

# JUSTICE PLAN 2022

MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice



# Minister's Foreword

I am delighted to welcome this mid-year progress report on the Justice Action Plan 2022.

This progress report provides an update 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 to measure the progress of concrete actions to be delivered according to strict timelines each year.

I published the Justice Action Plan on 28 March outlining 159 headline actions to continue building a justice system that works for everyone. Our Justice Plan, is the latest in a series of annual plans to build on reforms underway in the Department of Justice.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the displacement of millions of people from Ukraine, we have worked across the

Justice sector and within a coordinated whole-of-Government response, to progress and to ensure that we hold each other to our targets despite the profound obstacles.

I want to sincerely thank the staff of the Department and its agencies for their continued commitment and professionalism during this demanding period. We would not have achieved this progress without your hard work and dedication.

For the remainder of the year ahead, we will do our utmost to implement the ambitious reforms set and continue to prioritise and deliver the work that will make a real difference for the people of Ireland both in the short and the long term.

**Helen McEntee TD**  
**Minister for Justice**



## Foreword by the Secretary General

Our annual Justice Plans deliver on the ambition set out in the Department's Statement of Strategy 2021-2023, A safe, fair and inclusive Ireland.

Building on the five key goals of this wider three year Statement of Strategy, for the first time, Justice Plan 2022 details a number of key performance indicators under each goal which will be used to measure success.

These high level goals reflect the magnitude, 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 as it directly impacts the members of the public, often at times of vulnerability or personal crisis.

Justice Plan 2022 is by its nature, mostly policy, legislation and innovation focused, to deliver on the Department's strategic goals for the

next few years. It is also important to note the Justice Plan actions will be delivered in addition to the varied, substantial and valued day to day work of the Department which delivers vital services for members of the public and agencies in the justice sector.

In Justice Plan 2022 we set 159 headline actions, and a number of associated actions, each with specific timelines for implementation to achieve our high level goals. This report details that, at the mid-year point, just over half of the 136 actions reported on for delivery in the first half of 2022 are achieved in full. This is reasonable progress given the unexpected demands arising from the invasion of Ukraine.

I am extremely proud of the adaptability, commitment and resilience shown by my colleagues throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

and particularly in response to the Ukraine crisis. The compassion and leadership by everyone involved in this ever-changing situation has been inspiring to witness.

As this plan continues to develop from the Statement of Strategy, it has 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 2022 is the second iteration in a series of annual plans outlining objectives and actions to drive reforms across the Justice sector to build a justice system that works for everyone. These actions reflect the priorities of the Minister, the Minister of State and the Department for the coming year, in line with the various commitments set out in the Programme for Government and the Department’s Statement of Strategy, for the years 2021-2023, A safe, fair and inclusive Ireland. The actions outlined in 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 2022 can be viewed at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f6a7e-justice-plan-2022>

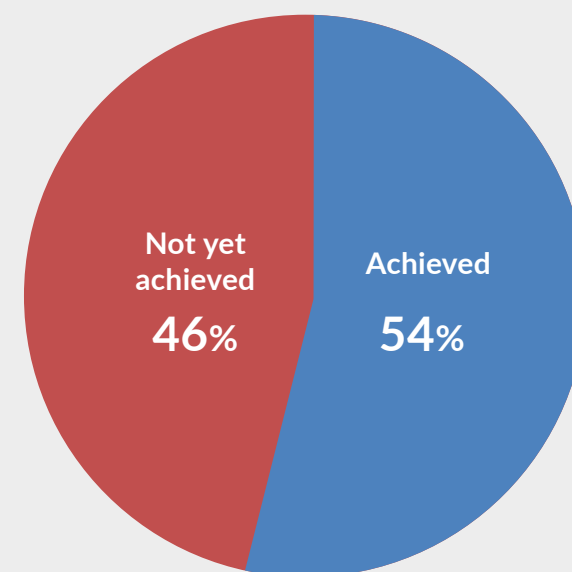
To ensure a measurable and transparent process, progress on Justice Plan 2022 is examined by the Ministers of the Department on a regular basis in meetings with the Department’s Management Board. We have also committed to publishing two progress reports annually, mid-year and at the end of the year. This report is the first such report for 2022 and outlines progress made on the actions and sub-actions due for delivery in Q1 and Q2 of 2022. As well as providing details on the achievements made during this period, the report will provide updates on ongoing actions.

Of the 136 actions and sub-actions examined and reported on in this progress report, over half (54%, 74 actions) are ‘Achieved’ or ‘Achieved/ongoing’ as of the end of Q2. While this represents 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.

The remaining 46% (62 actions) of actions are categorised as ‘Not yet achieved’. While significant progress has

indicators under each goal, which will be used to measure success. For the purposes of this Mid-Year

Status of Q1/Q2 actions as of end June 2022



■ Achieved  
■ Not yet achieved

been made on many of the outstanding actions, further work is required to bring these to completion.

For the first time, Justice Plan 2022 details a number of key performance

Progress Report, Goal 1, 3 and 4 have key performance indicators due for measurement during the first half of the year. These indicators are reported under the relevant Goal headings below.



PROUD  
TO WORK  
FOR  
IRELAND

	<b>Goal 1</b>	Tackle crime, enhance national security and transform policing	PAGE 08
	<b>Goal 2</b>	Improve access to justice and modernise the courts system	PAGE 18
	<b>Goal 3</b>	Strengthen community safety, reduce reoffending, support victims and combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence	PAGE 26
	<b>Goal 4</b>	Deliver a fair immigration system for a digital age	PAGE 34
	<b>Goal 5</b>	Accelerate innovation, digital transformation and climate action across the justice sector	PAGE 42



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



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

The overarching aim of the objectives and actions set out under Goal 1 are to build a safer Ireland by reducing and preventing crime, continually working to enhance national security and to transform and strengthen An Garda Síochána.

In progressing this, up to the end of June, 317 new Garda Members had attested with a further 52 to attest in July. In May of this year, 27 new students entered the Garda College and commenced training. Later this year the first batch of successful applicants from this year's recruitment competition will enter the Garda College.

Over 11,000 people applied to become a member of An Garda Síochána in its latest recruitment competition. The competition, which closed for applications in March,

received 11,075 applications; up from 5,197 in the previous competition in 2019. The recruitment process is continuing to identify candidates to enter the Garda College over the coming period. It is important that An Garda Síochána reflects the communities that it serves, with 40% of the applicants from women and also a notable increase in people from minority backgrounds applying including Travellers, Black Irish and Asian Irish.

Other key achievements to enhance national security include the appointment of a group of experts by the Minister in February, to review the Offences Against the State Act - Ireland's primary counter terrorism legislation. The Group will examine all aspects of the legislation, taking into account the current threat

posed by domestic and international terrorism and organised crime.

In June, the Government gave approval to publish the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Bill 2022. This Bill is designed to provide a robust and modern statutory framework for the use by An Garda Síochána of digital recording devices to support their functions, including the investigation, detection, prevention and prosecution of criminal offences, safeguarding against and preventing threats to public safety and public order, and in matters relating to the security of the State.

Two Regulations which provide for the regulation of firearms brokers and consolidate existing legislation in relation to the Directive were completed earlier this year:

European Communities (Alarm and Signal Weapons) (Technical Specifications) Regulations 2022 and the European Union (Acquisition and Possession of Weapons and Ammunition) Regulations 2022.

Action 34.3 outlines a commitment to identify all outstanding issues requiring overdue reform in the management and processing of firearms licensing, register of firearms dealers and inspections. It also commits to the production of a roadmap for addressing issues identified, including a new legislative framework. Work on this is progressing well. The first phase of the review has been completed, identifying the short to medium term policy and legislative changes required. The Minister intends to consult with stakeholders with a



view to work commencing on a new Firearms Bill in the first half of 2023. In the longer-term, it is intended to undertake a full-scale reform of the Firearms Acts.

This work is proceeding in tandem with the establishment of a Firearms Expert Committee, on a non-statutory basis, which it is intended will bring forward recommendations

on which type of firearms should be licensable in the State and for what purposes.

A report on proposals to make changes to the law in relation to life sentences is complete and a way forward agreed to progress the introduction of tariffs in life sentencing.

An Interdepartmental group (IDG) was established and has been consulted on a new National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Framework to allow more victims of human trafficking to be identified and protected across a range of Departments and agencies. The IDG also created and have been consulted on new Human Trafficking action plan.

The Minister received Government approval to draft the Scheme of a Bill to place the Irish Prison Service (IPS) on a full statutory footing with a non-executive Board and other structures that align with best practice in the governance of State bodies.

#### Key Indicators

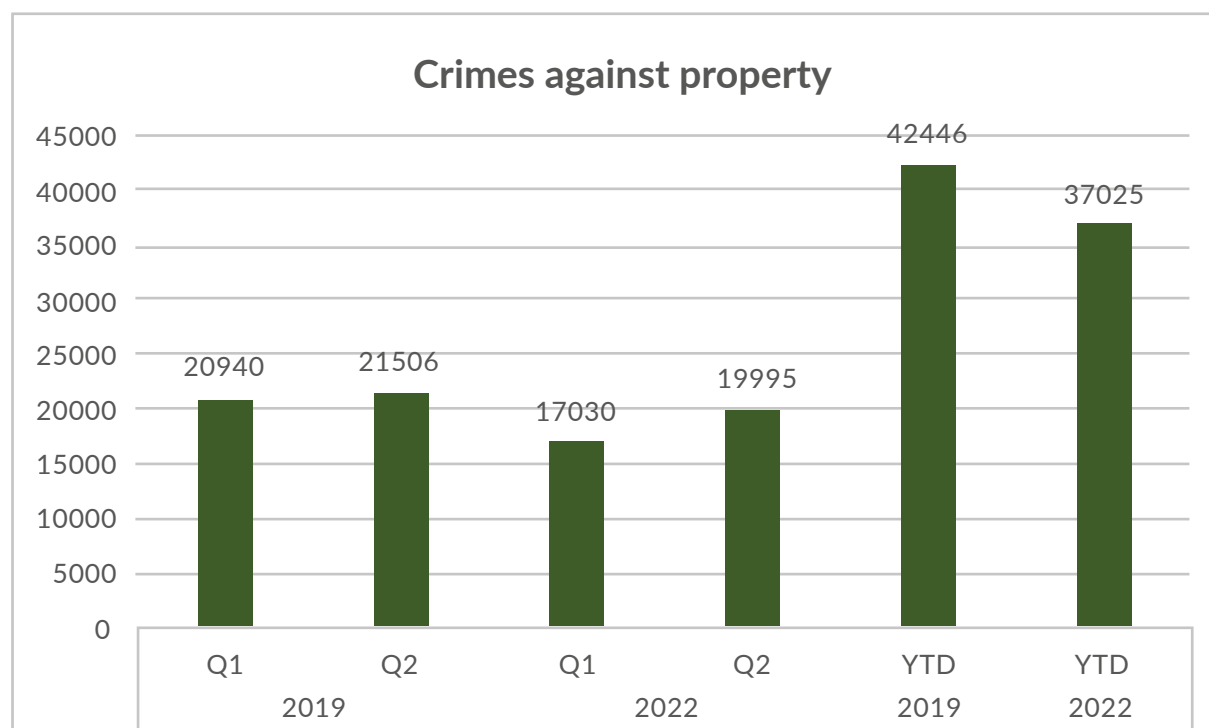
Progress is measured through comparing 2022 data with the baseline period of 2019. For 2020 and 2021 crime figures were affected by the health restrictions imposed to manage the COVID pandemic. As such, 2019 represents a 'normal' crime year.

The data used to measure progress is taken from the CSO quarterly crime statistics publications.

#### Crimes against property

This group is made up of: Robbery, extortion and hijacking offences; Theft and related offences; Aggravated burglaries and Burglary (not aggravated).

In 2019, there were 42,446 incidents over the first two quarters of 2019. The comparative figure for 2022 is 37,025 incidents, an overall reduction of 12.8%.



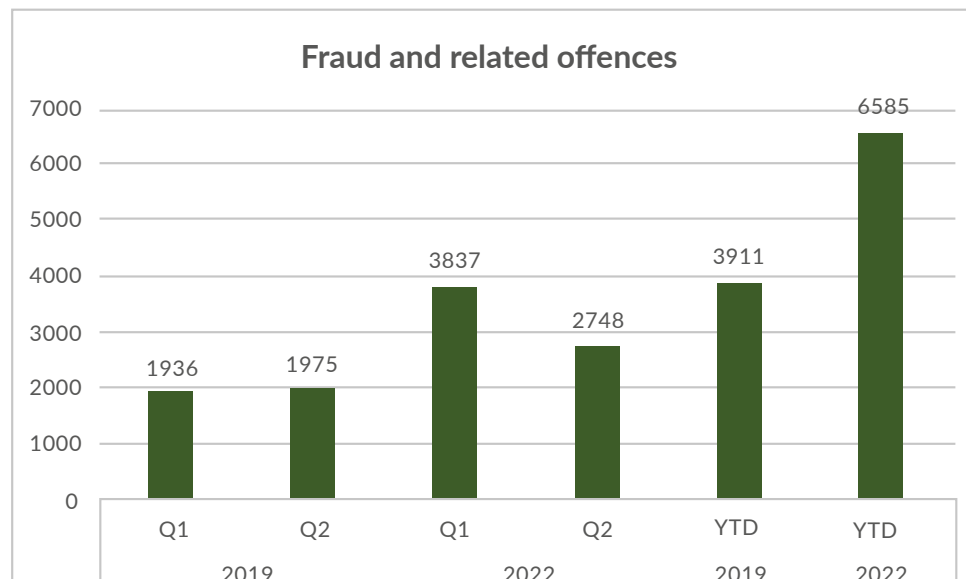
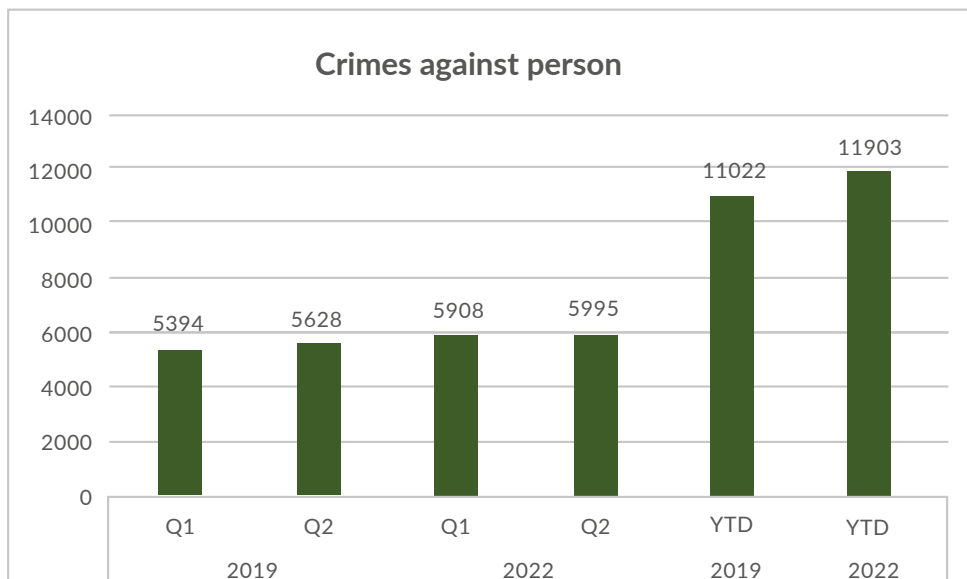
### Crimes against the person

Crimes against the person refer to: Homicide offences; Attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offences; Endangerment; Abandoning a child, child neglect and cruelty and Kidnapping and related offences.

In 2019 there were 11,022 incidents over the first two quarters of 2019. The figure for the same period in 2022 is 11,903, an **increase** of 8%

### Fraud and related offences

In the first two quarters of 2019 there were 3,911 incidents recorded. The figure for the same period in 2022 is 6,585 incidents, an **increase** of 68.3%.



Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2 are detailed below.

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Objective - Developing a leading edge and accountable policing service through the implementation of A Policing Service for our Future (APSFF)</b>				
<b>1</b>	Continue to monitor Garda Workforce numbers and support ongoing recruitment of Garda Members, Garda Reserve and Garda Staff and redeployment of Garda Members to frontline duties			
	1.1 An Garda Síochána / Public Appointments Service launch of Garda recruitment campaign	Q1	Achieved	
	1.2 Intake of new class into Garda College from previous recruitment competition	Q2	Achieved	
<b>2</b>	Review and reform the role of AGS in prosecutions			
	2.1. Submit report of High Level Review Group on the role of AGS in the public prosecution system to Government with clear recommendations	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>3</b>	Progress the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill to provide a new coherent governance and oversight framework for policing ensuring appropriate consultation			
	3.1. Publish the Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>4</b>	Establish and manage the implementation programme for Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill			
	4.1 Provide quarterly progress updates to the Minister	Q1	Achieved	
<b>5</b>	Work with AGS, DoT and DPER to drive forward the delivery of 'A Policing Service for our Future' and provide regular progress updates to Minister	Ongoing	Achieved/ Ongoing	
<b>6</b>	Review of National Security Framework			
	6.1 Submit final report of Offences Against State Act Review Group to Government	Q2		Not yet achieved
	6.2 Review other legislative provisions	Ongoing	Achieved/ Ongoing	

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>8</b>	Implement recommendations arising from review on Courts Security	Q1, Q3, Q4		
	8.1 Establish Working Group	Q1	Achieved	
<b>10</b>	Publish and enact Digital Recordings Bill to provide for AGS' use of digital recording including body worn cameras, drones, CCTV and ANPR	Q1, Q4, Ongoing		
	10.1 Publish Bill	Q1		Not yet achieved
	10.3 Work with AGS to ensure sufficient capital to enable rollout	Ongoing	Achieved/ Ongoing	
<b>Objective - Deliver a comprehensive programme to improve the operation of the criminal justice system</b>				
<b>14</b>	Agree and progress legislative proposals on relevant aspects of the Hamilton Implementation to prevent and respond effectively to economic and regulatory crime	Q2		
	14.1 Publish General Scheme of Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud) Amd Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>19</b>	Publish operational implementation plan for Garda Inspectorate report on corruption	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>Objective - Support work to tackle cybercrime, improve online safety and prepare for the challenges ahead through stronger policies and legislation</b>				
<b>21</b>	Continue to support the implementation of the National Cyber Security Strategy, including through attendance at the IDC and policy support for the enactment of the Cybercrime Bill	Ongoing	Achieved/ Ongoing	
<b>22</b>	Publish a General Scheme of Bill to update certain provisions linked to the Budapest Convention on cybercrime, as well as specific access to data requests (if not dealt with in Communications (Retention of Data) Bill)	Q2	Achieved/ Ongoing	
<b>23</b>	Coordinate the Government's response to upcoming EU legislative proposal on tackling child sexual abuse, including beginning preparations for a possible Irish bid to host any proposed European Centre for the prevention and countering of child sexual abuse	Q2	Achieved/ Ongoing	

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Objective - Strengthen measures to tackle terrorism and other serious and organised crime through domestic action and international co-operation</b>				
25	Commence Criminal Justice (Mutual Recognition of Custodial Sentences) Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved
26	Fulfil our international cooperation obligations by supporting the investigation of cross border crime within the mutual assistance & EAW/extradition frameworks	Q1		
	26.1 Process and efficiently manage incoming and outgoing requests for mutual assistance, European Arrest Warrants and extradition and provide quarterly reports to the Minister on the operation of same	Q1	Achieved	
27	Enact EAW (Amendment) Bill to address issues raised in the EAW Act in the EU infringement proceedings	Q1, Q2		
	27.1 Publish Bill	Q1	Achieved	
	27.2 Enact Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved
30	Develop a separate risk assessment for terrorist financing, in line with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendation 8	Q2		Not yet achieved
31	Strengthen measures to tackle terrorism and other serious and organised crime through domestic action and international co-operation	Q1, Q2		
	31.1 Decision on designation of Competent Authority/Authorities	Q1		Not yet achieved
	31.2 Prepare for and support the implementation of the EU Regulation on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online;	Q2	Achieved	
	31.3 Transpose Terrorist Content Online regulation	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>Objective -Reform, review and modernise criminal law and procedure to enhance and support the efficient and effective operation of the criminal justice system</b>				
34	Update firearms and explosives legislation			

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS	QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
34.1 Transpose existing four EU legal requirements	Q1		Not yet achieved -Two Regulations complete, further implementing measures expected in Q3.
34.2 Determine medium term policy and legislative changes required and agree timeline for development of further legislation	Q2	Achieved/ Ongoing	
<b>35</b> Establish Firearms Expert Committee to provide guidance on a wide range of matters related to firearms licensing in the State	Q1, Q2, Q4		
35.1 Issue requests for expressions of interest for membership	Q1	Achieved	
35.2 Establish Firearms Experts Committee	Q2	Achieved	
<b>36</b> We will bring forward proposals to make changes to the law in relation to life sentences	Q2	Achieved	
<b>37</b> Publish and enact the Criminal Justice (Misc Provisions) Bill which deals with a number of issues including firearms licensing, conspiracy to murder, appeal against sentence, prison planning rules and evidence held in the cloud	Q1, Q2		
37.1 Publish Bill	Q1	Achieved	
37.2 Enact Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>38</b> Publish Hate Crime Bill to reform and modernise the law through the introduction of new, specific hate aggravated offences for crimes motivated by prejudice against protected characteristics, with tougher sentences than ordinary forms of crime	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>39</b> Progress the new National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Framework to allow more victims of human trafficking to be identified and protected across a range of Departments and agencies	Q1,Q4		

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS	QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
39.1 Establish interdepartmental subgroup	Q1	Achieved/ Ongoing	
39.2 Publish General Scheme	Q1	Achieved	
<b>40</b> Develop a new National Action Plan to combat Human Trafficking			
40.1 Consult with relevant departments and civil society representatives	Q1	Achieved/ Ongoing	
40.2 Submit action plan to Government for approval to publish	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>41</b> Enact Garda Síochána (Compensation) Bill to update the current Garda Síochána compensation scheme for members of An Garda Síochána injured in the course of his or her duties			
41.1 Enact Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved
41.2 Manage, through project planning, transfer of AGS compensation scheme to AGS to coincide with commencement of Garda Compensation Scheme legislation	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>43</b> Progress implementation of recommendations made in review of Proceeds of Crime legislation			
43.1 Prepare draft general scheme once AG's advices received	Q1		Not yet achieved
43.2 Submit review, draft action plan, and draft general scheme to Government for approval	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>44</b> Publish legislation to deal with retention of data for criminal enforcement purposes			
44.1 Publish Bill	Q2	Achieved	

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS	QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Objective - Ensure strong governance in all bodies across the criminal justice sector; and provide challenging yet supportive oversight to these bodies</b>			
<b>48</b> Further advance project to develop a statutory basis for IPS			
48.1 Submit final report of Working Group to the Minister	Q2	Achieved	
48.2 Subject to Minister's approval, submit proposal to Government for approval	Q2	Achieved	
48.3 Begin developing General Scheme for statutory basis	Q2	Achieved	





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



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

Under Goal 2, we are committed to introducing reforms to improve access to justice, which is a fundamental right. The changes we are introducing to the justice and courts systems will ensure that the expectations of a modern society and economy can be met. In progressing this reform, the following actions have been advanced.

The Report of the Review of the Administration of Civil Justice (known as the Peter Kelly Report) made over 90 recommendations, which, when implemented, will represent the most significant reform to civil law in the history of the State. In May, the Minister published an Implementation Plan which sets out the approach to reforming the administration of civil justice in Ireland and will enable easier, cheaper and quicker access to civil justice.

The General Scheme of the Family Court Bill has been referred to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel and drafting is progressing with a view to publication of the Bill as

soon as possible in 2022. To support the legislative changes proposed in the planned Family Court Bill, a Family Justice Oversight Group was established to develop the first national strategy for the reform of the family justice system. The focus of the Group is to drive and coordinate the modernisation of the family justice system to make it more user-friendly, streamlined, supportive and where possible, less adversarial. The terms of reference of the Group include developing a high-level vision and medium and long-term objectives for the development of an effective national family justice system; this will be most obvious in the development of the first Family Justice Strategy and its subsequent implementation. The Strategy is currently being finalised.

The Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2022 was published and has reached Second Stage in the Seanad. This transformative bill will provide for deep and wide-ranging reform. The overarching change is that all appointments to any court in the State

will be based on recommendations from the new Commission. Government discretion to appoint will be from within a limited choice of three candidates. This will be for every judicial office in the State right up through the courts system to the office of Chief Justice.

Work is continuing in conjunction with the Department of Social Protection, the Joint Working Group and Steering Board of Abhaile to review the Abhaile Scheme to ensure that it is ready to deal with changed economic circumstances and in line with the commitment to future resourcing under the Programme for Government.

The Review of the Defamation Act 2009 was published with major proposals arising which included; an end to juries in defamation cases; easier access to justice for individuals whose reputation is unfairly attacked; clearer protection for responsible public interest journalism; reducing legal costs and delays; measures to encourage prompt correction and

apology, where mistakes are made; and new measures to combat abuse and make it easier to grant orders directing online service providers to disclose the identity of an anonymous poster of defamatory material.

Reforming duty of care legislation is a key insurance reform measure. A number of sections of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1995, are being amended, these proposals strike the right balance between ensuring that businesses, community groups and organisers of events fulfil their duty of care responsibilities, while also acknowledging the importance of personal responsibility on the part of customers and members of the public. The proposed legislation will be before the Oireachtas for enactment as part of the Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2022.

Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2 are detailed below.

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Objective - Establish a Family Court and a transformed family justice system</b>				
49	Develop and publish a Family Justice Strategy and Action Plan to provide for a user friendly and accessible family court system	Q1, Q4		
	49.1 Publish Family Justice Strategy	Q1		Not yet achieved
50	Publish the Family Court Bill which will create a new dedicated Family Court within the existing court structures	Q1		Not yet achieved
51	Implementation of EU legislation on recognition of judgments and judicial co-operation in family law matters	Q2		
	51.1 Develop secondary legislation to give further effect in Irish law to the Brussels IIa recast Regulation (Regulation 2019/1111)	Q2		Not yet achieved
53	Publish review of the operation of the provisions of the Guardianship of Infants Act 1964 relating to guardianship of children whose parents are not married or in a civil partnership	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>Objective - Modernise the courts and legal system to improve the fair and speedy conduct of court proceedings</b>				
56	Implement recommendations of the Review of the Administration of Civil Justice in line with the implementation plan	Q1, Q4		
	56.1 Publish/Adopt Implementation Plan	Q1	Achieved	
57	Progress work to open up and reform professional legal education, introduce independent oversight for the first time, and remove barriers to becoming a solicitor or barrister	Q1		
	57.1 Finalise approach to mainstream proposed reforms of professional legal education	Q1		Not yet achieved
	57.2 Develop and begin implementation of action plan to expand provision of professional legal education, enhance access to the profession and introduce independent oversight and quality assurance	Q2		Not yet achieved

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
59	Monitor and respond to issues arising in regard to EU Civil Law matters and coordinate Departmental input to issues arising in regard to the Hague Conference on Private International Law	Ongoing	Achieved/ Ongoing	
61	Publish General Scheme of the Criminal Legal Aid Bill to transfer the operation of the criminal legal aid scheme to the Legal Aid Board and otherwise update and modernise the law on criminal legal aid	Q2		Not yet achieved
62	Enact ECHR (Delay in Court Proceedings) Bill to provide appropriate compensation to those who have suffered undue delays in getting access to justice	Q2		Not yet achieved
63	Progress EU legislation on service of documents in cross-border civil and commercial matters	Q2		
	63.1 Develop secondary legislation to give further effect in Irish law to Regulation (EU) 2020/1784 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents)	Q2		Not yet Achieved
	63.2 Develop secondary legislation to give further effect in Irish law to Regulation (EU) 2020/1783 on cooperation between the courts of the Member States in the taking of evidence in civil or commercial matters (taking of evidence)	Q2		Not yet Achieved
<b>Objective - Modernise the operation of the judiciary to enable it to work more effectively; and reform the process for appointing judges</b>				
67	Enact new Judicial Appointments Commission Bill which will reform and modernise the way in which judges are appointed and dealing with the legislative process following publication	Q1, Q2, Q4		
	67.1 Publish Judicial Appointments Commission Bill	Q1	Achieved	
	67.2 Enact Judicial Appointments Commission Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>Objective - Modernise the courts and legal system to improve the fair and speedy conduct of court proceedings</b>				
68	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	Q2		

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS	QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
68.1 Publication by the OECD of research commissioned in late 2021 to provide an evidence base to inform the review on judicial numbers and skills, including appropriate international comparators.	Q2		Not yet achieved
68.2 Publish the report of the Judicial Planning Working Group	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>73</b> Review Abhaile Scheme to ensure that it is ready to deal with changed economic circumstances and in line with the commitment to future resourcing under the Programme for Government	Q2, Q3		
73.1. Assess, in conjunction with the Department of Social Protection, the Joint Working Group and Steering Board of Abhaile, the findings stemming from the governance review of Abhaile conducted in 2021	Q2	Achieved	
<b>Objective - Support our economy and society through regulatory, licensing and civil law reform</b>			
<b>74</b> Building on formal programme of work commenced in 2021, continue work to establish the Gambling Regulatory Authority by early 2023, using a project management approach and cross-functional programme team	Q4, Q2		
74.2 Publish the Gambling Regulation Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>76</b> Finalise General Scheme of Defamation (Amendment) Bill	Q1, Q4		
76.1 Publish review of Defamation	Q1	Achieved	
<b>77</b> Publish the Property Services Regulation (Amendment) Bill to enhance compliance and resolve EU-PILOT (2016) 8426	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>78</b> Transpose EU Restructuring Directive EU (2019)1023. Following completion of 2021 public consultation, prepare necessary amendments to Bankruptcy Acts and ensure transposition in place	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>79</b> Complete statutory review of Personal Insolvency Acts 2012-2015	Q1, Q4		

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS	QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
79 Complete statutory review of Personal Insolvency Acts 2012-2015	Q1		Not yet achieved
<b>80</b> Publish and enact new laws to update and modernise licensing law through the Sale of Alcohol Bill	Q2, Q3		
80.1 Publish General Scheme of Bill	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>Objective - Support the Dublin Coroner to conclude the Stardust Inquests and all coroners to do their jobs</b>			
<b>83</b> Provide all appropriate legal, administrative, financial and functional supports to the Dublin Coroner to enable the delivery of the new Stardust inquest	Q2	Achieved	
<b>84</b> Progress reform of the coronial service	Q2, Q4		
84.1 Make proposals following the Governance and Financial review of the Dublin District Coroner's office	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>Objective - Support the reduction of legal costs and the length of legal proceedings and tackle the high cost of insurance</b>			
<b>85</b> Examine and provide recommendations regarding changes to ensuring insurance fraud data is published	Q1		Not yet achieved
<b>89</b> Continue to work with partners across Government to prioritise the reform of the insurance sector. Complete and implement reform measures of insurance related reviews on:			
89.1 Discount rate	Q1	Achieved	
89.2 Publish amendment to the Occupiers' Liability Act in regard to the actions required of an occupier to meet the common duty of care, and in relation to the voluntary assumption of risk by visitors	Q1	Achieved	
<b>90</b> Support development of a new index for periodic payment orders	Q1, Q2		

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS	QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
90.1 Establish Review Group	Q1	Achieved	
90.2 Identify and agree appropriate index	Q1		Not yet achieved
90.3 Publish legislative amendments	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>91</b> Publish, subject to legal assessment, economic research on models to reduce legal costs	Q2, Q4		
91.1 Complete economic research	Q2		Not yet 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

As set out under Goal 3, we have committed to providing that safety by engaging communities, reducing reoffending, diverting young people away from crime, supporting victims and combating domestic, sexual and gender based violence.

In February the Minister commenced in full the Criminal Procedure Act 2021. This act brings about changes in our courts system through the introduction of preliminary trial hearings. Its commencement, together with the necessary rules of court drawn up by relevant courts, will allow pre-trial hearings to take place. It will have a significant benefit to the trial processes for a range of offences. This includes sexual offences, where the impact on victims will be reduced as they are less likely to be subject to stressful delays after preparing themselves mentally for a trial. It will also improve trials for white collar crimes, organised crime and other

complex offences and will make it less likely juries are sent away during trial, making the court process faster and more efficient.

Following a public consultation campaign, the government published the Zero Tolerance strategy. Led by the Minister for Justice, this is an ambitious 5-year programme of reform to achieve a society which does not accept domestic, sexual and gender-based violence or the attitudes which underpin it. The €363 million strategy is built on 4 pillars – Protection, Prevention, Prosecution and Policy Co-ordination – and the accompanying implementation plan contains 144 detailed actions to be implemented this year and next through new oversight structures.

Minister of State with special responsibility for Youth Justice, announced just under €6.7 million in funding allocations for over 50 Youth

Diversion Projects (YDPs) nationwide. The Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 was published in April 2021 and a major action contained in this Strategy is a new and expanded mandate for 105 YDPs across the State. YDPs engage with young people through a range of supports, including education, training and employment support, social enterprise initiatives, as well as personal development and supports such as mentoring, and personal development activities.

To support the development of community safety through innovative, local community based initiatives an open call for Community Safety Innovation Funding was launched with €2 million made available.

The Criminal Justice (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill 2022, the General Scheme of which was approved by Cabinet, will put a

revised National Referral Mechanism on a statutory footing, making it easier for victims of trafficking to come forward, be identified, and access support. Furthermore, it will strengthen the law on consent, knowledge and belief in rape cases by changing the current situation where a man is not guilty of rape if he honestly believed that he had consent.

In June the Minister published the General Scheme of the Inspection of Places of Detention Bill. This bill will provide for the designation of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) that will act as national inspection bodies of places of detention in the State.

In the current Programme for Government, there is a commitment to review the existing functions, powers, appointment procedures and reporting processes for Prison

Visiting committees, with a view to modernising and improving their administration and oversight. Under Action 114, this review has commenced and the department undertook a public consultation as part of the review.

To progress the actions of the Working to Change strategy, the Department of Justice established an Employers' Forum to assist with the reduction in systemic barriers to employment for people with criminal convictions.

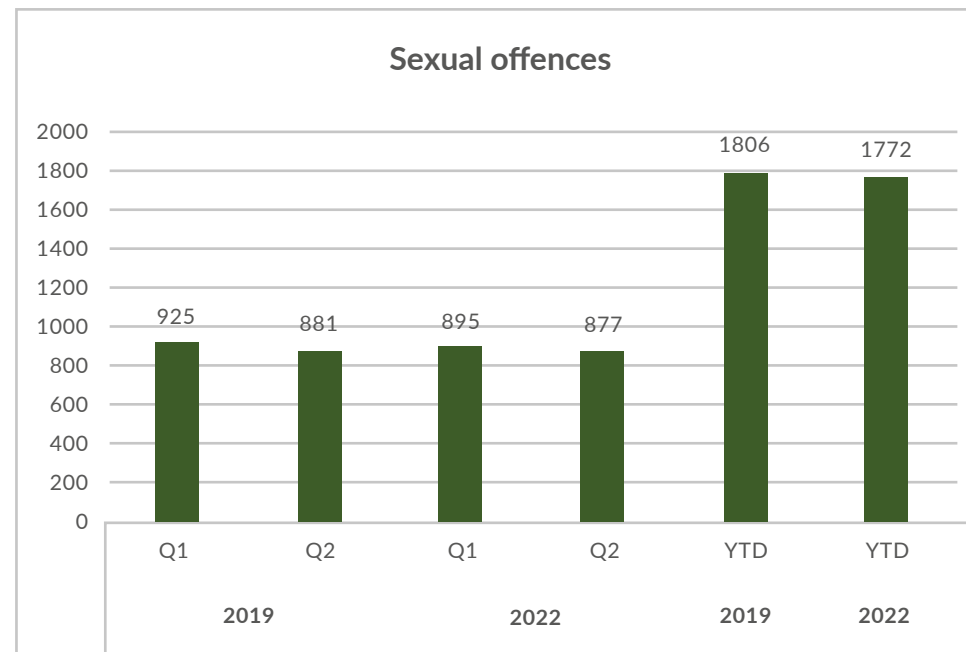
### Key Indicators

Progress is measured through comparing 2022 data with the baseline period of 2019. For 2020 and 2021 crime figures were affected by the health restrictions imposed to manage the COVID pandemic. As such, 2019 represents a 'normal' crime year.

The data used to measure progress is taken from the CSO quarterly crime statistics publications.

### Sexual offences

This covers all offences recorded as sexual offences. In 2019 there were 1,806 incidents recorded as sexual offences. The figure for the same period in 2022 was 1,772, a reduction of 1.9%.



Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2 are detailed below.

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Objective - Combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence and support victims of crime</b>				
<b>93</b>	Progress any actions arising from the research study on familicide	Q2		
	93.1 Publish research and identify next steps	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>95</b>	Progress the development of appropriate structures to ensure the coherent delivery of DSGBV services and effective support for implementation of the Third National DSGBV Strategy	Ongoing	Achieved	
<b>96</b>	Launch and begin implementation of third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence	Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4		
	96.1 Complete public consultation	Q1	Achieved	
	96.2 Develop communications plan to support Strategy, including messaging re: illegal sharing of intimate images	Q1	Achieved	
	96.3 Finalise and launch Strategy	Q2	Achieved	
	96.4 Develop and begin to implement a 2022 implementation plan	Q2	Achieved	
	96.5 Promote a shared understanding of the meaning and importance of consent - which includes the development of a supporting website	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>Objective - Deliver restorative justice safely and effectively</b>				
<b>98</b>	Establish a mechanism to create awareness and availability of restorative justice at all stage of the CJ system with consistency of service ensuring quality in training and practice	Q2		
	98.1 Agree implementation plan	Q2		Not yet achieved

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Objective -Divert young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour</b>				
<b>99</b>	Continue evidence informed implementation of Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 supported by REPPP research	Q1, Q2, Q3		
	99.1 Publish 2021 implementation statement	Q1		Not yet achieved
	99.2 Complete assessment process and funding allocations for enhanced Youth Diversion Projects	Q2	Achieved	
<b>100</b>	Under the Anti-Social Behaviour Forum, review existing Garda powers in relation to dangerous weapons, including knives, to ensure they have the necessary legal tools to protect our communities	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>Objective -Drive community participation in a new approach to make communities safer, and work across government and with State agencies to support this goal</b>				
<b>103</b>	Drive community participation in a new approach to make communities safer, and work across government and with State agencies to support this goal	Q1, Q3		
	103.1 Publish Drogheda Implementation Progress Report in Q1	Q1		Not yet achieved - report is currently being compiled for approval and publication in Q3.
<b>104</b>	Support and work with Dublin City Council to ensure the implementation of the report on Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview in North Dublin City	Ongoing	Achieved	
<b>105</b>	Monitor the operation and effectiveness of the Local Community Safety Pilots with view to rolling the model out nationwide	Q1		
	105.1 Produce baseline evaluation report on the three pilot LCSPs	Q1	Achieved	
<b>106</b>	Launch community safety innovation fund to invest seized proceeds of crime to support community safety projects	Q1, Q4		

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
	106.1 Launch fund	Q1	Achieved	
<b>Objective - Implement Supporting a Victim's Journey: A plan to help victims and vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases</b>				
<b>107</b>	Deliver on relevant actions under Supporting A Victims Journey	Q1, Q2		
	107.1 Convene and host an Annual/bi annual victim's rights forum in Q2 and Q4	Q2	Achieved	
	107.2 Commence legislation to operationalise pre-trial hearings	Q1	Achieved	
<b>110</b>	Progress the Sexual Offences Bill to provide for amendments to sexual offences legislation in line with commitments in Supporting a Victim's Journey	Q2, Q4		
	110.1 Publish General Scheme	Q2	Achieved	
<b>111</b>	Reform Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal Scheme	Q2, Q4		
	111.1 Submit proposals to Government on upper limits on material and non-material losses	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>Objective - Publish the legislation to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture</b>				
<b>113</b>	Publish the Inspection of Places of Detention Bill to enable the ratification of the UN Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on Torture (OPCAT)	Q1, Q3		
	113.1 Publish General Scheme	Q1	Achieved	
<b>114</b>	Review of the existing functions, powers, appointment procedures and reporting processes for Prison Visiting Committees	Q2, Q3		
	114.1 Finalise the terms of reference for a review	Q2	Achieved	

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS	QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
114.2 Conduct consultation with relevant stakeholders as required	Q2	Achieved	
<b>115</b> Deliver on DOJ led actions in the Social Enterprise and Employment Strategy 2021-2023 (Working to Change)	Q1, Q3, Q4		
115.1 Establish a Department of Justice led Employers' Forum to assist with the reduction in systemic barriers to employment for people with criminal convictions	Q1	Achieved	
<b>116</b> Work with the Oireachtas to progress the Criminal Justice (Rehabilitative Periods) Bill 2018	Ongoing		Not yet achieved
<b>118</b> Complete policy review of the Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions) Bill 2014 incorporating consideration of a statutory basis for prison as a sanction of last resort	Q2, Q3, Q4		
118.1 Publish policy review (of Community Sanctions Bill)	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>119</b> Review of Prison and Penal Reform	Q1, Q3		
119.1 Publish Action Plan for Penal Reform 2022 - 2024	Q1		Not yet achieved
<b>120</b> High Level Taskforce on Mental Health and addiction challenges of those who interact with the criminal justice system	Q1, Q3		
120.1 Complete high level implementation plan for recommendations of the HLTF on Mental Health	Q1		Not yet achieved
<b>124</b> Continue the restructuring of multi-agency offender management, informed by a review of the need for a National Offender Management Office	Q2		Not yet achieved



IMMIGRATION



2 INIMIRCE

Non-European

NON-EUROPEAN

INIMIRCE



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IMMIGRATION

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Department of Justice

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



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

Under Goal 4, with demand for Irish immigration services continuing to increase at a significant rate, in addition to the challenges of the Ukrainian crisis, our focus continued to deliver efficient, robust and customer-centric frontline immigration services.

In order to communicate effectively with our service users, the Irish Immigration website is now available in the most common languages used by our customers.

Immigration Service Delivery continues to utilise the Immigration NGO Forum and the Economic Migration Employer User Forum to identify and resolve significant customer service issues.

In developing a fully digital, customer centric immigration service delivery, we continue to enhance the online forms solution to further automate the engagement process for customers.

To continue the expansion of the use of e-vetting to immigration service applicants, we utilised e-vetting for the

Scheme for Regularisation of long-term Undocumented Migrants.

In April, the Minister extended the eligibility option of a five year multi-entry visa to all visa required countries. With the new changes, people who have frequently travelled to the UK, Schengen zone, USA, Canada, Australia or New Zealand, and have observed the conditions of those visas will also be able to apply for the option of a multi-year visa (of any duration from one to five), even if they have no previous Irish travel history. A multi-entry visa may also be approved for some business travellers, under certain conditions, who have no previous travel history to Ireland.



### Key Indicators

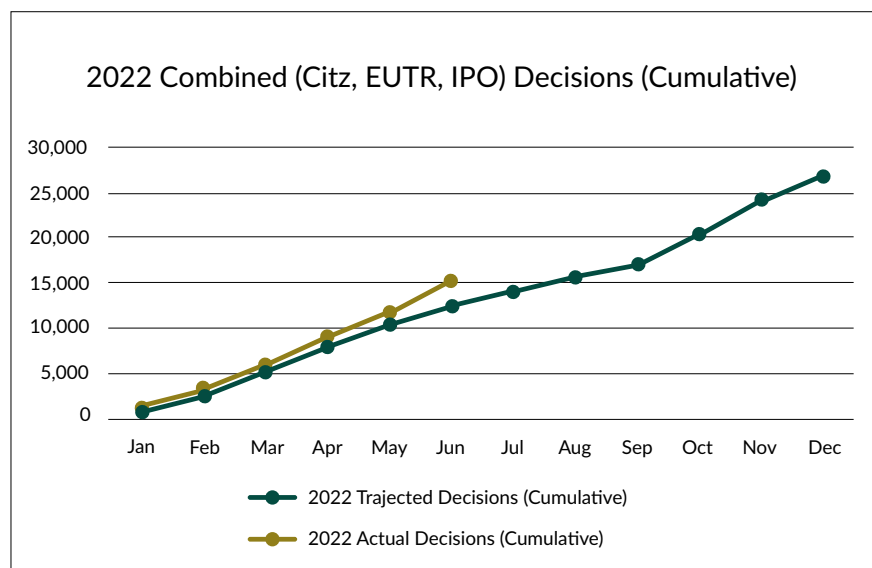
The Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) target is to increase decisions made by 25%. The areas under consideration are International Protection Office applications (IPO), European Union Treaty Rights (EUTR) and Citizenship. Progress against the target was assessed through:

- Estimating where ISD needs to be on a month-by-month basis in order to meet the 25% target. This generates a trajectory that we need to follow in order to meet the target.
- Tracking the actual monthly figures against this trajectory.

At the end of June, the trajectory value was 12,643 decisions made. The actual number of decisions made by ISD was 15,194. This means that ISD is 22% ahead of trajectory. Please see chart below.

ISD monitor customer satisfaction on a monthly basis. This is measured through a voluntary email survey completed by the customer when their query has been closed. The scale runs from 1-5, with the aspiration target being 4.5.

Please note this survey reflects customer engagement from January – June 2022 with the Registration Office.



Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2 are detailed below.

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Objective - Communicate effectively with our service users, recognising and understanding their diversity and supporting them to engage effectively with us</b>				
<b>126</b>	Continue to monitor and drive improvements in customer service and customer satisfaction	Q1, Q4		
	126.1 Ensure that the website is available in the most common languages used by our customers	Q1	Achieved	
	126.2 Utilise mechanisms to monitor customer service and customer satisfaction to make improvements	Q1		Not yet achieved
	126.3 Continue to utilise the Immigration NGO Forum and the Economic Migration Employer User Forum to identify and resolve significant customer service issues	Q1	Achieved	
<b>Objective - Develop a fully digital, customer-centric immigration service</b>				
<b>128</b>	Enhance the online forms solution in ISD to further automate the engagement process for ISD customers	Q1, Q4		
	128.1 Agree the development plan for 2022	Q1		Not yet achieved
	128.2 Introduce Production Support Function for existing forms	Q1	Achieved	
<b>Objective - Develop a fully digital, customer-centric immigration service</b>				
<b>129</b>	Continue expansion of use of e-vetting for categories of immigration service applicants, increasing efficiency of vetting applications	Q1		
	129.1 Utilise e-vetting for Scheme for Regularisation of long-term Undocumented Migrants	Q1	Achieved	
<b>130</b>	Introduce measures to improve appointment scheduling for customers who require in-person appointments for services.	Q1, Q2		

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS	QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
130.1 Test new online appointment booking system	Q2		Not yet achieved
130.2 Continue to explore alternative or additional measures to improve customer experience	Q1	Achieved/ Ongoing	
<b>132</b> Publish at least twice a year statistics on the volume of applications received, cases completed, and typical processing times across all immigration areas	Q2		
132.1 Publish statistics	Q2	Achieved/ Ongoing	
132.2 Continue to develop metrics that best support and drive customer outcome focused improvements.	Q2	Achieved	
<b>134</b> Reduce the processing time for FOI and SAR requests	Q1		
134.1 Ensure that efficiency and digitisation initiatives recognise this as an important driver	Q1	Achieved/ Ongoing	
<b>Objective - Ensure that effective controls are exercised at our borders in line with our international obligations and to maintain our national security</b>			
<b>135</b> Review the policy of holding immigration detainees in prisons	Q2, Q4		
135.1 Complete Review and develop action plan	Q2		Not yet achieved
<b>136</b> Maintain the integrity of border controls at Dublin Airport	Ongoing		
136.1 Maintain training and operational guidance to support border control function	Ongoing	Achieved/ Ongoing	
136.2 Continue to monitor immigration processing times	Ongoing	Achieved/ Ongoing	

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
	136.3 Support COVID-19 public health measures as required	Ongoing	Achieved	
<b>137</b>	Continue cooperation and dialogue on strategic and operational matters to maintain the integrity of the Common Travel Area	Q2,Q4		
	137.1a Hold two meetings of joint Department of Justice / Home Office Common Travel Area Forum (CTAF)	Q2	Achieved/ Ongoing	
<b>138</b>	Implement the Regularisation scheme for long term undocumented migrants	Q1, Q4		
	138.1 Begin accepting applications under regularisation scheme, using an online, customer-friendly application process	Q1	Achieved	
<b>139</b>	Contribute to the development of legislative and policy changes as identified by ISD Units	Q1		
	139.1 Agree high level design for Single Person Committee restructure	Q1	Achieved	
<b>Objective - Protect the fairness and enhance the efficiency of our immigration system through new strategic policies and legislative proposals</b>				
<b>140</b>	Complete the delivery of the recommendations of the Report of the Advisory Group on the Provision of Support including Accommodation to Persons in the International Protection Process (the Catherine Day Advisory Group) assigned to this Department.	Q1, Q3, Q4		
	140.1 Implement process to allow international protection applicants who have an outstanding application and have been in the asylum process for a minimum of 2 years to apply for an immigration status	Q1	Achieved	
<b>144</b>	Finalise a future design model for immigration services, along with a phased implementation plan for same	Q2, Q4		
	144.1 Agree and commence implementation of modernisation plan for new Immigration Service Delivery Model, including transitioning to a functional model structure, process simplification and a new case management system	Q2	Achieved	

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
	144.2 Review and expand to additional countries the five-year multi-visa option	Q2	Achieved	
	144.3 Put in place Operating Model Delivery Team	Q2	Achieved	
<b>Objective - Restructure our immigration services to better serve our customers and our country</b>				
<b>145</b>	Progress continuing transfer of immigration functions from the Garda National Immigration Bureau to the Department of Justice	Q2, Q3, Q4		
	145.1 Finalise and publish roadmap for the transfer of all immigration functions to the Department	Q2		Not yet achieved







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

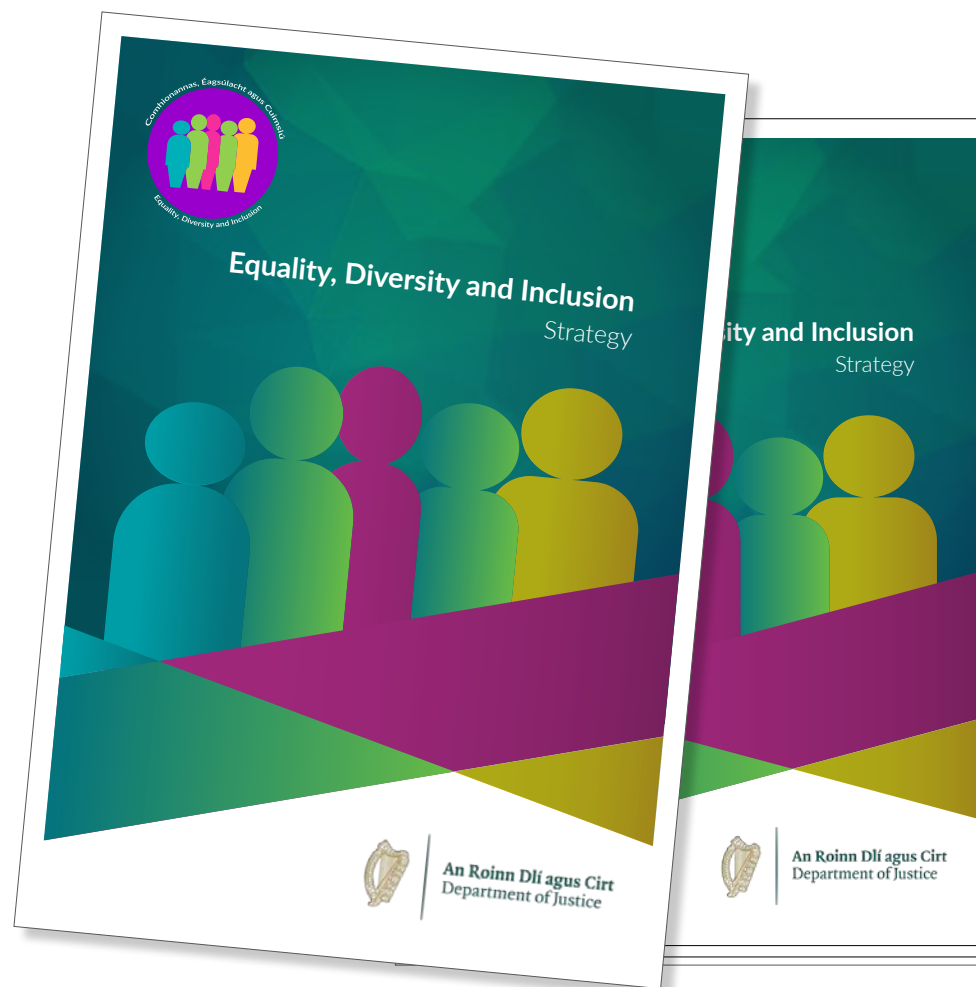


## Goal 5: Accelerate innovation, digital transformation and climate action across the justice sector

As set out under Goal 5, accelerating innovation, digitalisation and climate action across the justice sector continued to be vital levers to deliver the significant reforms set out in our Plan.

In March, the Department of Justice published its first Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy. Equality, diversity and inclusion are fundamental building blocks in achieving the Department's mission of a Safe, Fair and Inclusive Ireland. The EDI Strategy provides a focus for increasing our capacity to deliver on this work, whilst supporting the organisation to meet other equally important requirements set out in equality legislation and human rights standards.

Progress on each of the actions to be delivered in the first half of 2022 is set out below.



Progress on the actions to be delivered in Q1 and Q2 are detailed below.

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS		QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>Objective –Develop innovation and leadership strategies for the justice sector</b>				
147	Develop and publish an Innovation Strategy for the Justice sector	Q2		Not yet achieved
149	Embed Project Management Framework and Methodology inside Programme & Project Management and across the Department			
	149.1 Develop Project management Toolkit and Handbook	Q2	Achieved	
	149.2. Provide Training for managers and users	Q2	Achieved	
<b>Objective –Develop innovation and leadership strategies for the justice sector</b>				
150	Ensure that appropriate equipment and tools are provided for staff to work securely both onsite and remotely where approved in support of blended working	Q1	Achieved	
<b>Objective - In re-designing our services incorporate a focus on sustainability, digital solutions and reducing our carbon footprint</b>				
152	Produce prioritised list and commence redevelopment of large scale, complex Lotus Notes applications on modern secure platforms	Ongoing	Achieved/ Ongoing	
<b>Objective –Develop innovation and leadership strategies for the justice sector</b>				
154	Integrate Climate Impact Awareness into Project Management Framework to reduce carbon footprint of projects	Q1	Achieved	
<b>Objective - Integrate digital systems across the justice sector to enable greater sharing of information and increased co-operation</b>				
155	Finalise and publish the new Customer Service Action Plan and Customer Charter	Q1		Not yet achieved

OBJECTIVES & 2022 ACTIONS	QUARTER	ACHIEVED	NOT YET ACHIEVED
<b>159</b> Advance initiatives aimed at promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion across the justice sector	Q1, Q2		
159.1 Publish Department of Justice EDI Strategy	Q1	Achieved	
159.2 Commence work to identify additional EDI initiatives across the Justice sector	Q2		Not yet achieved





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