

# JUSTICE PLAN 2021

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice







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# Ministerial Foreword

I am delighted to welcome this mid-year progress report on the Justice Action Plan 2021.

This progress report updates on the significant work programme undertaken by the Department of Justice over the first six months of this year and forms part of an annual process in which we will measure the progress of concrete actions to be delivered according to strict timelines each year.

Minister McEntee published the Justice Action Plan on 22 February outlining 240 actions to build a justice system that works for everyone. Our Justice Plan, and the actions we have strived to implement this year to begin our programme of reform have been progressed substantially.

We have worked across the Justice sector to receive feedback on our progress and to ensure that we hold each other to our targets despite the profound obstacles placed in our way by COVID-19.

I want to sincerely thank the staff of the Department and its agencies for their commitment and professionalism in this difficult period. We would not have been able to achieve the clear progress we have made this without your hard work.

For the remainder of the year we will strive to implement the ambitious reforms begun this year and to build a justice system which contributes to the improvement of society for everyone.

**Heather Humphreys T.D.**  
Minister for Justice



# Introduction from the Secretary General

I am pleased to introduce the mid-year progress report on Justice Plan 2021 – the first of its kind for the Department and my first as Secretary General.

The five high level goals set in our Statement of Strategy 2021-2023 reflect the breadth, complexity and importance of the Department's mission to work for a safe, fair and inclusive Ireland. The work that the Department of Justice delivers on has meaning and purpose because it directly impacts on the public, often at times of vulnerability or personal crisis.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, we set ourselves ambitious targets and milestones to achieve our five high level goals in the Justice Plan 2021. I am pleased to report that over two thirds of the 132 actions reported on

for delivery in the first half of 2021 have been achieved while we have also continued to prioritise a wide range of work in support of public health.

It is also important to say that the actions contained in the Justice Plan are just a snapshot of the substantial programme of work being delivered on by this Department. Not captured by such ambitious plans are the 'business as usual' work carried out by my colleagues on a daily basis, without which none of these ambitious reforms and actions could be delivered. I am immensely proud of the adaptability, commitment and resilience shown by my dedicated colleagues throughout this pandemic.

As this plan is derived from the Statement of Strategy, it has in turn informed our business planning processes. The development of this and future Justice Plans is an iterative process – we are learning from our successes and our setbacks, while remaining resolutely ambitious, and proud to work for a fair, safe and inclusive Ireland.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oonagh McPhillips".

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**Oonagh McPhillips**  
Secretary General

# Executive Summary

Justice Plan 2021 is the first in a series of annual plans setting out actions specifically targeted to achieve the Department’s goals and ambitions as set out in the Department’s Statement of Strategy, for the years 2021-2023, A safe, fair and inclusive Ireland. The actions contained within the Justice Plan are grouped within the five overarching goals for the Department over this three year period:

1. Tackle crime, enhance national security and transform policing.
2. Improve access to justice and modernise the courts system.
3. Strengthen community safety, reduce reoffending, support victims and combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence.
4. Deliver a fair immigration system for a digital age.
5. Accelerate innovation, digital transformation and climate action across the justice sector.

The full Justice Plan 2021 can be viewed at: [http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Department\\_of\\_Justice\\_Action\\_Plan\\_2021.pdf/Files/Department\\_of\\_Justice\\_Action\\_Plan\\_2021.pdf](http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Department_of_Justice_Action_Plan_2021.pdf/Files/Department_of_Justice_Action_Plan_2021.pdf).

To ensure a measurable and transparent process, progress on Justice Plan 2021 is examined by the Ministers of the Department on a regular basis in meetings with the Department’s Management Board. We have also committed to publishing two progress reports annually, mid-year and at the end of the year. This report is the first such report for 2021 and outlines progress made on the actions and sub-actions due for delivery in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2021. While providing details on the achievements made during this period, the report also updates on actions that are ongoing and those where significant progress has been made but where it has been necessary to adjust the delivery date.

Of the 132 actions and sub-actions examined and reported on in this progress report, over two thirds (71%, 93 actions) are achieved as of the end of Q2. While this represents good

progress on our ambitions as set out in the Department’s Statement of Strategy, some work remains to be done to deliver on the full suite of actions targeted for delivery by the end of Q2.

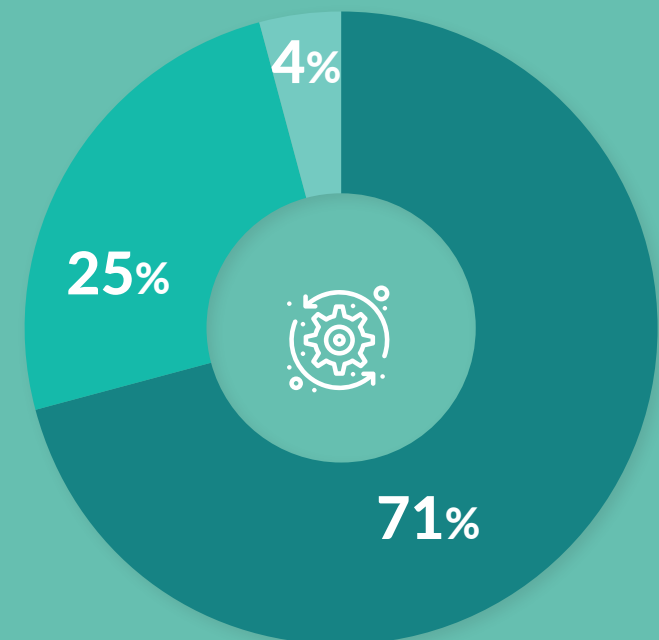
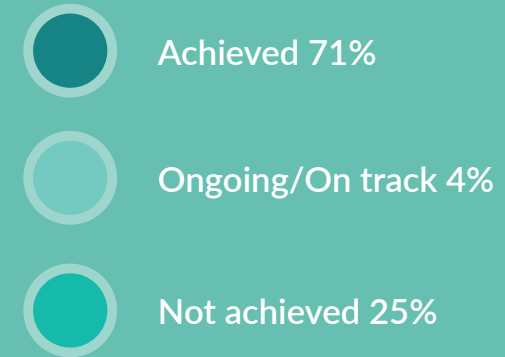
As set out below, 4% or 6 of the actions are categorised as ‘ongoing’ – that is to say that while these actions are on track and no issues are arising, the nature of the action is that work will continue throughout the year to ensure its successful delivery.

The remaining 25% (33) of actions are categorised as ‘not yet achieved’. While significant progress has been made on many of the outstanding actions, work is required to bring these to completion. A narrative update has been provided in respect of the ongoing and not yet achieved actions.

Significant achievements have been made to date across the cross-cutting areas of priority under the Justice Plan:

- Introduced strong measures to tackle the cost of insurance, including bringing into operation new personal injuries guidelines and enacting the Perjury Bill to establish a statutory criminal offence for perjury
- Enacted Coco's Law to criminalise the distribution of intimate images without consent
- Published the findings of the O'Malley Review and agreed an implementation plan to protect vulnerable witnesses involved in the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences
- Continuing to work on plans to increase the penalty of conspiracy to murder to life imprisonment, in particular to deal with gangland crime
- Commenced a targeted community intervention programme to prevent children most at risk from criminal gangs from being recruited, and announced harsh new penalties against those who groom children to commit offences
- Removed reporting restrictions which prevented parents from speaking publicly about their deceased child in cases where the child was unlawfully killed
- Published the first cross-government plan to implement reforms to tackle economic crime and corruption.
- Published the landmark General Scheme of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill, which provides for wide-ranging and coherent reform of policing by improving the performance and accountability of our policing and security services, and supporting the human rights of all people throughout Ireland to be and feel safe in their communities.

## STATUS OF Q1/Q2 ACTIONS AS OF END JUNE



- Delivered on Ireland’s successful connection to Schengen Information System (SIS II) which has already led to an increased number of arrests
  - Delivering a compassionate approach to citizenship, with draft law published to change residency requirements for naturalisation of children born in the State from 5 years to 3 years
  - Launched a new Immigration Service Customer Service Network to drive best practice and ensure consistent service quality for Immigration Service users, including the introduction of a centralised customer service help-desk.
  - Continuing to work on drafting the new family law bill to overhaul and modernise family law and the courts to ensure disputes can be settled in a less adversarial way
  - Renewed the Offences Against the State Act to ensure we continue to have the powers to tackle terrorism and organised crime
  - Enacted measures to introduce pre-trial hearing to ensure that victims are less likely to face stressful unexpected delays and adjournments to trial start dates
  - Established the Mental Health Taskforce to ensure the mental health needs of those in prison are met, addiction treatments are provided and primary care support is available on release, in order to ensure improved outcomes for individuals and for society.
  - Published draft laws to provide tough penalties for Hate Crimes
  - Established community safety partnerships in Dublin, Longford and Waterford, and agreed to set up a Community Safety Innovation Fund to support communities
  - Commenced the development of a scheme to regularise the immigration status of thousands of undocumented people in Ireland
  - Published and started to implement a new Youth Justice Strategy to prevent offending behaviour from occurring and diverting children and young adults who commit a crime away from further offending and involvement with the criminal justice system
  - Launched and started to implement a new strategy to help reduce re-offending by supporting employment options for people with past convictions
  - Expanded the National Referral Mechanism to allow more victims of human trafficking to be identified and protected across a range of Departments and agencies
  - Announced that a new law will be drafted to expunge previous convictions for ‘sale of sex’ or prostitution offences to support victims of trafficking and exploitation in rebuilding their lives
- Progress on each of the actions to be delivered in the first half of 2021 under the Justice Plan is set out in the below report.
- It is important to note that all the above mentioned milestones and achievements are just a snapshot of the substantial programme of work being delivered on by the Department.





## Goal 1

Tackle crime, enhance national security and transform policing



## Goal 2

Improve access to justice and modernise the courts system



## Goal 3

Strengthen community safety, reduce reoffending, support victims and combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence



## Goal 4

Deliver a fair immigration system for a digital age



## Goal 5

Accelerate innovation, digital transformation and climate action across the justice sector





Thank you for working safely today  
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DUGGAN FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY DUGGAN

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Man in high-visibility vest and blue shirt, standing on the far left.

Man in high-visibility vest and blue shirt, holding a white hard hat.

Man in high-visibility vest and blue shirt, holding a folder.

Woman in high-visibility vest and black dress, holding a folder with 'fsi' logo.

Man in high-visibility vest and suit, holding a folder with 'fsi' logo.

Man in high-visibility vest and suit, standing on the right side.

Man in high-visibility vest and grey pants, holding a folder.









**Goal 1** Tackle crime, enhance national security and transform policing













# Goal 1: Tackle crime, enhance national security and transform policing





To achieve these objectives, we have identified 65 actions to be delivered in 2021. Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, and a number of enabling sub actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, are detailed below.





 OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Developing a leading edge and accountable policing service through the implementation of A Policing Service for our Future (APSFF)</b>			
2 Support An Garda Síochána (AGS) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy to ensure the organisation can attract, retain and develop a diverse and inclusive workforce, including preparation of a diversity recruitment roadmap	Q2	Achieved	
4.1 Progress the Policing and Community Safety Bill to provide a new coherent governance and oversight framework for policing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of General Scheme of Bill (Q1)</li> </ul>	Q4	Achieved	
5.1 Conduct the review on the role of AGS in prosecution decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish the Interim Report Q1</li> </ul>	Q1	Achieved	
6.1 Monitor progress on use of video link technology in criminal cases to maintain progress made in 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish a Progress report – Q2</li> </ul>	Q2		A progress report is being prepared for publication.
8.1 Review of the national security legislative framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of the Offences against the State Act report - Q2</li> </ul>	Q4	Achieved	

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS		QUARTER		ACHIEVED/ ONGOING		NOT YET ACHIEVED
10.1	Draft legislation for the deployment of body worn cameras (Digital Recording) and extended use of CCTV and ANPR technology for AGS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish the General Scheme – Q1</li> </ul>		Q3		Achieved		
11	Draft the General Scheme of a Bill to codify police powers of search, arrest and detention		Q1		Achieved		
14	Establish an inter-departmental group to update and streamline how Garda vetting works		Q1		Achieved		
<b>Deliver a comprehensive programme to improve the operation of the criminal justice system</b>							
15.1 and 15.2	Begin to implement, in collaboration with other agencies, plans to tackle economic crime and corruption, following the publication of the Hamilton review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish the action plan addressing the recommendations (Q1)</li> <li>Draft and consult on the terms of reference for the Advisory Council to address ownership, functions, structures, reporting, and accountability (Q2)</li> </ul>		Q1		Achieved		
17.1 and 17.2	Put a revised National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in place for identification and support of victims of trafficking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish NRM policy paper – Q2</li> <li>Put in place additional practical supports for victims - Q1</li> </ul>		Q4		Achieved		
18	Work with public sector and civil society stakeholders to review and strengthen our processes and legislative framework to combat human trafficking		Q1		Ongoing with view to developing a new national strategy by mid 2022.		

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
19	Publish the Smuggling of Persons Bill to implement EU and UN obligations	Q2	Achieved	
23	Publish Garda Inspectorate report on corruption	Q1	Achieved	
<b>Support work to tackle cybercrime, improve online safety and prepare for the challenges ahead through stronger policies and legislation</b>				
25	Continue to support hotline.ie by increasing industry participation and by working with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to ensure that the remit and focus of hotline.ie is aligned with and complemented by the proposed Media Commission and Digital Safety Commissioner	Q2	Achieved	
27	Continue to work closely with the Garda National Cybercrime Bureau and support the expansion of the regional cybercrime hubs	Q1	Achieved	
30	Commence the provisions of Coco's Law, the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 to outlaw image based sexual abuse, and launch an awareness campaign	Q1	Achieved	
<b>Strengthen measures to tackle terrorism and other serious and organised crime through domestic action and international co-operation</b>				
32	Ensure the delivery by AGS of Ireland's successful connection to SIS II to exchange information on individuals who are sought in relation to criminal activities	Q1 – Q2	Achieved	
32.1	Prepare for and support the implementation of the EU Regulation on Preventing the Dissemination of Terrorist Content Online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish working group with AGS – Q1</li> </ul>	Q3	Achieved	



	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS		QUARTER		ACHIEVED/ ONGOING		NOT YET ACHIEVED
41	Transpose the criminal justice aspects of the Fifth Money Laundering Directive by enacting and commencing the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Bill		Q1		Achieved		
42.1	Transpose outstanding EU criminal justice measures including on mutual recognition of custodial sentences and supervision measures, Protection of the European Union's Financial Interests (PIF) fraud and counterfeiting; manage related CJEU cases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commencement of the Criminal Justice (Mutual Recognition of Decisions on Supervision Measures) Act 2020 - Q1</li> </ul>		Q4		Achieved		
43	Establish working arrangements with European Public Prosecutor's Office		Q1		Achieved		
<b>Reform, review and modernise criminal law and procedure to enhance and support the efficient and effective operation of the criminal justice system</b>							
51.1	Introduce new legislation to deal with hate crime and incitement to hatred <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish General Scheme of a Hate Crime Bill - Q1</li> </ul>		Q4		Achieved		
52	Publish the Criminal Procedure Bill to provide for pre-trial hearings, which will provide for a faster and more efficient court process for sexual offences, white collar crimes and organised crime		Q1		Achieved		
53	Publish the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill		Q1		Achieved		
55.1	Introduce a scheme for the expunging of criminal records for gay men convicted of historical offences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review group established to examine the feasibility of identifying appropriate records which may support a decision to expunge a record of conviction for a consensual same sex relationship prior to decriminalisation in 1993 - Q1</li> </ul>		Q3		Achieved		

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
56.1	Introduce a new Garda Compensation Scheme for malicious injuries incurred in the performance of their duties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish the Bill - Q1</li> </ul>		Achieved	
57	Progress priority legislation, in consultation with Deputies and Senators in the Oireachtas, to amend section 252 of the Children Act 2001 to address matters which have arisen in a recent Court of Appeal decision	Q1	Achieved	
58.1 and 58.2	Amend Children Act 2001 to provide alternatives to suspended sentences for children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with Criminal Justice Policy re Law Reform Commission recent Report and Recommendations on this issue – Q1</li> <li>• Consult with relevant statutory agencies/stakeholders – Q2</li> </ul>	Q4		It is intended to produce a report on options and timelines to address this issue by end Q3.
59	Outline options for the introduction of a system of public defenders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit policy paper to Minister for review</li> </ul>	Q1	Achieved	
<b>Ensure strong governance in all bodies across the criminal justice sector; and provide challenging yet supportive oversight to these bodies</b>				
63	Provide leadership in the sector and work across government on the development of the revised National Development Plan	Q2	Ongoing. The Department continues to engage with DPER on its submission in respect of the NDP.	







**Goal 2** Improve access to justice  
and modernise the courts system





## Goal 2: Improve access to justice and modernise the courts system

To achieve the objectives under Goal 2, Justice Plan 2021 identifies 45 actions to be delivered in 2021. Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, and a number of enabling sub actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, are detailed below.

 OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Modernise the courts and legal system to improve the fair and speedy conduct of court proceedings</b>			
67 Facilitate the coming into operation of the new Legal Practitioners' Disciplinary Tribunal and embed other new justice structures to ensure improved outcomes for the public	Q2	Achieved	
69 Progress the centralisation and automation of court offices and processes through the publication of the Court and Civil Law Miscellaneous Provision Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved. General Scheme approved by Government in June. Bill is currently being drafted.
70.1 Respond to the McFarlane v. Ireland judgment of the European Court of Human Rights by putting in place a remedy for delays in Court proceedings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70.1 – General Scheme of a Bill approved in Q2</li> </ul>	Q2	Achieved	
71 Provide for the introduction of new legal partnerships, which will enable barristers and solicitors to jointly provide legal services for the first time	Q2	Achieved	


**OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS**

**QUARTER**

**ACHIEVED/ ONGOING**

**NOT YET ACHIEVED**
**Establish a Family Court and a transformed family justice system**

- 74.1 and 74.3 Support the work of the Family Justice Oversight Group and consult with key stakeholders in the family justice area on the content of a Family Justice Strategy
- Report on consultation to Family Justice Oversight Group (FJOG) - Q2
  - Convene regular meetings of FJOG

Q2

Phase 1/2 consultations complete. Final phase consultation with children/ young people led by DCEDIY to be completed in Q3.

**Modernise the operation of the judiciary to enable it to work more effectively; and reform the process for appointing judges**

- 78 Publish new Judicial Appointments Commission Bill which will reform and modernise the way in which judges are appointed

Q2

Not Achieved. Publication projected Q3.

- 79 Establish a Judicial Appointments Commission: Progress on governance aspects of the project to establish the new Commission and make arrangements for relevant appointments including CEO designate and Lay Members

Q2

Achieved

- 80.1 Progress Programme for Government commitment to review the numbers and types of judges needed to ensure the efficient administration of justice over the next five years, including the need for specialist skills, the impact of Covid-19, and the extent to which efficiencies in case management and working practices could help in meeting additional service demands and/or improving services and access to justice

Q1





Achieved





- Establish Working Group – Q1

- 81 Commission research to provide evidence base to inform review on judicial numbers and skills, including appropriate international comparators to examine the experiences of other jurisdictions (particularly Common Law areas), and obtain accurate and up to date information on judicial practices and case management systems, together with caseload data in relation to Irish courts.

Q1

Achieved

 OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Support the reduction of legal costs and the length of legal proceedings and tackle the high cost of insurance</b>			
83 Commence work to introduce new scales of legal costs which would be independently drawn up, in order to reduce legal costs and to provide greater certainty to the users of legal services in relation to cost	Q1	Achieved	
84 Designate a body by Ministerial Order as Mediation Council which satisfies the criteria set out in the relevant legislation, published in 2017, to support the development of the mediation profession as an important supplement and alternative to traditional judicial processes	Q2		Projected completion for Q3. Mediation Act 2017 requires draft Order be published for 30-day public consultation and be approved by both Houses of the Oireachtas.
85 Membership of Council to be agreed for designation by Government	Q1	Achieved	
90 Work with partners across Government to prioritise the reform of the insurance sector. Complete insurance related reviews on: a. Discount rates b. Occupiers' liability c. Law Reform Commission reports in relation to the capping of awards in personal injuries actions	Q1	Achieved	
91 Make proposals to Government about any changes deemed necessary to the law on occupiers liability	Q2	Achieved	
92 Commence solicitors advertising regulations	Q1	Achieved	
94 Place the offence of perjury on a statutory footing through the enactment of the Perjury and Related Offences Bill 2018	Q2	Achieved	

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS		QUARTER		ACHIEVED/ ONGOING		NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Support our economy and society through regulatory, licensing and civil law reform</b>							
95	Building on existing work, begin a formal programme to establish a statutory gambling regulator, using a project management approach and cross-functional programme team		Q1		Achieved		
100.1	Review and reform defamation laws, to ensure a balanced approach to the right to freedom of expression, the right to protection of good name and reputation, and the right of access to justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete and publish statutory review of Defamation Act 2009 – Q1</li> </ul>		Ongoing			Review completed – to be published in Q3.	
101	Enact the Personal Insolvency (Amendment) (No.1) Bill to ensure that sufficient supports are in place for mortgage holders with repayment difficulties including those due to the pandemic		Q1		Achieved		
102	Complete statutory review of Personal Insolvency Acts 2012-2015		Q2			Review largely complete, and expected to be published in Q3.	
104	Publish the Private Security Services (Amendment) Bill to bring about required reform for licences		Q2		Achieved		
<b>Support the Dublin Coroner to commence the Stardust Inquests in 2021 and all coroners to do their jobs</b>							
105	Provide all appropriate supports to enable the Coroner to commence the public facing elements of the Stardust inquests in early 2021		Q1		Achieved		

















**Goal 3** Strengthen community safety, reduce reoffending, support victims and combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence







## Goal 3: Strengthen community safety, reduce reoffending, support victims and combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence





Justice Plan 2021 contains 59 detailed actions under Goal 3. Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, and a number of enabling sub actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, are detailed below.





 OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Drive community participation in a new approach to make communities safer, and work across government and with State agencies to support this goal</b>			
111.1 Publish policy paper on community safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish pilot Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) in Dublin North Inner City Area.</li> </ul>	Q1	Achieved	
112 Establish pilot Local Community Safety Partnerships in Longford and Waterford	Q2		Work to establish LCSPs at an advanced stage - Introductory meeting of Waterford partnership took place in July and introductory meeting of Longford partnership will take place in September.
113 Appoint an independent evaluator of the process and outcomes of the pilot programmes	Q1	Achieved	
114 Appoint an independent chair to each pilot Partnership	Q2	Achieved	
115 Engage actively with local community, business, and residents to identify members of pilot LCSP	Q1	Achieved	





	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS		QUARTER		ACHIEVED/ ONGOING		NOT YET ACHIEVED
116	Engage actively with relevant Government Departments, agencies and local public bodies to identify appointments to pilot LCSP		Q1				Achieved
117	Establish support committee with Department of An Taoiseach and relevant local authority to support work of LCSP		Q1		Achieved		
118	Support the work of LCSP through identification and provision of training supports for partnership members		Q2		Will be progressed in Q3.		
120.1	Support community safety in disadvantaged communities by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publishing the scoping exercise on criminal activity in Drogheda and agreeing a cross Department implementation plan (Q2)</li> </ul>		Ongoing		Achieved		
<b>Combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence and support victims of crime</b>							
122	Complete the audit of responsibility for domestic, sexual and gender services		Q1		Achieved		
123	Publish the Sex Offenders Amendment Bill to improve post-release monitoring of sex offenders		Q2				Not achieved. Drafting of this Bill is at an advanced stage.
125.1	Keep under review the implementation of the Victims Charter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a Victims' forum – Q2</li> </ul>		Q4				Proposed approach being finalised. First meeting anticipated in Q3.
126	Publish the research study on familicide and outline next steps		Q1				Final report is awaited from independent study lead.



 OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Implement Supporting a Victim's Journey: A plan to help victims and vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases</b>			
128 Secure Government approval to reform the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and set out timelines to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publish a revised scheme</li> <li>Agree longer term reforms</li> <li>Commence work on legislation to place the Scheme on a statutory basis</li> </ul>	Q2	Achieved	
130.1 Input into and monitor the development of the necessary specialist programmes of training for serving members of An Garda Síochána, legal professionals and others who are participating in a professional capacity in sexual offences investigations and trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on progress – Q2</li> </ul>	Q4	Achieved	
131.1 Develop a scheme for the use of Intermediaries for victims of sexual offences and establish a pilot. Include engagement with stakeholders and invite expressions of interest from 3rd level institutions to provide appropriate training and accreditation for relevant professionals to be recognised as intermediaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement with 3rd level institution in place (Q2)</li> </ul>	Q1, Q2 and Q4	Achieved	
133 Complete the mapping exercise to identify the nature, spread and level of services that may be encompassed by the 'Supporting a Victim's Journey' plan and identify where gaps in supports exist and how to ameliorate those gaps	Q2		A number of NGO mapping exercises have been completed and results are being analysed.
135 Develop and launch a public awareness campaign for the higher education sector around the meaning of consent, in partnership with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science, and with stakeholder engagement	Q2	Achieved	

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS		QUARTER		ACHIEVED/ ONGOING		NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Divert young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour</b>							
139	Complete the evaluation of the Youth Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) initiative		Q2		Ongoing		
143.1	Identify areas in which to expand the JARC to target prolific and repeat offenders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a new oversight and governance structure for offender management to coordinate and align offender management programmes, including SORAM, JARC, Domestic Violence &amp; Complex High Risk Prisoners and Life Sentence Prisoners – Q1</li> </ul>		Q4	Achieved			
<b>Establish the Parole Board on a statutory footing to take better account of the concerns of victims and survivors</b>							
145	Selection and appointment of members to the new statutory Parole Board		Q2		Not achieved. StateBoards process for selection is almost complete.		
146	Appoint the CEO to the new statutory Parole Board and begin assigning staff to the new organisation		Q2		Achieved. Interim CEO appointed. The Public Appointments Service will run a standalone appointment competition for Parole Board CEO.		
147	Secure premises and coordinate set-up of ICT and other essential services for the statutory Parole Board		Q2	Achieved			
148	Draft an outline Legal Aid Scheme and legal procedures under which the new body will operate		Q2	Achieved			

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Reduce re-offending rates for those convicted of crime</b>				
151	Commence a policy review to consider custodial sentences of less than 12 months in consultation with the IPS and Probation Service	Q2	Achieved	
152.1 and 152.2	<p>Commence a policy review of the Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions) Bill 2014 in consultation with the Probation Service and IPS in conjunction with a review of the operation of the Fines (Payment and Recovery) Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish Policy Review – Q1</li> <li>• Validated and Revised General Scheme agreed – Q1</li> </ul>	Q3		Not achieved. Policy proposals have been delayed due to the complexity of the issues being examined. Proposals expected in Q3.
153.1	<p>Establish the Taskforce on mental health and addiction challenges of people interacting with the Criminal Justice System and complete Health Needs Assessment for prisoners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the Taskforce - Q1</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Achieved	
155	Publish proposals to extend the range of the spent convictions legislation to widen the cohort who can benefit from greater employment opportunities	Q1		Not achieved. Expected for publication in Q3.
157	Work with industry experts to ensure employment focused training and up-skilling measures, offered throughout criminal justice agencies, are responsive and aligned to the identified skills gaps within the labour market	Q2	Ongoing - being taken forward as part of implementation of the overall Working to Change strategy.	
<b>Deliver restorative justice safely and effectively</b>				
158	Map the current state of play of restorative justice	Q1	Achieved	
159	Activate a restorative justice website	Q1	Achieved	

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS		QUARTER		ACHIEVED/ ONGOING		NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Publish the legislation to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture</b>							
163	Approval of the General Scheme of a Bill to ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT)	Q1					Not achieved. Work on General Scheme progressing and likely to be concluded in Q3.
<b>Lead the development and implementation of strategies and actions to reduce offending and bring greater coherence and shared purpose to the criminal justice sector</b>							
166	Finalise the Criminal Justice Sectoral Strategy and agree an action plan, focusing on improving the quality of individual interactions with the system, reducing delays, increasing public awareness and understanding of the system and delivering a more empathetic, understanding and trauma-informed system	Q2					Not achieved. Strategy paper is being finalised for publication in Q3.
168	Review implementation of the Action Plan on Offender Management through engagement with relevant agencies via a subgroup of Offender Management Governance and Strategy Group, with a particular focus on improving collaborative structures for offender management programmes such as JARC and SORAM	Q1			Achieved		

# on presentations communications

e in Universal Design

Workspace

*Cultural  
Language*

### APPROACH FOR REFLECTION - CULTURAL JOURNALS

<b>As it was</b> ✓ English speaking	✓ Bilingual interface	✓ Number of languages	✓ Background information	✓ Easy to use
✗ Not English speaking	✗ No information on the screen	✗ Complex navigation	✗ No clear instructions	✗ Difficult to use

**EU Directives**

✓  
Easy to use  
No information on the screen  
Complex navigation  
No clear instructions

*Good*      *Bad*

Three blue sticky notes with handwritten text are attached to the whiteboard.

Three yellow sticky notes with handwritten text are attached to the bottom of the whiteboard.







An Oifig um Chosaint Idirnáisiúnta  
International Protection Office

Seirbhís Dlíthiúil do Dhídeanaithe  
Refugee Legal Service








**Goal 4** Deliver a fair immigration system for a digital age







## Goal 4: Deliver a fair immigration system for a digital age





43 detailed actions have been identified to make substantial progress against Goal 4 in 2021. Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, and a number of enabling sub actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, are detailed below.

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Develop a fully digital, customer-centric immigration service</b>				
170	Publish a roadmap for the transition of all immigration services to online application processes	Q1		Not achieved. Progressing roadmap for transition to online immigration services linked to implementation of Digital Strategy.
171	As part of a new ICT Strategy for the Department of Justice, publish a digital strategy for immigration	Q1		Not achieved. Draft Digital Strategy for Immigration prepared. Publication expected in Q3.
172	Begin accepting online payments for visa applications	Q2		Not achieved. Option to include an online payment facility remains under consideration.
173	Complete review of pilot “LIDPRO” visa scanning solution, and move to first phase implementation	Q2	Achieved	

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
174	Introduce eVetting for categories of immigration service applicants, increasing the efficiency of vetting applicants	Q2	Achieved	
175	Introduce a new online appointment scheduling system for customers who require in-person appointments to register their residency in Ireland	Q1		Not achieved. Online booking system will be operational last week in August.
176	Expand the online appointment system to include the scheduling of interviews at the International Protection Office	Q2		Not achieved. Contractor in place. Detailed specification talks underway.
<b>Protect the fairness and enhance the efficiency of our immigration system through new strategic policies and legislative proposals</b>				
177	Complete end-to-end process review of the International Protection Process.	Q1	Achieved	
178	Leverage the end-to-end process review to design a revised process for the processing of International Protection applications	Q2		Not achieved. Model design ongoing on foot of findings and recommendations from end-to-end review.
180	Ascertain requirements for new legislation and amendments to existing legislation in the areas of immigration and international protection	Q1	Achieved	
181	Develop and implement a scheme for the regularisation of undocumented migrants considering responses to consultation and finalise scheme for publication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 181.1 Draft proposals finalised</li> </ul>		Achieved	
183	Conduct review of legislation associated with the Common European Asylum System to identify any measures that Ireland could opt-in to, either now or at a later date when the negotiations on the EU Pact are completed	Q2		Not achieved. Draft report of analysis is under review.

	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS		QUARTER		ACHIEVED/ ONGOING		NOT YET ACHIEVED
187	Review and expand to additional countries the Short Stay Visa Waiver (SSVW) and 5-year Multi-Visa options	Q2					Not achieved. SSVW remains suspended due to COVID 19. Additions to current list of 17 countries to be considered once public health measures allow.
189	Reduce the waiting period for access to the labour market from 9 months to 6 months and increase in the validity period of a labour market access permission from 6 months to 12 months for international protection applicants	Q1			Achieved		
<b>Communicate effectively with our service users, recognising and understanding their diversity and supporting them to engage effectively with us</b>							
190	Establish mechanisms to monitor customer service and customer satisfaction	Q2			Achieved		
191	Publish a new website for immigration services in Ireland, with all content written in plain language	Q1			Achieved		
195	Develop the role of the Immigration NGO Forum to identify and resolve significant customer service issues	Q1			Achieved		
<b>Restructure our immigration services to better serve our customers and our country</b>							
196	Finalise a future design model for immigration services, along with a three-phased implementation plan for same	Q2					Not achieved. External assistance to be procured to assist with future model design.
197	Pilot the move to the new model with the introduction of a centralised customer service unit focused on two case processing areas initially	Q2			Achieved		
200	Carry out a review of the operating model of the Border Management Unit at Dublin Airport to inform efforts to implement recommendations relating to immigration functions in A Policing Service for our Future	Q1					Not achieved. Initial timeline missed due to level 5 restrictions. Report will be finalised end-July.



	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
201	Establish steering group comprising representatives from An Garda Síochána and the Department of Justice	Q2	Achieved	
<b>Eliminate processing backlogs across all immigration application types</b>				
206	Develop working group comprising staff of immigration services and the Garda National Immigration Bureau to identify gaps in immigration policies and procedures	Q1	Achieved	
207	Expand the role of the quality office function in immigration services, and implement a case consistency board to support consistent decision making	Q1	Ongoing	
208	Review the policy of holding immigration detainees in prisons	Q2		Not achieved. Detailed analysis of requirements to inform a framework for potential options underway.
209	Develop key performance indicators for all immigration service business areas	Q1	Achieved	







```
package com.ds.ucd.be.becore.soc;

import ...

public final class LocationUtils {

    /**
     * Parses Point from it's String representation.
     * @param locationString - String that represents location, as 2 double values split with coma. Accepts space after/before coma.
     * @return org.springframework.data.solr.core.geo.Point instance
     */
    public static Point parseLocation(String locationString) {
        Preconditions.checkNotNull(locationString, errorMessage: "Location String should not be null");
        Preconditions.checkArgument(locationString.contains(","), errorMessage: "Location must be split with coma");
        locationString = locationString.trim();

        if (locationString.contains(" ")) {
            locationString = locationString.replaceAll( regex: " ", replacement: ",");
        }

        if (locationString.contains(", ")) {
            locationString = locationString.replaceAll( regex: ", ", replacement: ",");
        }

        String[] location = locationString.split( regex: ",");
        Preconditions.checkArgument( expression: location.length >= 2, errorMessage: "Location should consist at least 2 Double parameters");
        double lat = Double.parseDouble(location[0]);
        double lon = Double.parseDouble(location[1]);

        return new Point(lat, lon);
    }
}
```







**Goal 5** Accelerate innovation, digital transformation and climate action across the justice sector







## Goal 5: Accelerate innovation, digital transformation and climate action across the justice sector

There are 28 concrete actions that will be delivered in 2021 to make substantial progress towards delivering the objectives under Goal 5. Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, and a number of enabling sub actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2, are detailed below.

 OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS	 QUARTER	 ACHIEVED/ ONGOING	 NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Dramatically increase digital services throughout the justice sector to support the modernisation of An Garda Síochána, the Courts Service, the Department of Justice itself, including our immigration services</b>			
213 Courts modernisation: provide appropriate support and challenge to the Court Service as they deliver their modernisation programme, consistent with the digitalisation of the criminal justice sector, to ensure interoperability of systems and coherence for all those who interact across the justice sector	Q2	Achieved	
218 Start to build a 'bridge' between the Department and the Cloud, opening the potential for the utilisation of Cloud resources	Q2	Achieved=	
<b>Integrate digital systems across the justice sector to enable greater sharing of information and increased co-operation</b>			
220 Develop a three-year plan for expansion of the Criminal Justice Operational Hub, facilitating greater automation of information exchange between criminal justice agencies, as well as access to data-informed insights to support policy development	Q2		Not achieved. 12 month plan to be finalised in Q3.



	OBJECTIVES & 2021 ACTIONS		QUARTER		ACHIEVED/ ONGOING		NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Implement plans and policies across the sector – including the management of vehicle fleets and estates - to support the achievement of Climate Action Plan goals</b>							
222	Develop an Action Plan to implement ISO50001 certification for the Department		Q1		Achieved		
<b>In re-designing our services incorporate a focus on sustainability, digital solutions and reducing our carbon footprint</b>							
225	Develop service diagnostic tools to establish priorities		Q2		Achieved		
228	Record carbon generated by all official flights; purchase offsets for same and publish results		Q1		Achieved		
230	Consider addition of sustainability criteria in the evaluation of tenders for goods and services where appropriate		Q2		Achieved		
<b>Ensure the user is at the centre of every service we develop across the justice sector</b>							
235	Continue to develop cross agency networks to support innovation, sharing of ideas, sharing of lessons learned and best practice.		Q1		Achieved		
<b>Develop innovation and leadership strategies for the justice sector</b>							
237	Using the Public Sector Innovation Scorecard, a baseline audit of innovation within the Department of Justice will be carried out		Q1		Achieved		
238	Review the Public Sector Innovation Strategy, and considering the baseline audit conduct gap analysis, ensuring alignment with IM&T Strategy		Q2		Achieved		



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice

