

PUBLIC ATTITUDES RESEARCH JANUARY 2018

METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork was conducted via the Behaviour & Attitudes Face to Face Omnibus vehicle (Barometer) over the period 1 – 13 February 2018. The previous 2016 survey was also carried out via Face to Face Omnibus over the period 15 – 25 January 2016. The earlier 2013 survey was carried out by way of a telephone Omnibus (TeleBarometer) between 3 – 15 December 2013, and where relevant comparisons are shown between the three survey periods.

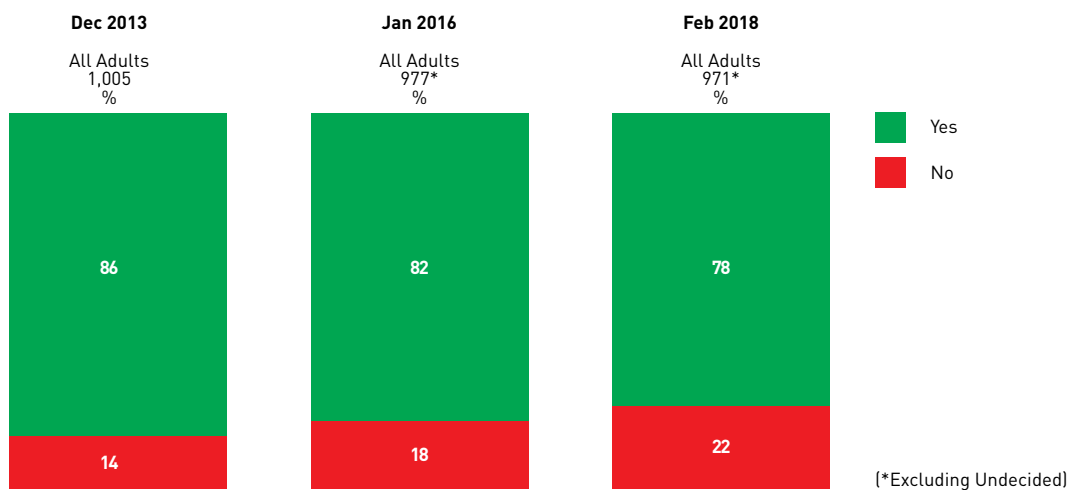
Interviewing was conducted across 63 separate sampling points per survey—1,002 adults were interviewed. Within each sampling point, respondents were selected on the basis of quota controls relating to gender, age and social class within region—to ensure that the resultant sample is a microcosm of the national adult population. Quota controls were based on the most recent Census statistics of the national population.

KEY FINDINGS

- Almost eight in ten Irish adults say they have heard of the Garda Ombudsman (GSOC)
- Almost six in ten believe the role of the Garda Ombudsman is to investigate complaints about gardaí

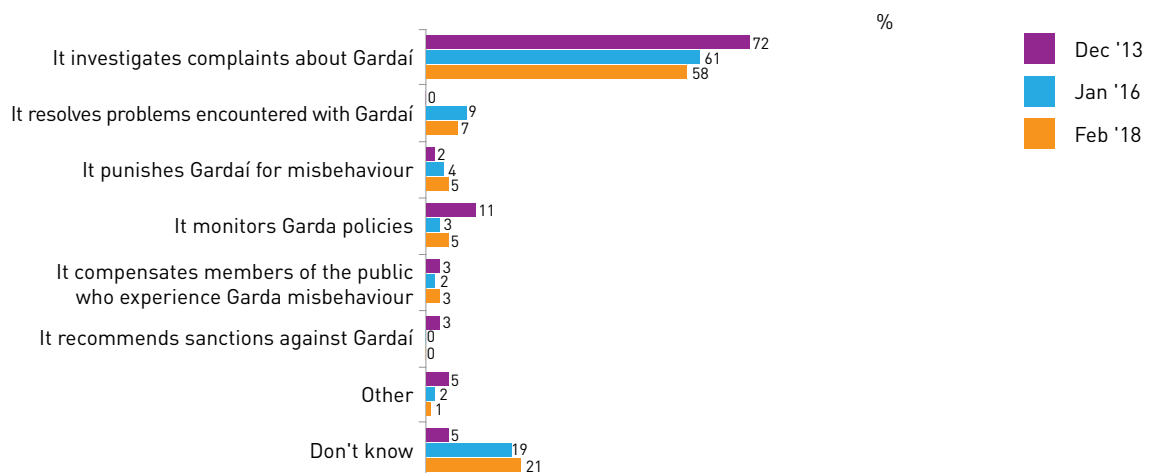
Awareness of Garda Ombudsman

Base: All Adults – 971



Awareness of Garda Ombudsman Role

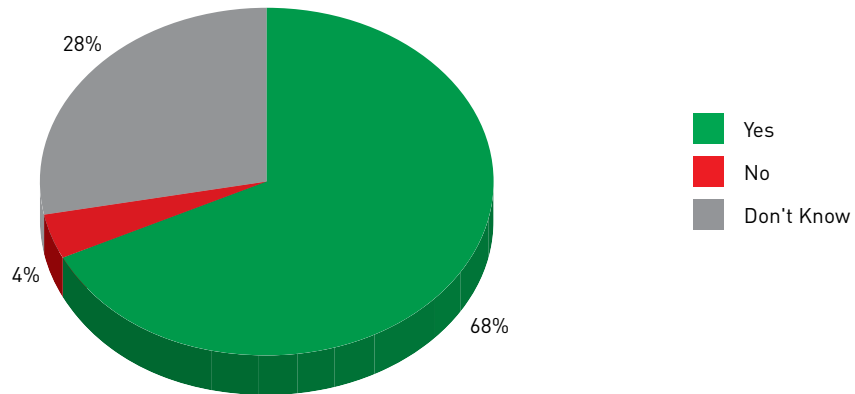
Base: All Adults – 1,002



- Close to seven in ten adults believe that the Garda Ombudsman provides an important service
- Six in ten believe that, if they have a problem, they would be treated fairly by the Garda Ombudsman
- More than half expressed confidence in the Garda Ombudsman's ability to resolve problems

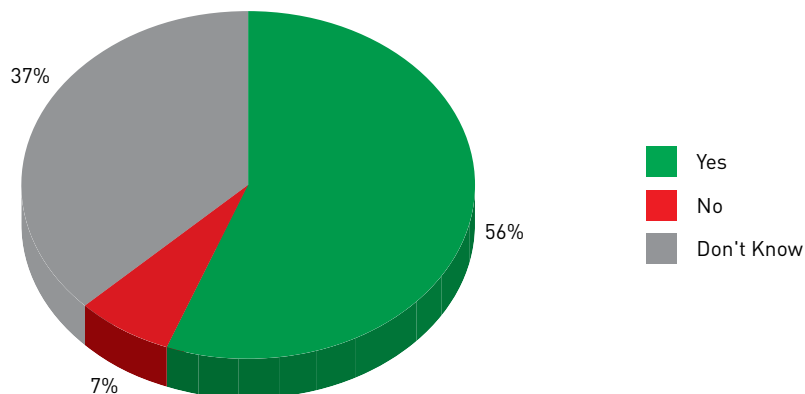
Does the Garda Ombudsman Provide an Important Service?

Base: All Adults – 1,002



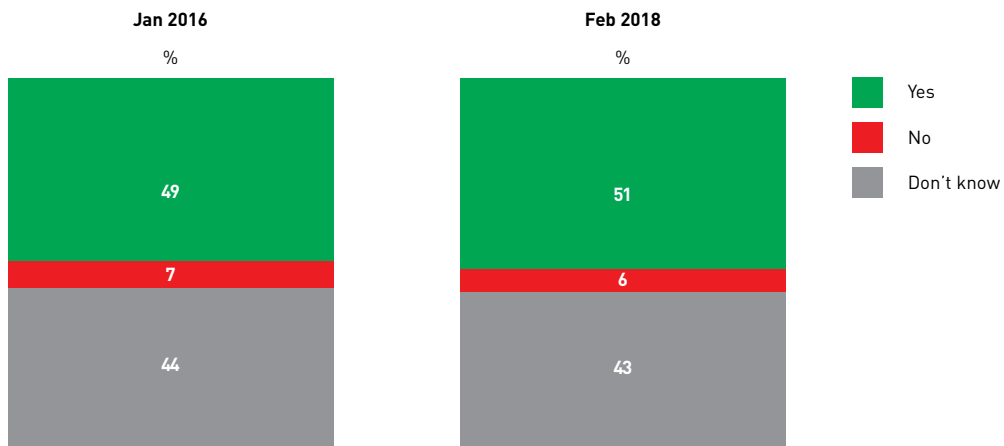
Confidence in Fairness of Garda Ombudsman

Base: All Adults – 1,002



Confidence in Garda Ombudsman Ability to Resolve Problems

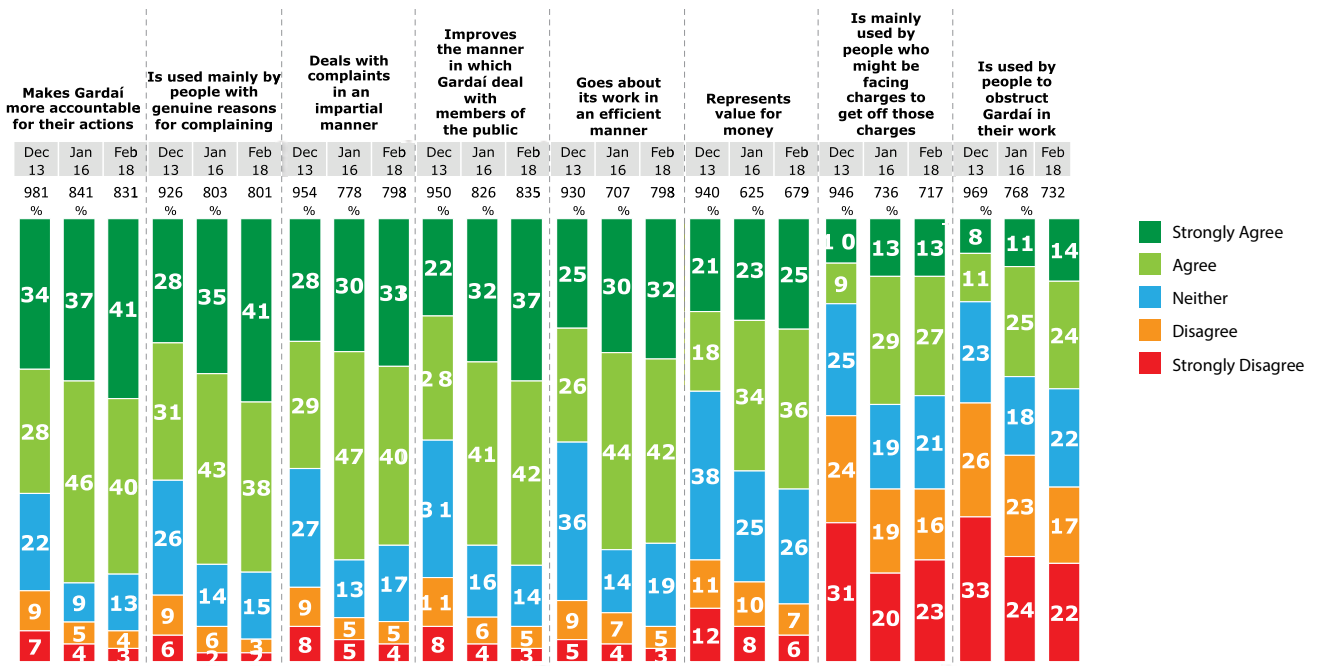
Base: All Adults – 1,002



- Overall, people are positive about the Garda Ombudsman with four out of five agreeing that it makes gardaí more accountable for their actions, and improves the manner in which gardaí deal with members of the public. Seven in ten agree with the statement that it goes about its work in an efficient manner and six in ten agree it represents value for money

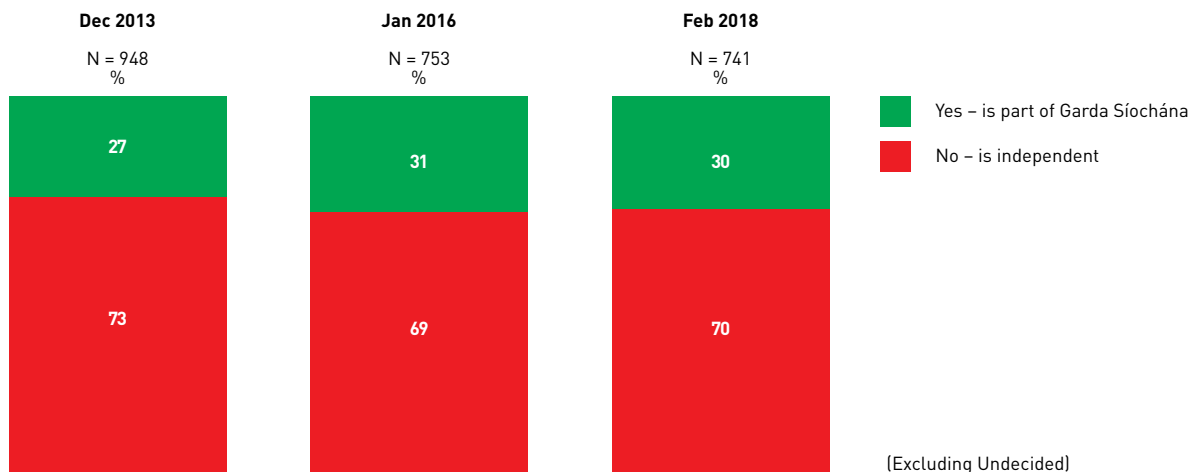
Agreement with Statements Concerning Ombudsman – Excluding Don't Knows

Base: All Adults – excluding undecided



Perception of Ombudsman as Part of Garda Síochána

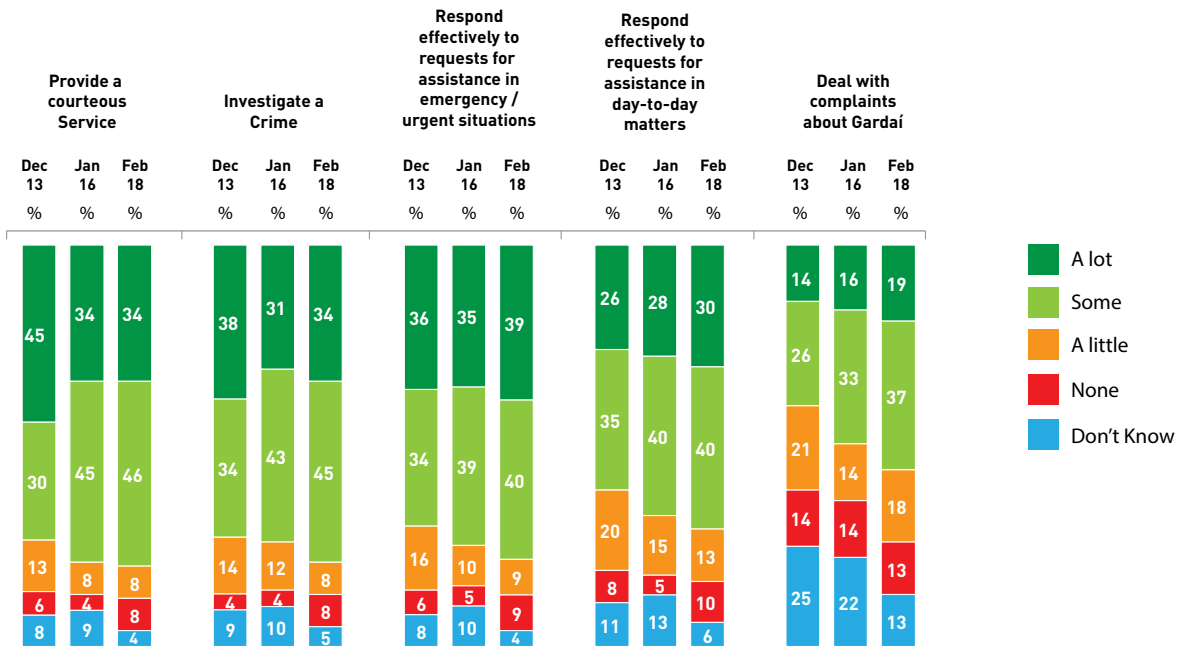
Base: All Adults excluding undecided



Confidence in the Garda Síochána appears to be improving, according to this survey, with highest levels of confidence (eight in ten people expressing a lot or some confidence) in the service's ability to provide a courteous service, investigate a crime, and respond effectively to requests for assistance in emergency/urgent situations. Confidence in the Garda Síochána's ability to deal with complaints against gardaí has increased significantly from the Dec 2013 survey (40% had a lot or some confidence) and the Feb 2018 survey (56% had a lot or some confidence).

Confidence in Aspects of Garda Síochána's Ability

Base: All Adults – 1,002



Level of Garda Interaction in Last 12 Months

Base: All Adults – 1,002

