

Law and Order

Tough on crime, safer cities and rural communities.



**INDEPENDENT
IRELAND**

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All too often we hear of violent criminals and criminals guilty of sexual or violent offences receiving suspended sentences and walking free. These light sentences often precede the guilty party committing additional crimes, and causing tragedies that should have been avoidable. While it is easy to blame the judge involved, the fact is that Ireland has weak sentencing laws that must be reformed. Gardai are leaving the force in record numbers and we must address the retention crisis within An Garda Síochána, while also incentivising new recruitment. Therefore, Independent Ireland will:

Tough On Crime, Protect Free Speech

Opposing Hate Speech Laws and Reforming Sentencing

- Oppose any hate-speech legislation;
- Implement stricter sentencing guidelines for serious violent and sexual crimes, and introduction of legislation that prohibits suspended sentences for such crimes;
- Prohibit sex offenders from legally changing their name to avoid detection in the future;
- Review Sex Offender Registry to ensure it is fit for purpose;
- Obligate Gardai to notify children services and school administrators of registered child sex offenders in their area;
- Support immediate deportation of IPAS applicants who are convicted of violent or sexual offences;
- Support automatic refusal of applications for IPAS from applicants who have prior criminal convictions;

Increased Support for Gardai

Improve Garda retention and recruitment. Safer cities and rural communities.

- Increase funding for An Garda Síochána and a halt to Garda station closures;
- Introduce accommodation supports for Gardai stationed in rent pressure zones. Provide state accommodation for Gardai close to their stations to prevent Gardai having to travel long distances to work;
- Reintroduce community policing system and greater investment in early intervention and diversion programs;
- Implement measures to ensure responsibility for parents of minors convicted of antisocial behaviour;
- Invest in more community alerts, neighbourhood watch, and business alerts;
- Reintroduce text alert schemes;

Taking Innovative Steps to Improve Law and Order



- Ensure year-round access to criminal courts;
- Reform civil liability laws to ensure criminals cannot sue for injuries sustained during commission of a crime and victims are not financially liable for damages;
- Create a direct communication program with gang members, particularly young members. Offer support and social services, while clearly stating the consequences of continued violence;
- Introduce a programme employing "violence interrupters" to mediate conflicts and provide resources to address intergenerational and systemic criminal activity;
- Introduce a focus on rehabilitation for first-time offenders offering education, job training, and therapy, which research shows reduces recidivism.



"We fully support the brave men and women of An Garda Síochána. We must work to deliver the support needed to ensure we prevent our Gardai leaving the force and implement changes need to improve retention. We also aim to provide accommodation supports to stop the current practice of Gardai having to travel inordinate distances to work."

"It is our goal to introduce stricter sentencing guidelines for violent crimes, sexual crimes and crimes against children. Suspended sentences for those who commit these serious crimes must become a thing of the past. It is only by introducing deterrents by stricter sentencing that we can send a clear message to offenders in these categories"

