

PUBLIC ATTITUDES RESEARCH JANUARY 2016

METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork for the survey was conducted via the Behaviour & Attitudes Face to Face Omnibus vehicle (Barometer) over the period 15 – 25 January, 2016. It was compared with a previous benchmark survey, carried out by telephone Omnibus (TeleBarometer) from 3 - 15 December 2013. Where relevant, comparisons are shown between the two survey periods.

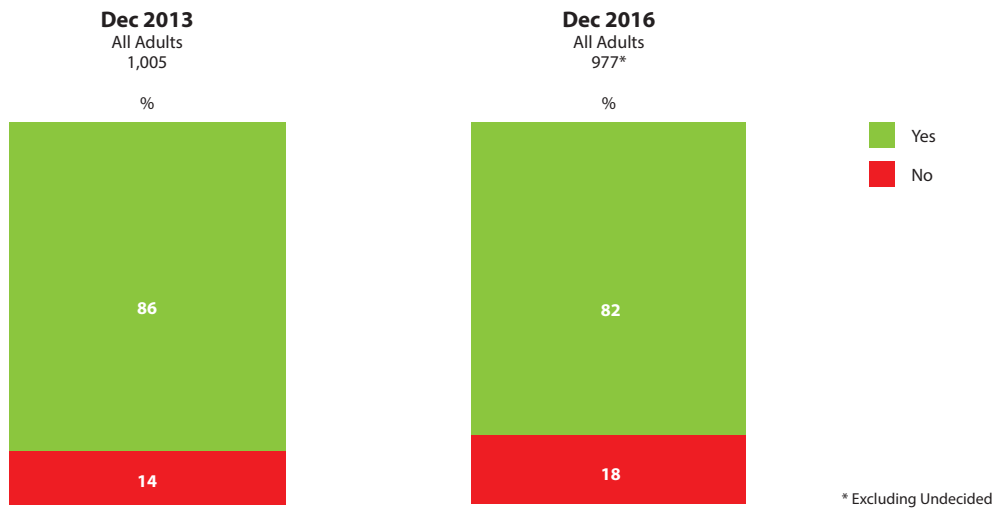
1,007 adults were interviewed. Interviewing was conducted across 63 separate sampling points per survey. Within each sampling point, respondents were selected on the basis of quota controls relating to gender, age and social class within region – to ensure that the resultant sample is a microcosm of the national adult population. Quota controls were based on the most recent Census statistics of the national population.

KEY FINDINGS

- Over eight in ten Irish adults say they have heard of the Garda Ombudsman (GSOC).
- It is generally assumed that the role of the Garda Ombudsman is to investigate complaints about the Gardaí (61% of adults).

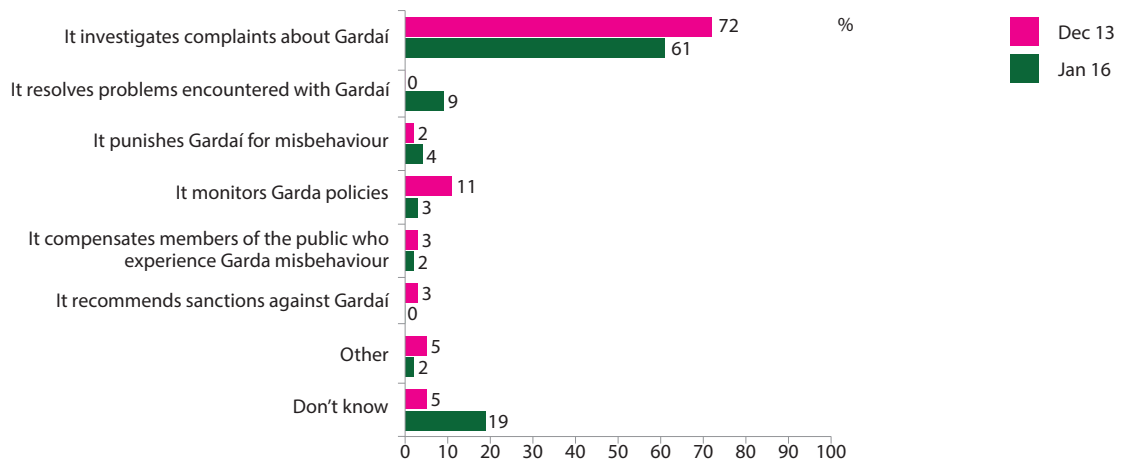
Awareness of Garda Ombudsman

Base: All Adults



Awareness of Garda Ombudsman Role

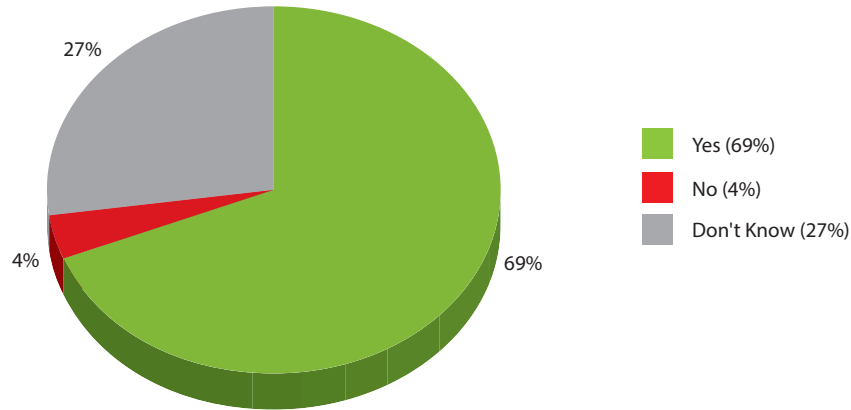
Base: All Adults – 1,007



- Seven in ten adults believe that the Garda Ombudsman provides an important service.
- Seven in ten of those expressing an opinion are aware that the Garda Ombudsman is independent, while three in ten think it is part of the Garda Síochána.
- Six in ten adults believe that, if they had a problem, they would be treated fairly if they went to the Garda Ombudsman.

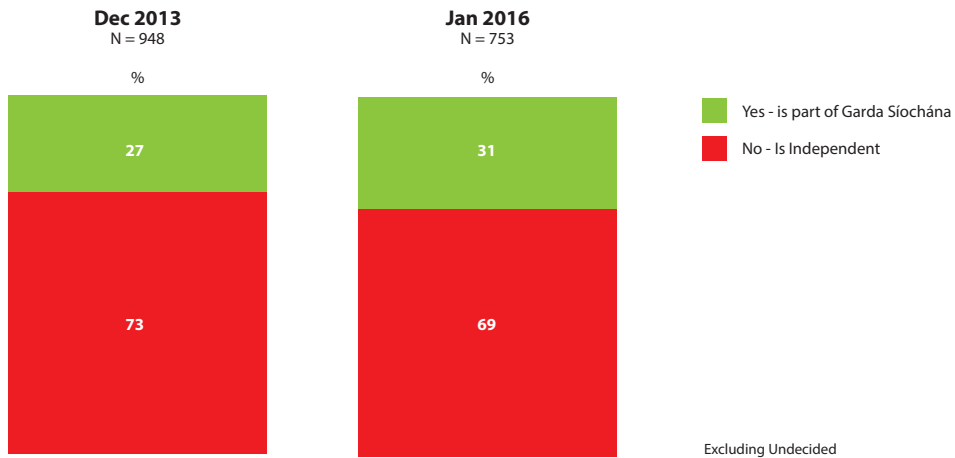
Does the Garda Ombudsman Provide an Important Service

Base: All Adults – 1,007



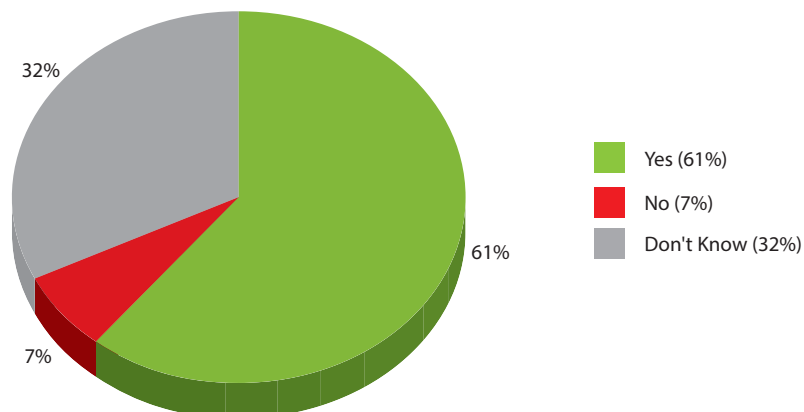
Perception of Ombudsman as Part of Garda Síochána

Base: All Adults excluding undecided



Confidence in Fairness of Garda Ombudsman

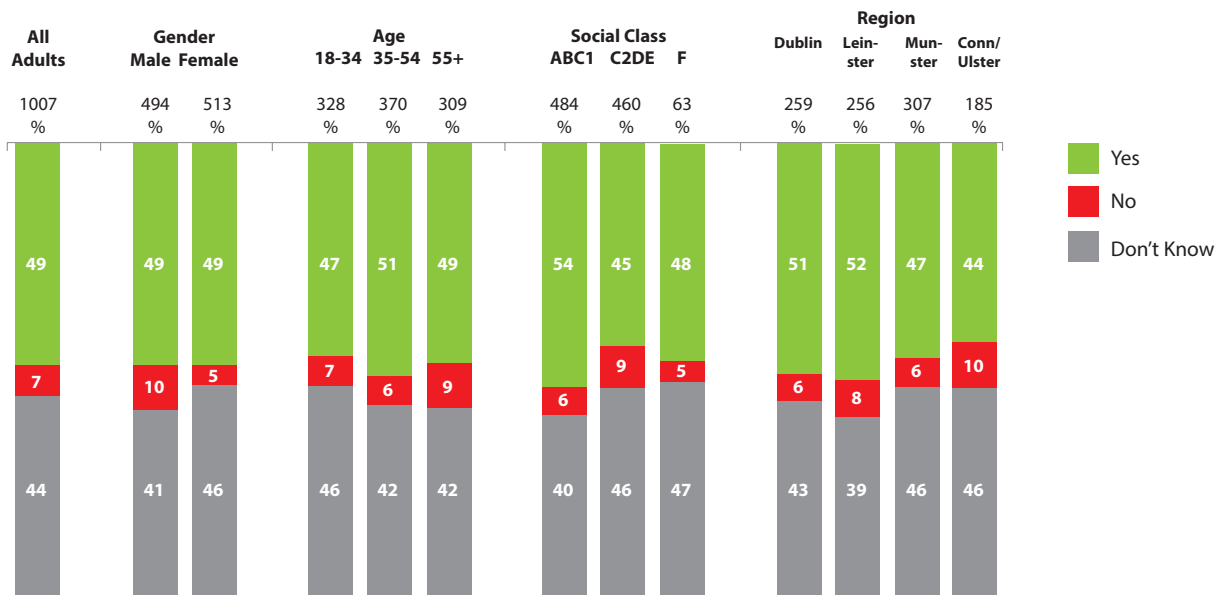
Base: All Adults – 1,007



- Less than half of the population is confident of the ability of the Garda Ombudsman to resolve problems.

Confidence in Garda Ombudsman Ability to Resolve Problems

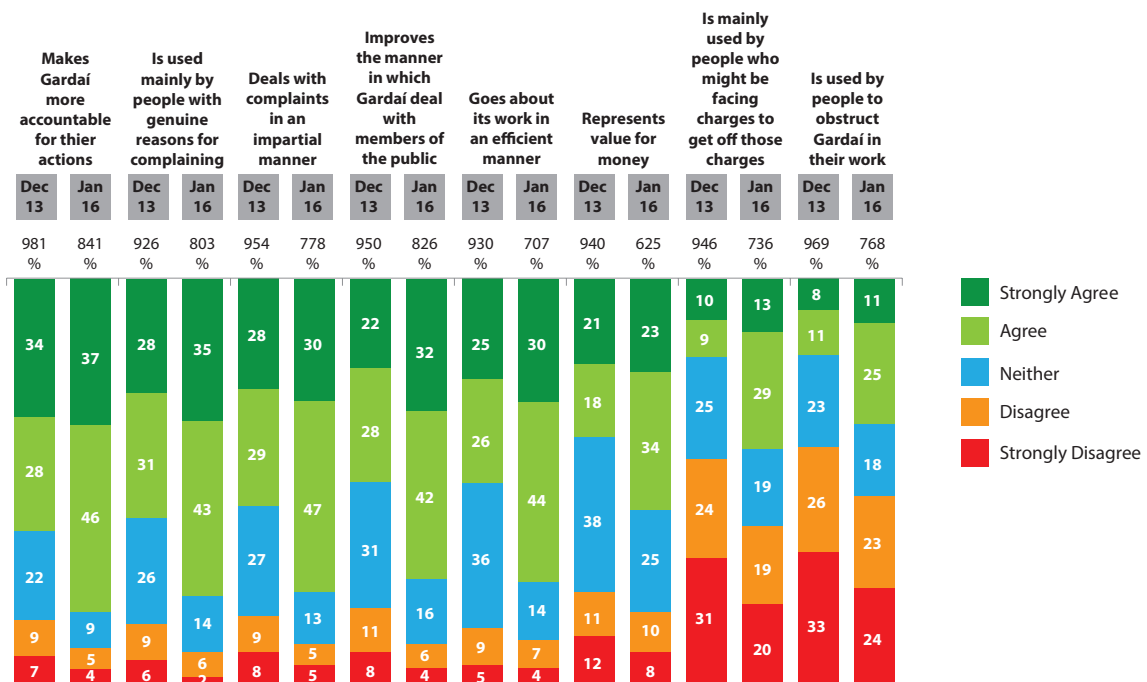
Base: All Adults – 1,007



- But, all in all, people are positive about the Garda Ombudsman, and the work that it conducts. In response to all statements, respondents expressed higher levels of positivity than two years ago. This was most notable in relation to GSOC making gardaí more accountable for their actions, where 83% agreed or strongly agreed.

Agreement with Statements Concerning Ombudsman – Excluding Don't Knows

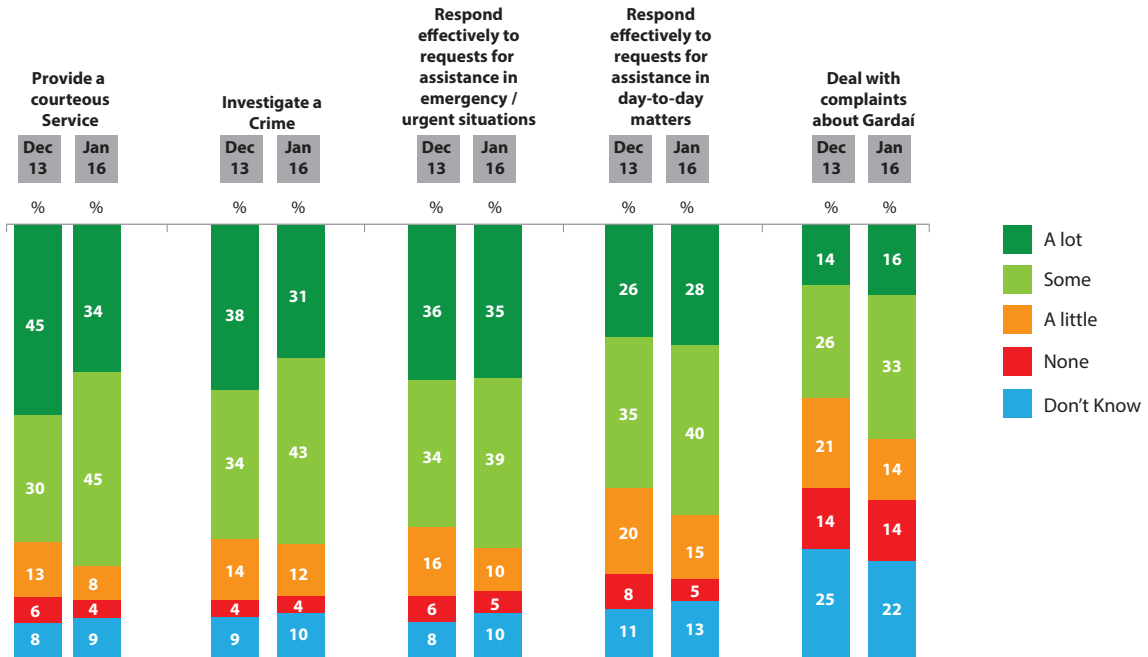
Base: All Adults – excluding undecided



- Confidence in the Garda Síochána appears to be improving, according to our research, with highest levels of confidence in the force's ability to provide a courteous service, investigate crimes and respond effectively to requests for assistance.

Confidence in Aspects of Garda Síochána's Ability

Base: All Adults – 1,007



- The last two years have also seen satisfaction with garda interactions increase.

Satisfaction with most recent garda interaction

Base: All in contact with Garda – 262

