

“I wish to know the total amount of criminal complaints currently been investigated by GSOC against members of the Garda Síochána as of the 7th of March 2022.

I wish to know the total amount of criminal complaints currently been investigated by GSOC against member of the Garda Síochána based in the Dublin Metropolitan Region as of the 7th of March 2022.

I wish to know the total amount of complaints been investigated by GSOC against members of the Garda Síochána based in DMR South Central and DMR West as of the 7th of March 2022.”

A few items to note.

- The figures below are drawn from complaints currently being investigated by GSOC. Please see the accompanying note for an explanation of this, and for more information on how complaints are processed, including matters of admissibility.

- Please note that the below information should be treated as indicative only. It was retrieved on foot of this request and does not represent official, published, statistical information from GSOC, and is indicative of the situation as of the date of receipt of request – early March 2022. Information on cases, by its nature, is dynamic, and subject to update on foot of further information received during the course of an investigation.

That all outlined, please see the below.

Criminal investigations by GSOC are conducted in accordance with section 98 of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005. All allegations of criminal offences by gardaí (for example assault) are investigated by GSOC’s own investigators.

As of the 7th March 2022, the number of criminal complaints currently under investigation is **612**.

GSOC is investigating 612 criminal complaints in which **218** are against gardaí based in the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR).

The total number of complaints investigated by GSOC staff against members of the Garda Síochána based in the DMR South Central and DMR West is **152**.

Note on how complaints are assessed by GSOC

All complaints received by GSOC are assessed against criteria listed in the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 to determine if they are admissible. For a complaint to be admissible, it must meet the following criteria:

According to section 87 of the Act, GSOC can admit a complaint if it:

- It must be made by (or, in certain circumstances. On behalf of) a person who is directly affected by, or who witnesses, the conduct subject of complaints;

- It must relate to behaviour which would, if proven, constitute a criminal offence or a breach of Garda discipline by a member of the Garda Síochána;
- It must be made within the time limit of within one year of the incident subject of the complaint;
- It must not relate to the general direction and control of the Garda Síochána by the Garda Commissioner; and
- It must not relate to the conduct of a member of the Garda Síochána while the member was off duty, unless the conduct alleged would, if proven, be likely to bring discredit on the Garda Síochána

If a complaint does not meet the criteria it is deemed inadmissible and no further action is taken by GSOC.

After a complaint is deemed admissible it can be dealt with in a number of ways depending on what is alleged.

All allegations of criminal offences by Gardaí are investigated by GSOC investigators under section 98 of the Act.

If breaches of discipline have being identified these complaints can be dealt with in a number of ways, such as:

- unsupervised disciplinary investigations (under section 94 of the Act), conducted by Garda Superintendents
- Supervised investigation (under section 94(5)). These are also conducted by Garda Superintendents but are supervised by GSOC investigators. These investigations are conducted by Garda Superintendents in line with Garda Discipline regulations.
- Non-criminal investigations (under section 95 of the Act) are carried out by GSOC investigators.