

# JUSTICE PLAN 2024



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice



# Minister's Foreword

I am delighted, as Minister for Justice, to publish Justice Plan 2024. This comprehensive plan sets out in detail a substantial programme of work to be carried out by the Department of Justice throughout 2024. This plan will deliver on the goals and objectives as set out in the new 'A safe, fair and inclusive Ireland: Statement of Strategy 2024-2026'.

Since we commenced publishing annual Justice Plans in 2021, this is the fourth consecutive year we have set out the actions to be achieved as we build stronger, safer communities.

As a key priority, we will continue to provide An Garda Síochána with the resources it needs to ensure communities around Ireland are safe and feel safe, including investment in recruitment, equipment, technology and in buildings. The Government is committed to ensuring An Garda Síochána have the resources they need to keep communities safe. Budget 2024 provides an unprecedented budget of €2.3 billion to An Garda Síochána, which is a 23% increase since 2020. This funding allows for the continued recruitment of Garda members and staff, as well as ensuring Gardaí have the equipment, technology, facilities and fleet they need to carry out their vital work.

I look forward to commencing the landmark

Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024. The Act gives effect to a Programme for Government commitment and forms part of the wider policing reform programme to implement the recommendations of the Report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland. This Act is the result of an enormous amount of research and collaborative work with the aim of developing a new approach to ensuring modern and dynamic policing in Ireland. It recognises that responsibility for community safety does not rest with An Garda Síochána alone but requires the co-operation and efforts of other government departments and State agencies, working together. Importantly, this legislation has communities at its heart, recognising that it is the people living in a community who know their community's needs best.

Previous Justice Plans commenced many policies and actions that will be further developed in this year's plan. Actions such as the continued implementation of Zero Tolerance, the third national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, demonstrating the Government's collective efforts to tackle domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

In achieving our goal to improve access to justice for all, we will progress throughout this year to enact the Family Courts Bill and continue to implement the recommendations

from the first Family Justice Strategy that I published in 2022. This work will continue to make significant steps towards reforming the Family Justice System as committed to by the Programme for Government.

Under reforms recommended by the Judicial Planning Working Group and approved by Government, the number of judges in the Irish legal system will increase by 25%. 24 additional judges were appointed in 2023, including 8 extra judges for the District Court, 8 for the Circuit Court, 6 for the High Court and 2 for the Court of Appeal. A second tranche of 20 additional judges are to be appointed subsequent to an assessment of the impact of the increase in judicial resources afforded by the initial tranche.

The publication of the General Scheme of the Sale of Alcohol Bill brought us a step closer to reforming our antiquated licensing laws. We intend to publish this important Bill this year and start to progress it through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Notwithstanding the challenges faced by unprecedented numbers arriving to our shores seeking refuge, our immigration services remain focussed on ensuring we have a fair and balanced, rules-based immigration system. We have already implemented significant improvements to the immigration system to bring processing times down. The reforms are already having an effect and we expect processing times to fall further this year as we put further resources into the system.

The Government is committed to ensuring that Ireland's future International Protection system is robust, rules based, and that our

borders are protected. The Cabinet approval of the EU Asylum and Migration Pact by the European Parliament is very welcome. This agreement provides a robust legislative framework to address migration and asylum across the EU. It is a shared European solution to a shared European challenge. When implemented, it will ensure European asylum systems are cohesive, fair, and efficient.

Under the Pact, asylum procedures and processes across the EU will be harmonised. In order to implement the EU Migration and Asylum Pact we will begin to put in place a range of measures that will lead to a reduction in the time applicants for International Protection spend waiting for decisions, so that people who qualify for protection get it quickly, while those who don't are returned more efficiently and more quickly to their country of origin. I look forward to progressing all the actions committed to in Justice Plan 2024 and continue to build a justice system that will build stronger and safer communities for all.

*Helen McEntee*

**Helen McEntee T.D.**  
Minister for Justice





## Minister of State's Foreword

I welcome Justice Plan 2024, which outlines the work plan for the year ahead and takes account of any outstanding commitments made in the Programme for Government. The Plan will continue to progress our key priorities so that the Justice Sector continues to develop its capabilities across a wide range of areas.

Justice Plan 2023 delivered significant progress across the justice system and in particular, it continued to deliver one of my key priorities. The Gambling Regulation Bill completed Seanad Éireann, Second Stage in May. This Bill provides for a new streamlined, simplified and coherent licensing framework that reflects the nature of gambling in the State. However, the Government is also very cognisant of the harms associated with problem gambling and there must be safeguards to protect individuals, especially children. It is my clear objective to continue to bring this Bill through the Oireachtas and to be enacted this year.

In the second quarter of 2024, we will publish the Defamation (Amendment) Bill to modernise the law in this critical area. This is a significant priority for Government, to reform defamation law to ensure a balanced approach between the rights to freedom of expression, to protection of good name, and to access to justice. I hope to significantly progress during 2024.

As Chair of the Anti-Social Behaviour Forum, we will monitor implementation of the key recommendations recently announced spanning the entire Government, including the expansion of youth diversion services, local leadership programmes and strengthening the powers of An Garda Síochána. The forums work has reflected the ongoing commitment of the Government to tackling anti-social behaviour and helping communities feel safe.

I will continue to further progress implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy, which provides a developmental framework to address key ongoing challenges, as well as new and emerging issues, in the youth justice area. The Government's funding for youth justice services rose to €33 million this year. This sustained support is helping us to grow our Youth Diversion Network and to expand the services being offered to young people and their families. This work will benefit all our communities, not just now but into the future, as we invest in the future of our young people.

**James Browne T.D.**  
Minister of State for Law Reform



# Introduction from the Secretary General

Justice Plan 2024 is the fourth annual plan to be published. Its aim is to support the delivery of the ambition set out in our latest Statement of Strategy 2024-2026.

This plan drives delivery of the Department's priorities across the five high level goals which reflect the breath, complexity and importance of our vision and values and is designed to support our work for a safe, fair, inclusive Ireland.

The Plan is built on the new Statement of Strategy and has been developed taking account of our business planning, risk management and individual performance management processes, ensuring that delivery of the Plan is a top priority for the department, but also that it is achievable and manageable for the teams who work so hard to deliver it.

Substantial progress has been made through the programme of work completed in the previous Justice Plans. Progress on delivery of Justice Plan 2024 will be monitored and reviewed in the same way by the Management Board and by the Ministers. As committed to in previous years, and in keeping with our commitment to transparency and accountability for the vital work we do on behalf of the people of Ireland, progress reports will be published on actions throughout the year.

It is important to note these actions will be delivered in addition to the wide-ranging, significant, and valued day to day work of colleagues across the department delivering vital services to the public and agencies within the justice sector.

The work our Department delivers on has real meaning and purpose and impacts thousands of people, often during times of great vulnerability and stress.

Even through challenging times, the quality of work displayed by colleagues always makes me immensely proud and I have no doubt this open, collaborative and professional approach will continue to serve the Government and the public throughout the coming years.

**Oonagh McPhillips**  
Secretary General



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## Goal 1

Maintaining a safe and secure Ireland



# Goal 1: Maintaining a safe and secure Ireland

Keeping people safe and secure is at the core of what the Department does. That means resourcing An Garda Síochána with the Gardaí, Garda staff and Reserves needed to police the State, and providing them with the technology and equipment required for a modern fit-for-purpose policing and security service. It also means keeping the criminal law up to date and relevant, and ensuring that the criminal justice agencies are resourced to fully play their part. The threats to the security of the State are changing all the time and the Department will work with partners at home and abroad to equip ourselves to meet the challenges we face.

Establishing Community Safety Partnerships across the country is a key priority. These new structures will bring together the Garda Síochána, the local authority, local interests and all the various state agencies to develop and implement Community Safety

Plans tailored to the needs of their own areas aimed particularly at making their communities safe and secure.

Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence is a cancer in our society. The implementation of Zero Tolerance – the third national strategy to combat Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV) will be a priority. The Department will work with colleagues to support the vital work of Cuan - the new DSGBV agency - and continue to invest in services to victims.

The impact of crime on the lives of victims can be devastating. Throughout the lifetime of this strategy, our efforts will intensify to ensure their voices are heard and taken into account as part of our progress to keep Ireland safe and secure.

The Department's agencies play a critical role in delivering on our mission and in many cases have significant

statutory powers and responsibilities. The Department will continue to develop its capacity to exercise effective governance and oversight of these agencies and work with them to deliver on their mandates.

While the Department is committed to preventing crime, it remains the case that crimes are committed and detected. Our aim is to divert as many people as possible from the criminal justice system to services that are better equipped to deal with their mental health, addiction and other issues. For those who properly come within the scope of the criminal justice system, the Department will continue to focus on increasing effective alternatives to prison through investment in youth justice structures, the Probation Service, community services and restorative justice and, more resources will be targeted at rehabilitation of offenders in our prison system to reduce levels of recidivism.



## Objectives



Reducing levels of crime

Strong public confidence in the criminal justice system

Greater levels of diversion from crime and reduced recidivism



## Outcomes

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - An Garda Síochána strengthened through investment in recruitment, tools and technology</b>		
<b>1 Support and monitor continued recruitment by An Garda Síochána of Garda Members, Garda Reserve, Garda Staff and redeployment of Garda Members to frontline duties.</b>	Criminal Governance	Q4
1.1 An Garda Síochána / Public Appointments Service launch of Garda recruitment campaign with targeted focus at underrepresented groups	Criminal Governance	Q1
1.2 Monitor progress against targets for Garda trainees (800- 1000) and Garda staff (400)	Criminal Governance	Ongoing
1.3 Continue to work with AGS to identify roles suitable for redeployment where a Garda Member will be replaced by Garda Staff building on 900 Gardaí already freed up, with an additional 250 Garda Staff to be recruited in 2024	Criminal Governance	Ongoing
1.4 Finalise Garda Reserve Regulations	Criminal Governance	Q1
1.5 An Garda Síochána / Public Appointments Service launch of Garda Reserve recruitment campaign with targeted focus at underrepresented groups	Criminal Governance	Q2
1.6 Introduce regulations to increase the retirement age to 62 years	Criminal Governance and Civil Legislation	Q2
<b>2 Support An Garda Síochána with the procurement and rollout of Road Safety Cameras for enhanced future enforcement activity, ensuring provisions are made for speed enforcement using camera vans, static cameras, average speed cameras and variable speed, and exploring future possibilities for additional enforcement areas</b>	Criminal Governance	Q4
<b>3 Provide funding and oversight to AGS and OPW to deliver the Garda Capital Plan</b>	Criminal Governance	Q4
3.1 Monitor the AGS Estates pipeline of projects to ensure budget allocations, approvals, site purchases and NDP allocations	Criminal Governance	Ongoing
Provide oversight and monitoring of budget and schedules of AGS Estates Capital Projects undergoing construction in 2024, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Garda Station in Portlaoise</li> </ul> 3.2 - Clonmel and Macroom new stations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New station in Bailieborough</li> <li>- New station in Newcastlewest</li> </ul>	Criminal Governance	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
3.3 Provide Oversight and Monitoring of AGS Capital Projects (ICT, Fleet, Aircraft)	Criminal Governance	Ongoing
3.4 Commence process to develop a new Garda Capital Plan under the PSCS Act	Criminal Governance	Ongoing
<b>4 To publish the Garda Síochána (Powers) Bill to codify police powers of search, arrest and detention.</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q2
<b>5 Progress commencement of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act, which provides for the recording of images, including by body worn cameras, CCTV and ANPR, by an Garda Síochána</b>	Criminal Legislation	Ongoing
5.1 Publish Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) (Amendment) Bill to provide for retrospective processing of images through the safe and ethical use of biometric identification	Criminal Legislation	Q2
5.2 Commencement of Parts of Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023 necessary to facilitate the roll-out of body worn cameras by AGS	Criminal Legislation	Q2
5.3 Support commencement of remainder of Act	Criminal Legislation	Q4
5.4 Monitor and provide oversight to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to commence a pilot of body worn cameras (POC)	Criminal Governance	Q2
5.5 Monitor and provide oversight to AGS regarding the enterprise level, organisation wide body worn cameras project; pre-project and design phase to be completed	Criminal Governance	Q4
<b>6 Finalise the review of arrangements for Garda Vetting in the context of the introduction of a statutory re-vetting regime</b>	Criminal Policy	Q2
<b>7 Seek Ministerial approval for the review of the Fines (Payment and Recovery) Act 2014 and begin implementation of agreed actions</b>	Criminal Policy	Q2
<b>8 Publish Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill to implement legislative recommendations of Proceeds of Crime Review and other legislative amendments identified to further strengthen the State's ability to seize criminal assets</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q3
<b>9 Progress negotiation of bilateral extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties with non-EU countries</b>	Criminal Policy	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - COFPI recommendations implemented to deliver a modern policing and security service</b>		
<b>10 Support the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill to enactment</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q1
10.1 Support drafting of Regulations and Orders under the PSCS Act	Criminal Legislation	Q3
<b>11 Implement the 8-strand programme required to enable full commencement of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act and provide quarterly updates to the Minister</b>	Criminal Governance	Q3
11.1 Continuation (and restructuring) of Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission as Fiosrú - Oifig an Ombudsman Póilíneachta	Criminal Governance	Q3
11.2 Establish the Policing and Community Safety Authority - An tÚdarás Póilíneachta agus Sábháilteachta Pobail	Criminal Governance	Q3
11.3 Establish the National Office for Community Safety	Criminal Governance	Q3
11.4 Establish the Office of the Independent Examiner of Security Legislation	Security and Northern Ireland	Q3
<b>12 Provide quarterly updates to the Minister on the roll out of the new Garda Operating Model to include the rollout of the Community Engagement Function</b>	Criminal Governance	Ongoing
<b>13 Review of interception legislation completed and proposals developed to inform preparation of legislation</b>	Security and Northern Ireland	Q4
<b>14 Complete consideration of the Report(s) of the Review Group on the Offences Against the State Act Review for submission to Government</b>	Security and Northern Ireland	Ongoing
<b>15 Identify authority competent for scrutiny of cross-border removal orders under Terrorist Content Online Regulation (TCOR) and work with Criminal Legislation to finalise designation. Obtain agreement of Coimisiún na Meán and relevant Departments on industry levy to fund TCOR-related activities within Coimisiún na Meán and support process of putting necessary legislation in place.</b>	Criminal Policy	Q4

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - Zero tolerance in our society for violence against women and all forms of domestic, sexual and gender based violence</b>		
<b>16 Continue to work for a robust victim-focused EU Regulation on Child Sexual Abuse, including as coordinator of Like-Minded Group of Member States.</b>	Criminal Policy	Q4
16.1 Contribute to Council efforts to secure agreement on an extension of the current Temporary Derogation from the ePrivacy Directive before the end of the EU legislative term.	Criminal Policy	Q2
<b>17 Publish the General Scheme of the Disregard of Certain Convictions Relating to Consensual Sexual Activity Bill</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q3
<b>18 Implement the Zero Tolerance National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence</b>	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
18.1 Progress consultation to put sexual assaults on a statutory footing and address consent in rape and sexual assault cases.	Criminal Legislation	Ongoing
18.2 Report to Government on progress of Zero Tolerance National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence	Criminal Policy	Q2, Q4
18.3 Coordinate and provide oversight on the implementation of the Zero Tolerance National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and report to the Minister quarterly and to Cabinet Committee as required.	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
18.4 Introduce an intermediary service on a pilot basis. The learnings from the pilot will be assessed with a view to putting the scheme on a statutory basis, and the need for any legislative amendments to support the scheme will also be considered.	Criminal Policy	Q2
18.5 Support Cuan to progress the training actions committed to in the Zero Tolerance Strategy . This will include supporting individual Departments and agencies to develop a training framework and provision of a range of training and awareness raising measures for those engaging with victims of sexual crime and vulnerable witnesses.	Criminal Policy	Q4
18.6 Complete an examination of approaches to support individuals experiencing sexual or domestic violence remaining at home where it is safe to do so, and examine how to allow An Garda Síochána support the issue of removal orders to take offenders out of the home in high risk cases.	Criminal Policy	Q4
18.7 Complete an examination of how the role of An Garda Síochána, in its mandate to protect, can be strengthened by putting a proactive policy in place whereby AGS will reach out to persons who are at serious risk in intimate relationships.	Criminal Policy	Q3

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
18.8 Research, develop and launch awareness raising initiatives to promote and explain the work of the Department, including in respect of new legislation, and support Cuan to execute effective public awareness campaigns relating to Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence..	Transparency	Ongoing
18.9 Examine the recommendations in the research published which explores the interface and interaction of civil family law, public criminal law and the child protection justice systems.	Criminal Policy	Q4
18.10 Consider recommendations arising from the Review of Part 4 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 and progress action as appropriate, including in consultation with An Garda Síochána and on expungement commitment.	Criminal Policy	Q4
18.11 Oversee progress to deliver a doubling of the number of refuge spaces and the delivery of new safe homes within the lifetime of the Zero Tolerance Plan	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
<b>Objective - Supporting victims of crime, including victims of human trafficking</b>		
<b>19 Support the Criminal Justice (Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Offences) Bill 2022 to enactment</b>	Criminal Legislation	Ongoing
<b>20 Progress the monitoring and Implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking and support establishment of a new National Referral Mechanism.</b>	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
20.1 Following enactment of the Bill establish a secretariat within DoJ to support the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)	Criminal Policy	Q3
20.2 Commence development of revised operational guidelines for processing of applications and support for human trafficking victims by new NRM in consultation with stakeholders	Criminal Policy	Q3
<b>21 Support to enactment the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking) Bill which provides for a revised National Referral Mechanism.</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q2
<b>22 Put structures in place and engage with families to progress the relevant recommendations of the report on Familicide</b>	Criminal Policy	Q2
<b>23 Reform of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal Scheme</b>	Service Delivery	Q4

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
23.1 Commence preparation of substantial reforms to Scheme in light of recommendations arising from Working Group and LRC review that is expected to commence later this year; update Working Group recommendations following outputs from LRC review	Service Delivery	Q4
<b>24 Develop and present policy recommendations to the Minister to be included in the General Scheme of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal Bill</b>	Service Delivery	Q4
<b>25 Develop initiatives to raise awareness of the rights that victims of crime have by further developing victimscharter.ie and working with the sector to develop and distribute materials to reach harder to reach communities.</b>	Transparency	Ongoing
<b>26 Develop legislative proposals to address Hamilton Report recommendation regarding recklessness and fraud offences in the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud) Act 2001</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q3
26.1 Agree revised legislative approach to take account of the work undertaken by the Advisory Council against Economic Crime and Corruption	Criminal Legislation	Q3
<b>27 Strengthen regulatory enforcement capability of the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Unit (AMLCU) in response to the detection of clear regulatory breaches of the law by designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs)</b>	Service Delivery	Q3
27.1 Finalise legislative approach to the issuing of fines by AMLCU, cognisant of wider developments arising from the 6th Anti Money laundering Directive and how this can be progressed	Service Delivery, Criminal Legislation	Q3
27.2 Finalise set up of a revised Appeals Tribunal for TCSPs that wish to appeal a decision of the AMLCU.	Service Delivery	Q3
27.3 Promote compliance through quarterly webinars targeting DNFBPs	Service Delivery	Ongoing
27.4 Targeted community events to raise awareness raising among relevant business community (7 events across the year)	Service Delivery	Ongoing
<b>28 Support compliance with the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010 through the issuing of a set of written guidelines</b>	Service Delivery	Q1
28.1 Publish guidelines on compliance for businesses supervised by AMLCU	Service Delivery	Q1

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>29</b> Work with the Advisory Council on Economic Crime and Corruption to draft a national strategy to tackle economic crime and corruption	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>30</b> Complete analysis of submissions from An Garda Síochána and the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to spiking and make recommendations to the Minister	Criminal Legislation	Q4
<b>Objective - Safer communities developed through local community partnerships</b>		
<b>31</b> Transition the Community Safety Pilots in Dublin, Waterford and Longford to permanent structures as part of the roll out of LCSP nationwide	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>32</b> Launch Community Safety Innovation Fund 2024	Criminal Policy	Q2
32.1 Complete process and allocation of funding to successful candidates	Criminal Policy, Corporate	Q3
<b>33</b> Commence the national rollout of Community Safety Partnerships in 2024	Criminal Policy	Q3
33.1 Publish the evaluation of Community Safety Partnerships	Corporate	Q2
33.2 Launch campaign and recruit new Director of the National Office of Community Safety	Criminal Policy	Q2
33.3 Launch communication campaign to highlight the role of LCSPs nationally and the development of new Local Community Safety Plans	Transparency	Q2
33.4 Ensure Expression of Interest process for Chairs is launched in each local authority	Criminal Policy	Q2
33.5 Establish the National Office for Community Safety	Criminal Policy	Q2
33.6 Commence Establishment of LCSPs in local authorities	Criminal Policy	Q3
33.7 Complete establishment of LCSPs in each designated area	Criminal Policy	Q3



OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>34 Support the new approach to make communities safer, and work across government and with State agencies to support this goal</b>	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
34.1 Support and work with Dublin City Council to ensure that the Cherry Orchard implementation group works with the local community to deliver improvements to the Cherry Orchard area.	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
34.2 Support and work with Dublin City Council to ensure the implementation of the report on Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview in North Dublin City	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
34.3 Support and work with Dublin City Council to ensure the Ballymun implementation group works with the local community to deliver improvements to the Ballymun area	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
34.4 Publish Drogheda Implementation Progress Report	Criminal Policy	Q3
<b>35 Work through the Rural Safety Forum to implement the Rural Safety Plan with focus on Community Safety, Burglary and Theft, Roads Policing, Animal Crime and Heritage Crime</b>	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>36 Take forward the actions of the Firearms Licensing Review Reports</b>	Service Delivery	Q4
36.1 Appoint a Firearms Technical Advisor (FTA) who will be responsible for providing firearms advice to the Minister & Minister of State and on behalf of the Department when required.	Service Delivery	Q2
<b>Objective - Tackling anti-social behaviour by working together to divert people from crime and reduce reoffending</b>		
<b>37 Implement new actions to continue to tackle Anti-social behaviour</b>	Criminal Policy	Q4
37.1 Implement recommendations arising from the Anti-social Behaviour Forum and report quarterly on the work of the forum	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
37.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour Forum will bring forward proposals to expand AGS use of Anti-Social Behaviour Warnings (ASBW) and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) to tackle public order offences and anti-social behaviour	Criminal Policy	Q2
37.3 The Anti-Social Behaviour Forum will bring forward proposals to strengthen legislative powers to tackle knife-crime by increasing the penalties for certain knife-crime offences	Criminal Policy	Q2
37.4 Prepare amendments to increase maximum penalties for certain knife related offences	Criminal Legislation	Q2
37.5 Monitor implementation of the recommendations of the anti-social behaviour forum to strengthen the use of ASBOs	Criminal Policy	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
37.6 In partnership with University Limerick, the Forum will support local leadership initiatives to implement practical responses to anti-social behaviour in Approved Housing Bodies and local authority housing complexes.	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
<b>38 Support the Criminal Justice (Engagement of Children in Criminal Activity) Bill 2023 to enactment</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q1
38.1 Commence the Criminal Justice (Engagement of Children in Criminal Activity) Act 2023	Criminal Legislation	Q2
<b>39 Continue evidence informed implementation of Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 supported by REPPP research</b>	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
39.1 Commission 2 new YDPs to complete full national YDP network coverage and availability	Criminal Policy	Q4
39.2 Complete examination and commence commissioning work with relevant Departments and agencies to trial an approach to joint commissioning of services relevant to families and children (including Tusla-funded services, YDPs, other youth services, SCIAP projects etc.) which will focus also on ways of implementing the no wrong door principle.	Criminal Policy	Q4
39.3 Conduct final public consultation on introduction of diversion approaches for 18-24 year olds and submit policy proposals by year end	Criminal Policy	Q4
39.4 Develop youth justice worker traineeships for YDPs to create a progression pathway for current and previous participants of YDPs in collaboration with HEI and ETB partners	Criminal Policy	Q4
39.5 Develop YDP programme accreditation process to provide best practice models for dissemination to wider YDP network and national and international events e.g. YDP Conference, EUCPN	Criminal Policy	Q4
39.6 Introduce supports for registration for Gaisce Awards for YDP participants to increase positive outcomes for young people through their Gaisce Award achievements and mitigate barriers to participation for marginalised young people.	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>40 Continue to support Greentown trials with a view to identifying best practice that can be mainstreamed within Garda operations and within local youth justice services more widely</b>	Criminal Policy	Ongoing
<b>41 Redevelop the existing JARC model to provide a more dynamic response to local crime patterns</b>	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>42 Complete, launch and implement a new employment strategy for people with criminal convictions</b>	Criminal Policy	Q2
<b>43 Develop a follow up plan to the Review of Policy Options for Prison and Penal Reform 2022-2024</b>	Criminal Policy	Q4

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - Expanding prison capacity and improving conditions for people in prison</b>		
44 Develop a plan to operationalise the use of electronic tagging where appropriate	Criminal Governance	Q3
45 Develop a coherent prison capacity policy informing capital needs	Criminal Policy	Q4
45.1 Implement agreed actions to address immediate capacity needs in the prison system	Criminal Policy	Q1
45.2 Prepare policy paper for long-term prison capacity, focusing on the quantity and nature of prison spaces needed, for Minister's approval	Criminal Policy	Q4
45.3 Establish High Level Working Group to advance approved policy	Criminal Policy	Q3
45.4 Provide monitoring and oversight for IPS Accelerated Capital Program (463 spaces for up to 670 prisoners). Support IPS to deliver additional capacity of over 150 spaces in 2024 including modular units in Shelton Abbey, Castlerea and Loughan House	Criminal Governance	Q4
45.5 Establish a new review group to make recommendations on other future prison developments, including examining Thornton Hall	Criminal Governance	Q2
46 Publish the Inspection of Places of Detention Bill to enable ratification of UN Optional Protocol to UN Convention on Torture (OPCAT) and support the Bill's progress through the Oireachtas	Criminal Legislation	Q4
46.1 Publish the Bill	Criminal Legislation	Q4
46.2 Support progress through the Oireachtas	Criminal Legislation	Q4
47 Implement the recommendations of the High Level Task Force on the mental health and addiction challenges of those who come into contact with the Criminal Justice System with responsibilities and tasks assigned across different departments and multiple agencies. Implementation to be coordinated and monitored by Steering Group, co-chaired by DoJ and DoH to ensure smooth progression.	Criminal Policy	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>48</b> Continue to consider the establishment of a Penal Policy Consultative Council to consider matters relating to penal policy and to provide advice to the Minister as appropriate.	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>49</b> Support the work of the Oireachtas to progress by providing policy input, as requested, to the Criminal Justice (Rehabilitative Periods) Bill 2018	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>50</b> Agree policy for parole regulations under the Parole Act 2019	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>51</b> Progress the review of Prison Rules 2007	Criminal Policy	Q2
<b>52</b> Progress work in the Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions) Bill	Criminal Legislation	Q4
52.1 Publish policy review (Criminal Justice Community Sanctions Bill)	Criminal Policy	Q2
52.2 Progress General Scheme of Criminal Justice (Community Sanctions) Bill	Criminal Legislation	Q4



**Goal 2**  
Improving access  
to justice for all



## Goal 2: Improving access to justice for all

Access to justice is more than a phrase - it is a fundamental principle of fairness. Our commitment is to address barriers to anyone seeking justice, regardless of their circumstances.

The Department will drive the significant reform needed across the State's legal system to deliver a faster, more effective justice system, with an increase in cases being heard within shorter timeframes. The system will be more victim-centred, trauma-informed and will support victims at every stage of their journey in the criminal, family and civil legal processes.

As part of this, the reform of family justice will provide Ireland with an effective, child-centred system that enables families to resolve their problems in a simpler, faster way. Through reforming, the law blockages will be reduced, and appropriate support systems improved, including where legal or other advice is necessary.

The Department is supporting the modernisation of the courts systems, and improving facilities and supports for those who are victims of, or witnesses to, crime. Key to facilitating greater access to justice are, continued investment in resources for, and digitalisation of, the courts system. This will be in parallel to the development of a unique personal identifier across the justice sector.

Bereaved families interact with the Coroners Service at the most difficult time in their lives. The strategy commits to delivering a sensitive and timely service to the bereaved.

Reforming our laws on areas such as the sale of alcohol, licensing of firearms, defamation and censorship will provide more effective regulation of social, economic and recreational activities that are within the Department's policy remit.

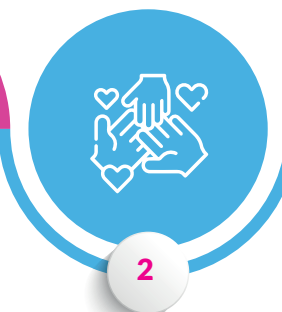


## Objectives

Dispute resolution that is effective, efficient and timely



1



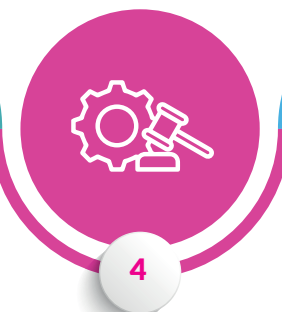
2

A family justice system that works for children and families

Legal Aid systems that provides people with effective access to justice



3



4

Modern regulation, governance standards and licensing of activities in ways that serve the best interests of all society

Develop a personal unique identifier across the Justice Sector



5



6

A compassionate, efficient Coroners Service providing consistent timely support to bereaved families

## Outcomes

Modernised Court Services that are more efficient and accessible to all



1

More sustainable solutions to resolve disputes



2



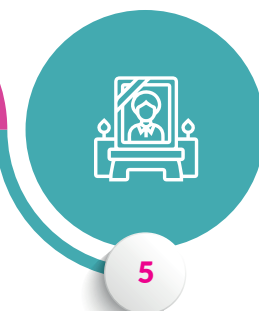
3

Vulnerable users feel they can access services and the support and knowledge they need, to engage with the system they need to engage with, within the justice system



4

Improved ability to coordinate and target resources and process cases across the Justice Sector



5

Bereaved persons have easy access to clear and concise information about the coronial process and relevant timelines

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>53 Support the establishment of a Mediation Council of Ireland</b>	Civil Governance	Q4
53.1 Support a review of provisions in the Mediation Act 2017	Civil Governance/Civil Legislation/Civil Policy	Ongoing
53.2 Support the sector in its work to prepare draft codes of practice, a draft register of mediators, and to identify public interest members of the Council.	Civil Governance	Q4
<b>54 Contribute to passing of primary and secondary legislation to allow Minister to set indexation rate and following consultation with Working Group, advise the Minister on an appropriate indexation rate for Periodic Payment Orders.</b>	Civil Policy and Legislation	Q2
54.1 Finalise Working Group report and advise the Minister on an appropriate indexation rate for Periodic Payment Orders	Civil Policy	Q1
54.2 Draft secondary legislation to give effect to indexation rate	Civil Legislation	Q2
<b>55 Introduce new pre-action protocol regulations (clinical negligence) in implementation of Part 15 Legal Services Regulation Act 2015.</b>	Civil Legislation	Q4
<b>56 Support the expert group on the setting of the discount rate (Q1) and consider recommendations of expert group and make regulations to take account of them (Q2)</b>	Civil Policy	Q2
56.1 Support the Independent Expert Working Group on the Setting of the Discount Rate to finalise its report and submit to the Minister for consideration	Civil Policy	Q2
56.2 Following consideration of recommendations of the Independent Expert Working Group, if appropriate draft regulations to give effect to them.	Civil Legislation	Q3
<b>57 Review the Peace Commissioner appointment process</b>	Service Delivery	Q4
57.1 Consultation & research completed. Drafting of report commenced	Service Delivery	Q4
<b>Objective - A family justice system that works for children and families</b>		
<b>58 Support work towards enactment of the Family Courts Bill 2022 which provides for the creation of new dedicated Family Courts within the existing court structures</b>	Civil Legislation	Q3



OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
58.1 Support the Courts Service to implement changes to be provided for in the Family Courts Bill.	Civil Governance	Ongoing
<b>59 Progress the implementation of the Family Justice Strategy actions for 2024</b>	Civil Policy	Q4
59.1 Commence work on general scheme of legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the 2023 review of the enforcement of maintenance orders.	Civil Legislation	Q4
59.2 Support the work of the Family Justice Implementation Group	Civil Policy	Ongoing
59.3 Submit Progress Report on Family Justice Strategy to Government	Civil Policy	Q2
59.4 Research the minimum standards and recommended training for those working in the family justice system	Civil Policy	Q4
59.5 Submit draft set of child maintenance guidelines to the Minister	Civil Policy	Q4
59.6 Finalise Review of Expert Reports in Private Family Law and bring proposals to Government for reform	Civil Policy	Q1
59.7 Establish a working group to review the effectiveness of hearing the voice of the child in family law proceedings	Civil Policy	Q2
59.8 Finalise the first phase of a project to review provision of information on all processes and services within the family justice system including child-friendly and child-focuses information with a view to reporting in 12 months	Civil Policy	Q4
59.9 Establish a pilot Family Law Reporting Project to analyse and produce case outcomes and summaries of judgments and decisions in plain language for various case types	Civil Policy	Q4
59.10 Establish a Working Group to improve data sharing, data collection and data quality across the family justice sector, and scope requirements for new or improved data collection methods	Civil Policy	Q2
59.11 Research the potential for liaison officers to assist families and children through the family justice system and produce a report identifying opportunities for the current system	Civil Policy	Q3
59.12 Consider the outcome of the commissioned research on the in-camera rule and, if appropriate, make proposals for reform	Civil Policy	Q4
<b>60 Continue to work with the lead Department on legislation on international surrogacy and donor-assisted human reproduction</b>	Civil Legislation	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - Legal Aid systems that provides people with effective access to justice</b>		
<b>61 Work with OPC to draft and publish the Criminal Legal Aid Bill</b>	Civil Legislation	Q3
61.1 Through the Oversight Committee on Criminal Legal Aid, develop implementation process for transfer of operations to the Legal Aid Board	Service Delivery	Q3
<b>62 Bring into effect a new regulation to provide for civil legal aid for participants in the assisted decision making court process and for wards of court</b>	Civil Legislation	Q2
<b>63 Support the work of the Civil Legal Aid Review Group to conclude its work, and submit its final recommendations to Government</b>	Civil Policy	Q2, Q4
<b>Objective - Modern regulation, governance standards and licensing of activities in ways that serve the best interests of all society</b>		
<b>64 Implement the recommendations of the final report of the Sheriff Review Group</b>	Civil Governance	Q4
64.1 Finalise implementation plan	Civil Governance	Q1
64.2 Implement recommendations	Civil Governance	Ongoing
<b>65 Consider LSRA report on barriers to becoming a solicitor or barrister</b>	Civil Policy	Q2
65.1 Consider LSRA report on barriers to becoming a solicitor or barrister	Civil Policy	Q1
65.2 Engage with the LSRA and other stakeholders as required to progress reforms in this area	Civil Policy	Q3
<b>66 Implement the agreed plan with the LSRA to progress the introduction of independent oversight of professional legal education via establishment of Section 16 Committee</b>	Civil Policy	Q4
66.1 Submit allowances fees proposal to DPENDPDR for approval	Civil Policy/Civil Governance	Q2
66.2 Finalise the establishment of the Section 16 Committee – no later than three months after DPENDPDR approval	Civil Policy/Civil Governance	Q3

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - Legal Aid systems that provides people with effective access to justice</b>		
<b>67 Establish the Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC), including the appointment of the Director, Lay Members and staff</b>	Civil Governance	Q4
67.1 Work with PAS to advertise appointments	Criminal Governance	Q1
67.2 Commence provisions of the JAC Act to allow for recruitment and preparation for establishment in Q4.	Civil Legislation	Q1
67.3 Establish the JAC	Civil Governance	Q4
<b>68 Oversee and monitor the implementation of the Judicial Planning Working Group (JPWG) recommendations</b>	Civil Governance	Ongoing
68.1 Bring JPWG Implementation Plan to Cabinet	Civil Governance	Q1
68.2 Examine the role and powers of Courts Presidents and Quasi-Judicial Officers	Civil Governance/Civil Legislation	Q2
68.3 Convene regular Stakeholder Engagement Group meetings.	Civil Governance	Ongoing
68.4 Support the Courts Service and Judiciary in piloting staggered vacations in the High Court	Civil Governance	Q3
68.5 Provide an update to Government on the impact of the additional judges and progress on implementing efficiency measures.	Civil Governance	Q4
<b>69 Support the establishment of the Gambling Regulatory Authority</b>	Civil Governance	Q4
69.1 Provide programme management services to oversee and coordinate the multiple work streams and other strategic activities to support the establishment of the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland.	Civil Governance/CTI	Q4
69.2 Enactment and commencement of Gambling Regulation Bill	Civil Legislation	Q3
69.3 Appoint Authority members	Civil Governance	Q3
<b>70 Support the appointment of three commissioners to the Data Protection Commission (DPC)</b>	Civil Governance	Q4
70.1 Work with the PAS and appoint three commissioners in 2024	Civil Governance	Q4

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>71 Undertake a Periodic Critical Review (PCR) of the Irish Film Classification Office</b>	Civil Governance	Q4
71.1 Agree PID and Terms of Reference for PCR and commence review	Civil Governance	Q1
71.2 Establish an oversight process for the review	Civil Governance	Q2
71.3 Draft PCR report prepared	Civil Governance	Q4
<b>72 Repeal of the Censorship of Publications Board and Censorship of Publications Appeal Board</b>	Civil Governance	Q4
72.1 Co-ordinate cross-functional group to implement action.	Civil Governance	Q4
72.2 Draft Heads of Bill prepared and approved by Government	Civil Legislation	Q4
72.3 Archival of records	Corporate	Q4
<b>73 Support the Sale of Alcohol Bill to enactment</b>	Civil Legislation	Q3
73.1 Consult and liaise with the OPC in relation to drafting the legislation.	Civil Legislation	Q3
73.2 Publish the Bill	Civil Legislation	Q3
73.3 Support Bill to enactment	Civil Legislation	Ongoing
<b>74 Implement recommendations of the Review of the Administration of Civil Justice</b>	Civil Legislation	Ongoing
74.1 Prepare General Scheme of a Civil Reform Bill to implement key recommendations requiring primary legislation	Civil Legislation	Ongoing
<b>75 Contribute to work of IDG to establish scale of legal fees for planning litigation and adapt learnings to other categories of litigation to ensure enhanced transparency and competitiveness in the legal services market for consumers</b>	Civil Policy	Q4
<b>76 Publish the Defamation (Amendment) Bill</b>	Civil Legislation	Q2

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - Develop a personal unique identifier across the Justice Sector</b>		
<b>77 Develop a personal unique identifier to facilitate efficient case management; support the streamlining of processes and reduce administrative burdens, and ultimately improve the overall effectiveness of the justice system</b>	Criminal Policy	Q3
77.1 Stakeholder Engagement and launch public consultation	Criminal Policy	Q2
77.2 Seek and consider AGO Legal Advice	Criminal Policy	Q2
77.3 Analyse consultation responses	Criminal Policy	Q3
77.4 Draft policy paper and submit to Minister for consideration	Crim Policy	Q3
<b>Objective - A compassionate, efficient Coroners Service providing consistent timely support to bereaved families</b>		
<b>78 Provide all appropriate supports to the Senior Dublin Coroner to finish the Stardust Inquests</b>	Civil Governance	Q2
<b>79 Building on the conclusion of the Consultation process in 2023, in relation to reform of the Coroner service, propose appropriate structures for the service to be enhanced into the future.</b>	Civil Governance	Q4
79.1 Publish a summary report of the consultation exercise.	Civil Governance	Q3
79.2 Bring forward a proposal to Government on national coronial reform to improve service delivery and enhance customer service.	Civil Governance	Q4
79.3 Bring forward proposals on a sustainable approach to the provision of pathology services to support the work of Coroners nationally.	Civil Governance	Q4
<b>80 Support the enactment of the Coroners (Amendment) Bill 2024</b>	Civil Governance	Q1
80.1 Ensure an appropriate number of temporary Coroners in the Dublin district for 2024	Civil Governance	Q1
80.2 In conjunction with the Public Appointment Service, undertake a competition for full-time Coroners for the Dublin district	Civil Governance	Q4





CITIZENSHIP



**Goal 3**  
Delivering a fair  
immigration system



## Goal 3: Delivering a fair immigration system

Inward migration is not only beneficial for Ireland's continued socio-economic wellbeing, it is essential, given the demographic challenges that the country is increasingly facing with an ageing population. Migrants work in many vital sectors of the labour market - from specialist skills in IT and pharmaceuticals, through to housing construction, health and social care and contributes to social provision as well as support Ireland's economic growth.

Our country is also enriched by the people who have chosen to come here to build better lives for themselves and their families or who are fleeing conflict or persecution.

Over the lifetime of this strategy a new whole-of-Government strategic migration policy will be developed which will be proactive in identifying the skills and labour Ireland needs to thrive in the decades ahead. This will ensure that Ireland can maintain and enhance both its economic competitiveness and social cohesion.

The State also has a paramount duty to protect its borders from those who may cause harm, and to ensure that all those arriving at our borders are legally entitled to enter Ireland. This is a fundamental exercise of state sovereignty. This work is undertaken in a rules-based manner that fully respects the human rights of all concerned and fully upholds Ireland's Constitution and international legal obligations.

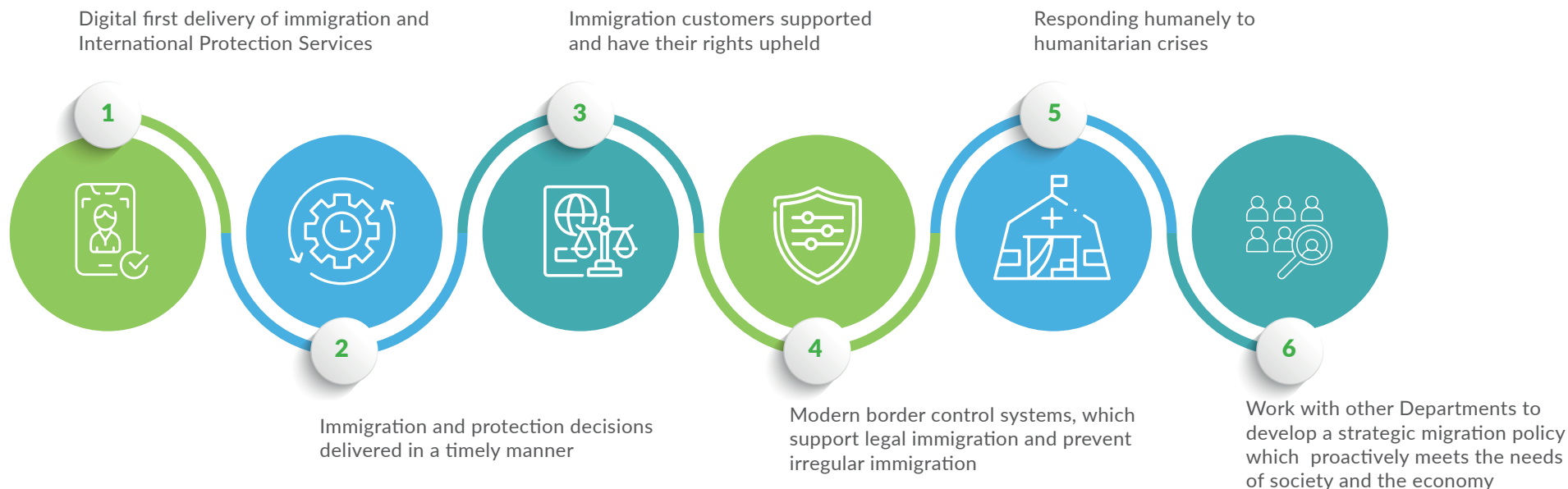
Humanitarian crises can have a major impact on our international protection system. Faster decision making is essential and ensures that those who have a right to international protection receive that status as quickly as possible, while those who are found not to have a right return to their country of origin. We are continuing to prioritise the ramping up of capacity at every stage of the international protection system. Important actions this year include a further review of safe countries, an expansion of accelerated processing, strengthening and investing in the removal process, completing

a tender for a new charter plane to remove unsuccessful international protection applicants, and completing a review of airline fines.

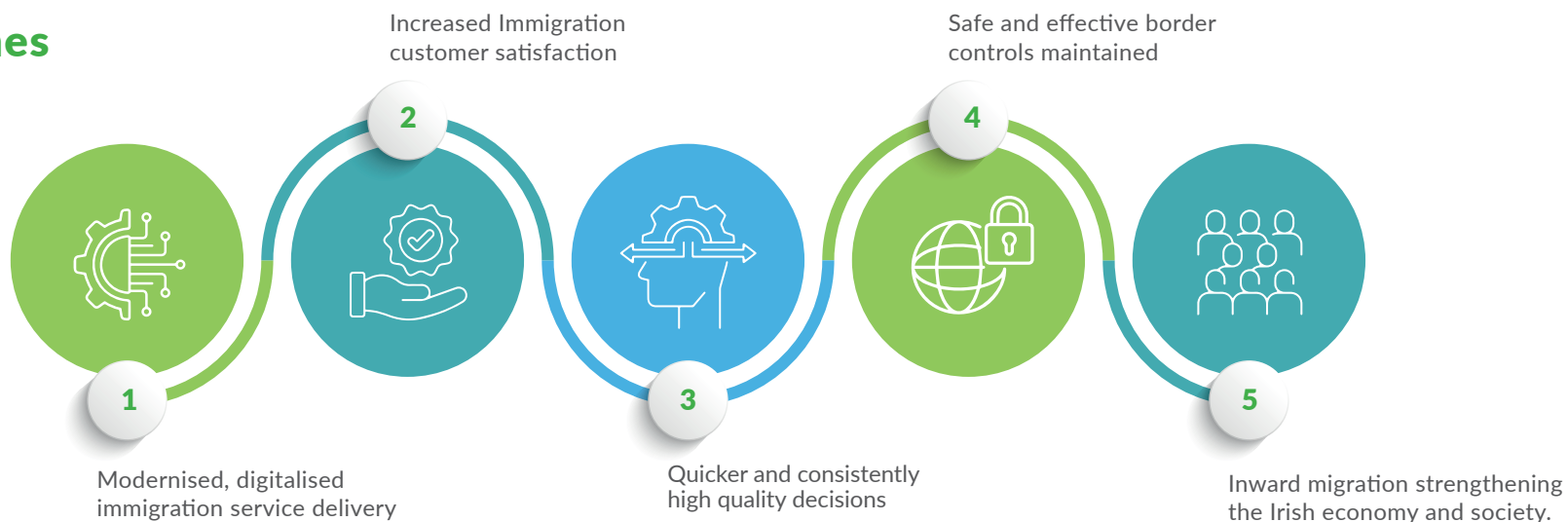
The Department will continue to take all necessary steps in line with Government policy to manage the international protection process efficiently, effectively and humanely, while ensuring the integrity of the immigration system is maintained at all times.



## Objectives



## Outcomes



OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - Digital first delivery of immigration and International Protection Services</b>		
<b>81 Continue the implementation of the ISD modernisation strategy</b>	ISD	Ongoing
81.1 Review and redesign processes in Immigration Services to improve the speed and quality of service delivery	ISD	Ongoing
81.2 Collaborate with colleagues to introduce both a robust, digital and automated customer service function and a technology platform on which to manage immigration services going forward	ISD	Ongoing
<b>82 Implement change strategy for modernisation programme</b>	ISD	Q4
<b>Objective - Immigration and protection decisions delivered in a timely manner</b>		
<b>83 Maintain the 25% increase in processing achieved in key ISD functions in 2023. IPO to increase outputs by over 50% in 2024; EU Treaty Rights: Deliver decisions on 80% of all non-complex first instance applications within 5 months of receipt of application: and Citizenship to maintain the processing rates achieved in 2023</b>	ISD	Ongoing
<b>84 Implement actions to ensure a fair and balanced rules based International Protection system</b>	ISD	Ongoing
84.1 Ensure accelerated/priority International Protection cases receive a first instance decision within 3 months	ISD	Ongoing
84.2 Expand and enhance the quality assurance process for the IPO, including International Protection decisions	ISD	Ongoing
84.3 Continue to increase the number of removal, voluntary return and deportations of those who no longer have a right to be here	ISD	Ongoing
84.4 Streamline case processing and transfer/removal protocols to make effective use of the Dublin Convention and inadmissible returns legislation	ISD	Ongoing
84.5 Complete review of safe countries	Civil Policy	Q1.Q3
84.6 Assess the impact of accelerated processing and continue to assess further categories for inclusion	ISD	Ongoing
84.7 Secure Additional Resources to support IPO process improvements	Corporate	Ongoing
84.8 Consider the introduction of further visa restrictions on countries which have high number of IP applications	ISD	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
85 Complete tender process for dedicated charter flights for those with deportation orders	ISD	Q4
86 Consider ways in which to strengthen and make more efficient the removal process ahead of the introduction of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact	ISD	Q2
87 Complete review of Carrier Liability provisions and introduce legislative amendments as appropriate	ISD	Q2
<b>Objective - Immigration customers supported and have their rights upheld</b>		
88 Implement roadmap for single customer service function in Immigration Service Delivery (ISD)	ISD	Q4
89 Ensure all appropriate applications not yet digitised can be completed online	ISD	Q2
90 EU Treaty Rights: Increase Review Decision outputs by 40% compared to 2023 review decision output	ISD	Ongoing
<b>Objective - Modern border control systems, which support legal immigration and prevent irregular immigration</b>		
91 Maintain the integrity of border controls at Dublin Airport	ISD	Ongoing
92 Continue close engagement with GNIB in support of Immigration/Border control measures	ISD	Ongoing
93 Progress the transfer of Registration and Border Management functions from AGS to ISD as per roadmap agreed December 2023 to free-up up to 100 Gardaí for other immigration enforcement work, including deportation orders	ISD	Q4
94 Continue to work closely with UK authorities to protect the Common Travel Area	ISD	Ongoing
<b>Objective - Responding humanely to humanitarian crises</b>		
95 Maximise the impact of the Ukrainian response team by	ISD	Ongoing
95.1 Timely processing of all Temporary Protection applications	ISD	Ongoing
95.2 Where volume allows, undertake processing activities in respect of appropriate ISD workflows	ISD	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - Work with other Departments to develop a strategic migration policy which proactively meets the needs of society and the economy</b>		
<b>96 Work with other Departments to develop a strategic migration policy which proactively meets the needs of society and the economy and sets out clear, coherent principles</b>	Civil Policy	Q4
<b>97 Provide quality and timely advice on opt-in to EU measures relating to asylum matters, including measures under the Common European Asylum System</b>	Civil Policy	Ongoing
97.1 Continue to participate in the negotiation and adoption of the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration	Civil Policy	Q2
97.2 Seek Government and Oireachtas Approval to opt-in to the Pact on Asylum and Migration	Civil Policy	Q1
97.3 Progress the development of a General Scheme of a Bill to repeal and replace the International Protection Act 2015 and provide for faster processing of IP applications, better screening of applicants and a more efficient returns system, as provided for in the EU Migration and Asylum Pact	Civil Policy	Ongoing
97.4 Establish an implementation team to operationalise the Pact on Migration and Asylum	Civil Policy	Q2
<b>98 Seek agreement by Government to a report to implement the recast Single Permit Directive</b>	Civil Policy	Q2



# Goal 4

Strengthening our  
influence in Europe



## Goal 4: Strengthening our influence in Europe

Increasingly, many of Ireland's laws and policies originate in EU negotiations and laws. Significant areas of policy responsibility for this Department, such as economic crime and corruption, violence against women and vulnerable victims, migration, privacy and international security, are a growing focus at EU level. Ireland's active involvement in shaping policy discussions offers mutual benefit.

This requires that we build stronger relationships, and deepen our alliances with EU member states and the Institutions. Strengthening our capability and capacity enhances our reputation as a committed member state, and will ensure that Ireland's interests are understood, and our influence maintained to accommodate our legal and Constitutional framework.

The Department will develop skills and position resources to ensure a successful Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2026, particularly in the policy domain of Justice and Home Affairs. We will develop an ambitious programme to progress during the Presidency, in line with Government policy.

This will be achieved to protect citizens' security, to combat crime and terrorism, to counter extremist ideologies, to support victims of crime, to uphold fundamental human rights, to safeguard the rule of law, and to maximise law enforcement cooperation, and the ongoing modernisation of justice systems across the entirety of the European Union.

Delivering this will be balanced with our other international commitments and our priority to further progress in particular the UN Declaration on Human Rights and relevant sustainable development goals. During the lifetime of this strategy the Department will embed consideration of the Government's Wellbeing Framework and other strategies into all aspects of our prioritisation and policy formulation.



## Objectives

Negotiating and shaping the development of policies and legislation by the EU at an early stage

A skilled Department leading a strong Justice agenda in Ireland's EU Presidency in 2026.



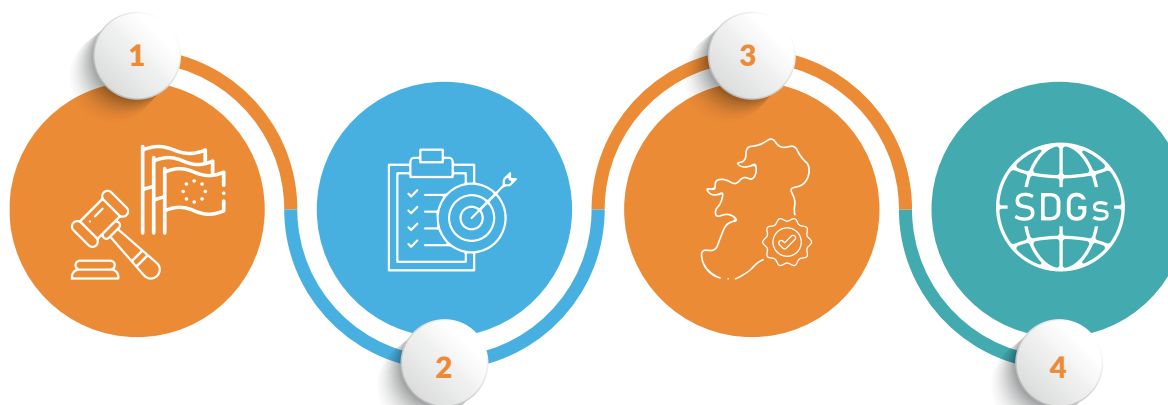
The timely adoption of relevant EU legislation through the Oireachtas into Irish law.

To implement the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and our commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

## Outcomes

EU legislation developed consistent with Ireland's interests and legal framework; transposed and successfully implemented.

Ireland valued for leadership on Human Rights and strong advocate for the rule of law in the EU and international communities.



Justice objectives for Ireland's EU Presidency achieved

Delivering on our commitments regarding the SDG implementation plan.

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective - Negotiating and shaping the development of policies and legislation by the EU at an early stage</b>		
<b>99 Represent Ireland in negotiations on recast of Child Sexual Abuse Directive with view to securing robust new criminal laws on child sexual abuse, including its online dimension.</b>	Criminal Policy	Q4
99.1 Commence a review on the existing penalties available for the sentences which are available for child sex abuse material and child sexual abuse, to ensure that those sentences match the heinous nature of the crimes being committed	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>100 Represent Irish policy and support Irish practitioners/stakeholders in meetings and activities associated with the Radicalisation Awareness Network and the network of EU prevention policy makers.</b>	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>101 Engagement at EU level to secure changes in scope/content of Commission Proposal (2023) for a Directive harmonising national insolvency and bankruptcy laws</b>	Civil Legislation	Ongoing
<b>Objective - The timely adoption of relevant EU legislation through the Oireachtas into Irish law</b>		
<b>102 Implementation of EU e-Evidence Package</b>	Criminal Policy	Q4
102.1 Support the set-up of cross-Departmental implementation structure.	Criminal Policy	Q1
102.2 Contact various potential competent and central authorities under the package with view to familiarising them with its demands and discussing their potential roles.	Criminal Policy	Q2
102.3 Offer ongoing policy support to other implementation streams where required, including through liaison with European Commission and by feeding in information on other relevant developments in the e-Evidence area.	Criminal Policy	Q4
<b>103 Commence work on the implementation of the EU Digitalisation Package on cross-border civil, commercial and criminal matters</b>	Civil Policy/Civil Legislation	Ongoing
103.1 Engage with the European Commission, relevant Justice and other state agencies as appropriate to ensure appropriate representation from Ireland on and participation in EU Implementing Acts Committees	Civil Policy/Civil Legislation	Ongoing
103.2 Progress necessary legislation (transposing legislation, statutory instruments and rules of court) to underpin the Digitalisation Package	Civil Legislation	Ongoing
103.3 Apply for EU Funding as appropriate	Civil Policy/Civil Legislation	Ongoing
<b>104 Consider policy options in advance of drafting of legislation and determine preferred policy approach relating to Ireland's future participation in the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)</b>	Criminal Policy	Q3



OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>105 Publish the Criminal Justice (Protection, Preservation of and Access to Data on Information Systems) Bill 2024</b>	Crim Legislation	Q4
105.1 Publish the General Scheme of the Bill	Criminal Legislation	Q1
105.2 Publish the Bill	Criminal Legislation	Q4
<b>106 Amend Passenger Name Recognition (PNR) Regulations to comply with 2022 CJ EU ruling</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q3
106.1 Signature of Regulations to amend existing Passenger Name Recognition Regulations, required to comply with 2022 CJEU ruling	Criminal Legislation	Q3
<b>107 Publish the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) (Amendment) Bill to provide for additional terrorist offences and facilitate Ireland's to opt in to the 2017 EU Directive on Combatting Terrorism</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q4
<b>108 Support the EAW (Amendment) Bill to address issues in the EAW Act in the EU infringement proceedings to enactment</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q2
<b>109 Update firearms and explosives legislation to transpose EU Directives</b>	Criminal Legislation	Q4
109.1 Signature of Regulations to implement Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 to provide for rules on marketing and use of explosives precursors	Criminal Legislation	Q4
109.2 Signature of Regulations to implement Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 to provide for market surveillance of certain explosives and pyrotechnic (firework) products.	Criminal Legislation	Q4
109.3 Designate Justice Service Delivery as a competent authority for data filing (for Registered Firearms Dealers) under article 4(5) of the Firearms Directive	Criminal Legislation	Q4
<b>110 Progress Property Services Regulation (Amendment) Bill to enhance compliance with relevant EU law</b>	Civil Legislation	Q4
110.1 Engage with stakeholders on required changes	Civil Legislation	Q1
110.2 Liaise with OPC to complete drafting of General Scheme of EU SI	Civil Legislation	Q2
110.3 EU SI for Minister's signature and laying before Oireachtas	Civil Legislation	Q3

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
111 Transpose Directive on the EU restructuring of bankruptcy	Civil Legislation	Q3
112 Publish Criminal Justice (Violation of Restrictive Measures) Bill 2024	Criminal Legislation	Q4
112.1 Publish General Scheme of Bill	Criminal Legislation	Q3
112.2 Publish Bill	Criminal Legislation	Q4
<b>Objective - To implement the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and our commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)</b>		
113 Actively participate in interdepartmental SDG working group and Senior Officials Group and update on SDG policy initiatives related to Agenda 2030	Corporate	Ongoing
114 Implement actions contained in the Department's EDI strategy, including pilot programmes to equality proof policy and improve the accessibility of our services	Corporate	Ongoing



**Goal 5**  
Investing in people  
to deliver excellence



## Goal 5: Investing in people to deliver excellence

The Department will invest strongly in all our people, providing them with the supports they need to reach their potential to best deliver high quality services for Government and the public.

New skill needs will continue to emerge, and colleagues will be supported to develop their own and the organisation's capability, through accessible and lifelong learning.

Our commitment is to provide a wide range of learning and development options, encouraging people to build on their capabilities, including leadership and professional development opportunities, and educational supports. New HR & Learning and Development strategies will be developed and delivered in support of this commitment.

We recognise that successful transformation comes through understanding the Department's unique needs and challenges and implementing effective technology solutions to address them. Our focus is

to develop a modern work environment that nurtures, equips and empowers people. Service delivery will be modernised on a digital-first solution basis and new and emerging innovations will improve productivity and wellbeing.

The Department is helping to build a focus on equality, diversity and inclusion across the public service. Continuing to lead in embedding, promoting and living our own commitment to EDI will help to position the organisation as an employer of choice. Providing an inclusive work environment can support and retain people to flourish and do their best work.

The Department will continue to support central Government public service reforms and will show demonstrable leadership and commitment across a range of areas including accessibility, innovation, diversity, the digital agenda, combatting climate change and promoting sustainability.

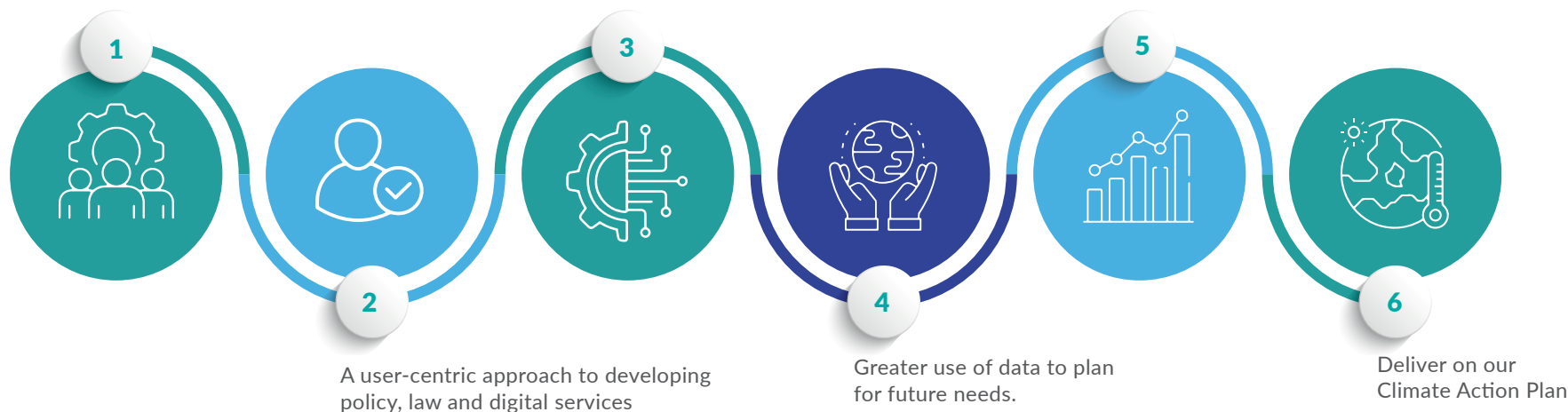


## Objectives

A highly people-focussed organisation delivering on its mandate for Government and the public

Business solutions designed around effective processes which harness the benefits of the evolving technological landscape

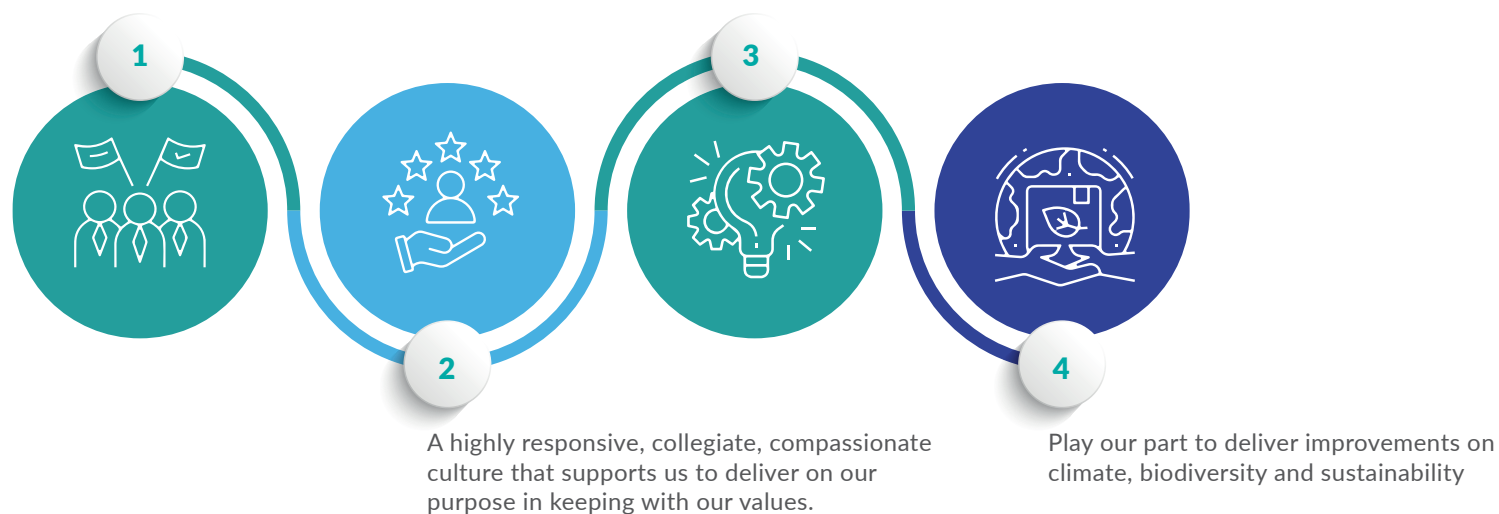
Develop clear and measurable indicators and benchmarks



## Outcomes

A flourishing diverse Department where workforce needs are anticipated and planned for to the greatest degree possible.

Focused measurable innovative delivery, supported by data and evidence, reported on transparently



OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
<b>Objective – A highly people-focused organisation delivering on its mandate for Government and the public</b>		
115 Provide support to agencies in implementing their capital investment projects and programmes across the Criminal Justice sector, ensuring compliance with statutory obligations, the Infrastructure Guidelines, the PPP Guidelines and engagement with all relevant stakeholders	Corporate	Ongoing
116 Development of more effective technologies to support the work of HR, providing a better service and user experience for colleagues	Corporate	Q4
117 Broaden our internship and work experience programmes, leading to a more diverse workforce pipeline and more reflective representation of the public we serve	Corporate	Ongoing
118 Enhance leadership capacity across the Department by creating development pathways at all grades and comprehensive leadership development programmes at senior level	Corporate	Q3
119 Deliver on the recommendations of the Operating Model Review and evolve the model to further support our people and to enhance collaboration and cross functional working	Corporate	Q4
120 Review the Corporate function in the context of the Operating Model to further strengthen organisation capacity to deliver on our programme of work	Corporate	Q4
121 Develop and expand the Department's online Learning Management System to create learning content to support staff across the organisation	Corporate	Q4
<b>Objective - A user-centric approach to developing policy, law and digital services</b>		
122 Advance the Criminal Justice Operational Hub to improve cross sectoral data analytics, and to replace manual data exchange processes with efficient and automated data flows	CTI	Ongoing
122.1 Commence a project (to conclude in Q1 2024) to allow for the automated transfer of relevant Court List data from the Courts Service to Oberstown Children Detention Campus	CTI	Ongoing
122.2 Automated transfer of relevant District Court Outcomes from the Courts Service to Forensic Science Ireland	CTI	Ongoing
123 Design and embed a Service Design Handbook	CTI	Q3
124 Develop and evaluate Customer Service standards and continue to develop customer feedback mechanisms	CTI	Q3,Q4

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
125 Evolve and embed the DRIVE Change Management Framework	CTI	Ongoing
<b>Objective - Business solutions designed around effective processes which harness the benefits of the evolving technological landscape</b>		
126 Progress the transition of the Department and its Vote 24 Agencies to a new Financial Management Shared Service managed by the NSSO.	Corporate	Ongoing
127 Select and implement interoperable technologies to deliver robust, secure and modern digital services across the department and its agencies	CTI	Q4
127.1 Draft and publish Request for Tender to market to identify an appropriate strategic platform and implementation partner for ISD Modernisation	CTI	Q1
127.2 Evaluate Proposed solutions and select most appropriate responses	CTI	Q2
127.3 Work with ISD to define and scope and develop initial services on the selected platforms	CTI	Q2, Q4
128 Draft new ICT strategy to cover the period 2025-2027	CTI	Q3
<b>Objective - Greater use of data to plan for future needs</b>		
129 Strengthen the analysis of current trends and patterns for operational and policy officials through rolling out new business intelligence tools	Corporate	Ongoing
130 Develop forecasting models to help inform operational and policy officials of possible future demands on service	Corporate	Ongoing
131 Continue to publish open data, facilitating academics and researchers to use information to support the development of insights in key areas of the Departments work	Corporate	Ongoing
<b>Objective - Develop clear and measurable indicators and benchmarks</b>		
132 In conjunction with Department functions design and test customer KPIs and capture benchmarks to baseline current status. These benchmarks will support the development of the Customer Service Action Plan 2025	CTI	Ongoing

OBJECTIVES & 2024 ACTIONS	ACTION OWNER	DELIVERY DATE
133 Agree methodology by which we will measure the progress of the strategy and a set of measurable indicators	Corporate	Q2
<b>Objective - Deliver on our Climate Action Plan</b>		
134 Develop a Climate Action Roadmap for the Department with specific actions to meet climate and energy efficiency targets.	Corporate	Q2
134.1 Develop and publish the Department's 2024 Roadmap	Corporate	Q2
134.2 In conjunction with Governance Functions, monitor implementation of climate actions and energy in the Justice Sector.	Corporate, Civil Governance, Criminal Governance	Ongoing
135 The Department will implement its Smarter Travel Action plan to encourage a move away from car as primary travel means.	Corporate	Q2
136 Enhance climate impact of projects in the DOJ Project Portfolio through introducing measurement of impact of actions to drive overall carbon footprint reduction	CTI	Q3







**An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt**  
Department of Justice

