

### Your request sought

*"I wish to know the number of complaints that GSOC is dealing with as of the 7th of March 2023.*

*I wish to know the number of complaints concerning the Dublin Metropolitan Region as of the 7th of March 2023.*

*I also wish to know the number of complaints concerning the DMR West and DMR South Central Divisions and a breakdown of the complaints by District as of the 7th of March 2023 please"*

### Response

A few items to note.

- The figures below are drawn from complaints currently being investigated by GSOC. 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.

*I wish to know the number of complaints that GSOC is dealing with as of the 7th of March 2023.*

As of the 07<sup>th</sup> March 2023, GSOC had a total of **1,039** open complaints ongoing. This number represents complaints at different 'phases' of the case management process. This would include complaints recently received and at an initial assessment stage and complaints at a more advanced investigation phase.

*I wish to know the number of complaints concerning the Dublin Metropolitan Region as of the 7th of March 2023.*

GSOC is currently investigating **399** complaints concerning gardaí from the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR).

*I also wish to know the number of complaints concerning the DMR West and DMR South Central Divisions and a breakdown of the complaints by District as of the 7th of March 2023 please*

GSOC is currently investigating **74** complaints concerning members from the DMR South Central division and **80** concern garda members from the DMR West.

The total number of complaints investigated by GSOC staff against members of the Garda Síochána based in the DMR South Central and DMR West is **154**.

Breakdown of open cases in DMR South Central:

District	Complaint	Allegations
Pearse Street	45	118
Donnybrook	9	18
Kevin Street	17	56
District not yet established	3	8

Breakdown of open cases in DMR West:

District	Complaint	Allegations
Blanchardstown	43	181
Clondalkin	23	39
Lucan	14	16

#### **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.