

Query

A database/spreadsheet/record of the number of complaints made to GSOC in the calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022. This record ideally to include the month of the complaint, a categorisation of the nature of the complaint, the outcome of the complaint, whether the complaint led to disciplinary action or criminal prosecution.

Response

Of the above-requested information, much of it is already published and available in the public domain.

A record of the number of complaints made to GSOC per calendar year is included in GSOC's published annual reports. These complaints are also categorised by nature of complaint.

- The 2020 Annual Report is available [HERE](#). A record of the number of complaints and categorisation of these complaints can be found at page 12.
- The 2021 Annual Report is available [HERE](#). A record of the number of complaints and categorisation of these complaints can be found at page 37.
- The 2022 Annual Report is available [HERE](#). A record of the number of complaints and categorisation of these complaints can be found at page 39.

GSOC Annual Reports also publish information on investigation outcomes. The focus on outcomes in Annual Reports, however, is on investigations *closed* in the calendar year being reported. Not all such investigations will have been opened in that same year. GSOC Annual Reports also break down such outcomes by allegation, rather than by complaint (one complaint may contain several allegations).

These outcomes tables are available in the [2020 Annual Report](#) at page 24, the [2021 Annual Report](#) at page 43 / 44 and the [2022 Annual Report](#) at page 45 / 46.

This leaves two categories of information you requested that are not, as standard, published in GSOC's annual reporting:

- A month-by-month breakdown of complaints received in a given year
- Information on complaint outcomes per year, arranged by *year of complaint receipt* (rather than year of complaint closure).

Below we provide this information for you.

A few items to note.

- The figures below are drawn from complaints (and allegations contained therein) received in 2020, 2021 and 2022, as specified in the FOI request.
- 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. Information on cases, by its nature, is dynamic, and subject to update on foot of further information that may emerge during the course of an investigation.

Further information on the complaints process, admissibility, and other matters, is also provided in the notes at the end of this document for context and background.

That all outlined, please see the below.

2020

A total of 1,955 complaints were opened in 2020. The 1,955 complaints contained 3,089 allegations – one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

Please see the breakdown per month of complaints received in 2020:

Month	Number of Complaints
January	136
February	138
March	115
April	72
May	140
June	194
July	226
August	160
September	200
October	198
November	233
December	143

Please see the breakdown of complaints opened in 2020 and their outcomes:

2020	Complaints
Number of Complaints	1,955
Deemed inadmissible	688
Withdrawn prior to Decision	2
Admissible / Part Admissible:	
• Remain Open	34
• Allegation withdrawn	168
• Further investigation not necessary	743
• GSOC identifies no misbehaviour by member following s98	69
• Fine imposed	1
• GC identified no breach of the Discipline regulations	188

- Warning 8
- Advice 28
- Non-cooperation 31
- Caution 7
- Dismissal 1
- Garda Discipline regulations no longer apply 12
- Referred to DPP – No prosecution directed 5
- Referred to DPP – Prosecution directed 1
- Inadmissible 25
- Reprimand 5
- Reduction in pay not exceeding 2 weeks 2

Note – Some complaints can have more than one unique outcome for example partly admissible. There can also be more than one allegation within the one complaint with different outcomes.

2021

A total of 2,189 complaints were opened in 2021. The 2,189 complaints contained 3,760 allegations – one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

Please see the breakdown per month of complaints received in 2021:

Month	Number of Complaints
January	118
February	154
March	173
April	257
May	197
June	152
July	214
August	171
September	221
October	189
November	201
December	142

Please see the breakdown of complaints opened in 2021 and their outcomes:

2021	Complaints
Number of Complaints	2,189
Deemed inadmissible	855
Withdrawn prior to Decision	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain Open • Allegation withdrawn • Further investigation not necessary • GSOC identifies no misbehaviour by member following s98 • Fine imposed • GC identified no breach of the Discipline regulations • Warning • Advice • Non-cooperation • Caution • Garda Discipline regulations no longer apply • Referred to DPP – No prosecution directed • Inadmissible • Reprimand • Reduction in pay not exceeding 2 weeks • Suspension of duty 	<p>66</p> <p>152</p> <p>847</p> <p>34</p> <p>2</p> <p>178</p> <p>6</p> <p>27</p> <p>36</p> <p>8</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>28</p> <p>5</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p>

Note – Some complaints can have more than one unique outcome for example partly admissible. There can also be more than one allegation within the one complaint with different outcomes.

2022

A total of 1,826 complaints were opened in 2022. The 1,826 complaints contained 3,207 allegations – one complaint can contain more than one allegation.

Please see the breakdown per month of complaints received in 2022:

Month	Number of Complaints
January	136
February	185
March	142
April	146
May	126
June	205

July	104
August	189
September	183
October	140
November	173
December	97

Please see the breakdown of complaints opened in 2022 and their outcomes:

2022	Complaints
Number of Complaints	1,826
Deemed inadmissible	917
Closed prior to admissibility decision	4

Admissible / Part Admissible:

• Remain Open	132
• Allegation withdrawn	92
• Further investigation not necessary	476
• GSOC identifies no misbehaviour by member following s98	32
• Fine imposed	2
• GC identified no breach of the Discipline regulations	124
• Warning	3
• Advice	19
• Non-cooperation	22
• Caution	5
• Garda Discipline regulations no longer apply	1
• Referred to DPP – No prosecution directed	2
• Referred to DPP – Prosecution directed	1
• Inadmissible	25
• Reprimand	1
• Reduction in pay not exceeding 2 weeks	1
• Resolved through local Intervention	1

Note – Some complaints can have more than one unique outcome for example partly admissible. There can also be more than one allegation within the one complaint with different outcomes.

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.

Explanation of outcomes:

GSOC identifies no misbehaviour following criminal investigation – The most common scenario here is that there was no independent evidence to prove the allegations made.

No breach of discipline regulations identified – At conclusion of investigation the report received by GSOC indicated no breach of discipline.

Further investigation not necessary or reasonably practicable – There was not enough evidence to substantiate either version of events so the complaint could not be proven or disproven