

Press release

Approval of the designation of An Garda Síochána as a competent authority under the EU Terrorist Content Online Regulation

From [Department of Justice \(/en/organisation/departments-of-justice/\)](/en/organisation/departments-of-justice/)

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Minister for Justice Simon Harris has today signed regulations designating An Garda Síochána as the competent authority in Ireland for issuing legal orders requiring internet service providers to remove online terrorist content.

This comes on foot of the obligation on each EU member state under the EU Terrorist Content Online Regulation [Regulation (EU) 2021/784] to designate a competent authority for this purpose.

Minister for Justice Simon Harris said:

“The internet has given us so much by way of positive growth and innovation but it is vital that we prevent the spread of terrorist content online to the greatest extent possible, working in partnership with our fellow Member States across the EU. Internet service providers must recognise their role in preventing the spread of online terrorist content.

"As Ireland's policing and security service, An Garda Síochána has the necessary expertise, international contacts and experience to carry out this function in an effective manner."

The Minister noted that:

- the new Regulations mean An Garda Síochána will be in a position to issue "removal orders" which require internet service providers to remove terrorist content online in all Member States
- all member states will be required to designate a competent authority under the EU Regulation for this purpose
- there are already non-statutory arrangements in place between law enforcement agencies and internet service providers for addressing the publication of terrorist content online, known as internet referrals

The implementation of the EU Terrorist Content Online Regulation will supplement the existing arrangements and provide for a speedy, cross-border, legally-binding mechanism for the removal of such content.

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