspected of involvement in the fraud. Click [here to access on YouTube](#).

## Regulation on the Transfer of Criminal Proceedings Published

On 18 December 2024, Regulation (EU) 2024/3011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transfer of proceedings in criminal matters was published in the EU's Official Journal L 2024/3011. The Regulation lays down rules on the transfer of criminal proceedings between the EU Member States with a view to improving the efficient and proper administration of justice within the common area of freedom, security and justice. It applies in all cases of transfer of criminal proceedings conducted in Member States, including Ireland (which opted in), but except Denmark (which is not part due to its opt-out in the EU's justice and home affairs policies). Click [here to download the report](#).

## Garda national crackdown on organised retail crime

In December 2023, An Garda Síochána launched Operation Táirge as a way to target organized retail crime. The Department of Justice have reported that over 8,000 arrests and 20,052 charges were recorded in association with Operation Táirge between December 2023 and November 2024. Click [here to learn more about the story](#).

## ICCL Submission to the Public Consultation on Jury Reform

Irish Council for Civil Liberties' submission addresses three issues raised in the Consultation Paper: jury tampering; capacity to carry out the functions of a juror; and jury selection. Click [here to view the submission](#).

## 8% increase in criminal legal aid fees comes into effect

The Department of Justice have announced that an 8% increase in fees paid to barristers and solicitors under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme has come to effect since January 1st, as previously announced in the Budget 2025. Click [here to learn more about the story](#).

## ICPR submits evidence from its prison labour research to Justice Committee

ICPR have drawn on international prisons research to inform an inquiry seeking to raise standards in our prison system. 'Rehabilitation and resettlement: ending the cycle of reoffending' is the first Justice Committee inquiry of the current parliament. Click [here for more information](#). See also [Professor Mike Hough: Public opinion and sentencing reform](#).

## Hydebank Wood secures ‘first’ for prisoner outcomes

Hydebank Wood Secure College and Hydebank Wood Women’s Prison have become the first prison facilities in Northern Ireland to secure the highest achievable level for prisoner outcomes against the ‘healthy prison’ tests. After an inspection from inspectors from the CJI they observed signs of a quality relationship between both the prisoners and the staff in both prisons. Click [here to view the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland \(CJINI\) press release](#). CJINI have also produced episodes of their [Criminal Justice Inspection Unpacked podcasts](#) focused on Hydebank Woods. to download the report.

## Recent Publications

### Department of Justice Report on the Gender Pay Gap 2024

Men earned more, on average, than women at 16 of the 17 government departments that published details of their gender pay gaps before the end of 2024. However, the gap in favour of men was cut at 11 departments including the Department of Justice, where it was reduced from 5.3 per cent to 1.3 per cent. Click [here to view report in The Irish Times](#), and click here to access the [Department of Justice Report on the Gender Pay Gap 2024](#).

### Corporate criminal liability under the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act (ECCTA) 2023

This article in Cambridge University Press argues that an opportunity was missed in the ECCTA 2023 to make a failure-to-prevent serious crime a more generally applicable principle of corporate criminal liability. Click [here to access the article](#).

### Publication of ‘A Framework for the Inspection of Prisons in Ireland’ (2024)

The Office of the Inspector of Prisons has published its updated Inspection Framework. Changes to the Inspection Framework were made following extensive consultations with key stakeholders including people in prison, prison staff, management, national and international monitoring bodies and community-based organisations. Click [here to view](#).

### Reform of Judicial Selection Procedures in Ireland

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) published a report which examines and makes recommendations for reforming the procedures for selecting and appointing judges in Ireland. Click [here to view the report](#).

## Annual Reports & Strategies

[Irish Prison Service 2023 Annual Report](#)

[Office of the DPP 2023 Annual Report](#)

[Office of the DPP Strategy Statement 2025-2027](#)

[Restorative Justice Service 2023 Annual Report](#)

[Private Security Authority Annual Report 2023](#)

[Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Strategy Statement 2025-2027](#) (click [here](#) for easy to read guide)

[Irish Courts Strategic Plan: 2024-27](#)

[FutureBar: 2024-2027, Council of The Bar of Ireland](#)

[European Public Prosecutor’s Office \(EPPO\) 2024 Annual Report](#)

## Other Publications

[Public Sector Duty towards Human Rights and Equality: Assessment and Action Plan 2024-2025](#). Department of Social Protection.

[Falling behind the PACE: lie detectors, policing and lack of foreseeability – an FOI-based study](#). Cambridge University Press.

[Report Card 2025](#) - analysis of Programme for Government: Our how it performed for children in 2024. Children’s Rights Alliance.

[Ireland: publication of the 5th Advisory Committee Opinion](#) - The Framework Convention for The Protection of National Minorities.

## Other Publications

cont.

[Independent review of the Northern Ireland Policing Board Report](#). Paul Sweeney, commissioned by NI Justice Minister Naomi Long MLA.

[EFRJ Briefing Paper on The Use of Restorative Justice in Cases of Violence Against Women](#). European Forum for Restorative Justice.

[Access to Justice for International Protection Applicants in Ireland](#). Doras.

[Managing Change to Build a Just Society – Social Justice Ireland](#). Conference proceedings. Social Justice Ireland.

To submit notices for the ACJRD newsletter and website, please email [enquiries@acjrd.ie](mailto:enquiries@acjrd.ie)

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[ACJRD on Bluesky](#)

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## Policing Authority half-year assessment of policing performance

The Policing Authority published their half-year assessment of policing performance, evaluating An Garda Síochána's policing performance to the end of June 2024. The report highlights the positive Data and Technology journey that the Garda Síochána has undergone over the lifetime of the Authority. It also provides commentary on notable achievements, challenges and risks in key areas. Click [here for more information](#).

## District Court Research - South East Technological University

The Sentencing Guidelines and Information Committee (SGIC) of the Judicial Council contracted Dr Niamh Maguire to carry out research relating to sentencing in the District Court, and in particular in cases of Relationship Violence and Abuse. The SGIC is pleased to publish this research, which also identifies District Court Judges' views on the sentencing process in the District Court. Click [here for further information](#).

## Community Sanctions in Ireland

The SGIC has also prepared a paper which outlines the various community-based sanctions which are available to judges, with particular reference to the District Court. Click [here for further information](#).

## Common challenges in cybercrime

'Common Challenges in Cybercrime' is a collaborative effort between Eurojust and Europol that addresses persistent and emerging challenges in the realm of cybercrime. It provides updates on significant developments and introduces information about new legislative tools aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of measures for fighting cybercrime. Click [here to view](#).

## Joint Report on the European Protection Order

Based on a country-level online survey targeting representatives of the judiciary and victim support services, the report highlights that the EPO is little known among practitioners. Click [here to view the report](#).

## ACJRD Membership 2025

Memberships run for the calendar year January – December and entitles members to discounts for our Annual Conference, preferential bookings for certain events and invitations to a limited number of member-only events.

Three types of ACJRD membership are available: Individual Membership €35.00, Organisational Membership €155, Student Membership €25.

Click here for [further information on ACJRD Membership](#).