

## **FOI Request**

*“The number of complaints received by your offices in relation to gardai of the k district since 2014”*

A few items to note.

- The figures below are drawn from complaints received in 2016 - 2022 (January to August). Please see the note at the foot of this email for an explanation of this, and for more information on how complaints are processed, including matters of admissibility
- Please note that the below information should be treated as indicative only. It was retrieved on foot of your request and does not represent official, published, statistical information from GSOC.
- Related to this, I note that this information is indicative of the situation as of today. Information on cases, by its nature, is dynamic, and subject to update on foot of further information received during the course of an investigation.

That all outlined, please see the below.

The Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR) West contains three separate Districts, the Blanchardstown ‘K’ District, Clondalkin ‘L’ District and Lucan ‘Q’ District. The District K consists of Blanchardstown, Cabra and Finglas Garda Station.

### **2022**

To date, a total of 1,044 complaints have been opened in 2022 containing 1,544 allegations. Please note one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

A total of 31 complaints were received in the ‘K’ District containing 58 allegations.

### **2021**

A total of 2,189 complaints were opened in 2021 containing 3,760 allegations. Please note one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

A total of 81 complaints were received in the ‘K’ District containing 223 allegations.

### **2020**

A total of 1,955 complaints were opened in 2020 containing 3,690 allegations. Please note one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

A total of 101 complaints were received in the ‘K’ District containing 235 allegations.

## **2019**

A total of 1,754 complaints were opened in 2019 containing 3,218 allegations. Please note one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

A total of 66 complaints were received in the 'K' District containing 102 allegations.

## **2018**

A total of 1,917 complaints were opened in 2018 containing 3,144 allegations. Please note one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

A total of 65 complaints were received in the 'K' District containing 101 allegations.

## **2017**

A total of 1,949 complaints were opened in 2017 containing 4,708 allegations. Please note one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

A total of 64 complaints were received in the 'K' District containing 171 allegations.

## **2016**

A total of 1,253 complaints were opened in 2016 containing 3,207 allegations. Please note one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

A total of 56 complaints were received in the 'K' District containing 159 allegations.

### **Note on how complaints are assessed by GSOC**

All complaints received by GSOC are assessed against criteria listed in the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 to determine if they are admissible. For a complaint to be admissible, it must meet the following criteria:

According to section 87 of the Act, GSOC can admit a complaint if it:

- It must be made by (or, in certain circumstances. On behalf of) a person who is directly affected by, or who witnesses, the conduct subject of complaints;
- It must relate to behaviour which would, if proven, constitute a criminal offence or a breach of Garda discipline by a member of the Garda Síochána;
- It must be made within the time limit of within one year of the incident subject of the complaint;
- It must not relate to the general direction and control of the Garda Síochána by the Garda Commissioner; and
- It must not relate to the conduct of a member of the Garda Síochána while the member was off duty, unless the conduct alleged would, if proven, be likely to bring discredit on the Garda Síochána.

If a complaint does not meet the criteria it is deemed inadmissible and no further action is taken by GSOC.

After a complaint is deemed admissible it can be dealt with in a number of ways depending on what is alleged.

All allegations of criminal offences by Gardaí are investigated by GSOC investigators under section 98 of the Act.

If breaches of discipline have been identified these complaints can be dealt with in a number of ways, such as:

- unsupervised disciplinary investigations (under section 94 of the Act), conducted by Garda Superintendents
- Supervised investigation (under section 94(5)). These are also conducted by Garda Superintendents but are supervised by GSOC investigators. These investigations are conducted by Garda Superintendents in line with Garda Discipline regulations.
- Non-criminal investigations (under section 95 of the Act) are carried out by GSOC investigators.