

1. Research from New York, and the UK and from other countries around the world shows that crime is highly concentrated. For example, research from Minneapolis showed that 50% of calls came from just 3% of areas in that city. Increasing police presence in high crime areas can have a dramatic impact on reducing crime (See the book, *Criminal: The Truth about Why People Do Bad Things*, by Tom Gash, Chapter 8: We need more Bobbies on the beat). We owe it to those people living in high crime areas to provide the Gardaí on the beat in these high crime areas to get crime under control.

2. There has been a lot of controversy in recent times over Garda Statistics, and crime statistics. We need to hire more statisticians to make progress in crime analysis. It can make a very big difference in reducing crime, if we know where the problems are. At the joint policing committees (JPCs) the committees get regular presentations on crime statistics. But the stats are only on the basis of the previous quarter. There is no analysis of trends over time. So for example I can't see if burglaries are up this year compared to last year, or how they compare to five years ago. I also can't compare the burglary rate in one community to another. Without trends or comparisons, the crime stats that are presented are essentially meaningless.

3. Garda interaction with the public in Garda Stations could be improved. In most of the Garda stations that I have gone into, you have to ring a bell and wait for a Garda to come to the hatch. You often have to wait several minutes for a Garda to appear. You can't see the Gardaí behind the shutters. Often the bell doesn't work. This is poor quality interaction with the public and people going to the Garda station often feel like they are being disrespected. No private enterprise would treat their customers like this. In contrast, in some police stations in the UK, the entrance is an open plan office, where there are staff (often civilian) sitting at the entrance waiting to help. We should move to a model like this.

4. The Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) has been a very positive step in my experience. I was involved with setting up the "Ballymun Strive" JARC programme. The Ballymun Strive programme is distinctive in that a wide variety of community and statutory agencies work with the criminal justice agencies to deal with the most prolific offenders in our community. In addition to the Gardaí, probation service and prison service, there is also input from the Drugs Task Force, Dublin City Council, HSE drugs treatment service, Ballymun Job Centre and Department of Social Protection. The evidence so far from this pilot has shown very good results. We need to keep reviewing this programme and expanding the programme to high crime

communities across the country.

5. The Gardaí need more powers to deal with antisocial behaviour. For example, if there is a lot of noise coming from a house at night - perhaps due to a party, the Gardaí can ask the residents to turn down the noise, but they have no powers to compel the residents to turn down the noise. Motorbike scrambling on public streets and parks is a major problems in many communities across the state. If the Gardaí seize one of these motorbikes, they have to be returned to the owner if they appear at the Garda station with proof of ownership. This allows the perpetrators to terrorise their communities again - with no consequences.

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