

Emergency

I Services Ireland

DNA DATABASE UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

***'CALL VETTING' OF FIRE SERVICE
IS DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN***

***COAST GUARD TAKES SONAR SCANNERS
ON BOARD***

***'EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSON
OF THE YEAR' AWARD 2013***

WIN LAVISH BREAK FOR TWO AT DUNBOYNE CASTLE HOTEL & SPA

24



5 NEWS UPDATE

19 UNDERWATER RESCUE

The recent acquisition of new sonar scanners by the Irish Coast Guard will assist the State agency greatly in all future underwater search and rescue operations on both the eastern and western seaboards.

21 HOTEL COMPETITION

'Emergency Services Ireland' has teamed up with the luxurious four-star Dunboyne Castle Hotel and Spa to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a lavish spa break for two.

33



23 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A new 'Emergency Response Person of the Year' category has been added to the 2013 Local Authority Management Agency (LAMA) Awards taking place next January in Dublin.

24 DNA DATABASE

Ireland's crime fighters have long been awaiting a DNA database for this country but with a new Bill promised by the end of the year, this crucial detection tool may at last be in sight.

39



33 FIRE SERVICE CUTBACKS

The use of 'call vetting' of the emergency services is posing an increasing danger to the public and needs to be abolished immediately before a major disaster occurs, according to Ros Mac Cobb, national vice chairman of the Irish Fire and Emergency Services Association.

39 DEFENCE FORCES

Gerry Rooney, general secretary of PDFORRA, has described calls for the review or abolition of allowances paid to Defence Force personnel as "totally unacceptable", and argues that the allowances are as relevant now as they were upon their introduction in the 1970s.

49



45 SEX TRAFFICKING

The April 2013 deadline for EU Member States to impose legislation discouraging human trafficking and prostitution has brought these issues to the fore yet again.

49 ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

A Casualty Reduction Implementation Plan has been rolled out in a bid to reduce the number of road users killed and seriously injured. The new interagency strategy runs until 30 November.



DUNBOYNE CASTLE
HOTEL & SPA

Competition details on page 21

55 MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

Mental Health Reform's latest campaign highlights the need for continued investment in community mental health services, and is urging the Government not to drop the ball in next year's Budget.

59 SAMARITANS HELPLINE

A new freephone helpline number for Samaritans Ireland, due to be operational in the first half of next year, follows a unique agreement signed between the country's longest-serving organisation and the six largest telecom providers in Ireland.

61 SUICIDE PREVENTION

Dr Harry Barry, a best-selling Irish medical doctor with a particular interest in mental health issues such as depression, addiction and anxiety, has developed a new concept to identify people in danger of taking their own lives.

63 WORLD POLICE & FIRE GAMES 2013

Northern Ireland is counting down to the 2013 World Police and Fire Games, which will take place in Belfast and various venues during the first ten days in August.

65 PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS

Increasing numbers of retired Gardaí are finding private investigation work an obvious way to use their skill sets, from investigating syringe attacks to probing insurance fraud.

70 FESTIVAL SECURITY

New standards and tighter controls on licensing event security guards are to be introduced, in the wake of controversial events at this summer's concert in the Phoenix Park.

77 AIRPORT SECURITY

Controversial body scanners, which show hidden explosives, weapons and drugs on a person's body at airport security checks, are being scrapped due to the potential emissions of harmful radiation.



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77



85 AN GARDÁ SÍOCHÁNA

Since its establishment in 1922 as a new police force for Ireland, An Garda Síochána has played a fundamental role in the most critical moments in Irish history over the last 90 years.

91 FORENSIC INTELLIGENCE

UK Forensics investigator Robert Milne says that his new book 'Forensic Intelligence' is the first practical guide to the use of forensics in crime and intelligence analysis aimed at police, crime scene investigators and crime analysts.

97 CORK EMERGENCY EXERCISE

The major emergency services exhibition and multi-agency exercise in Cork City in September was the first such event to hit the Leaside since 2009. The main focus was to enlighten students on the work of the emergency services and possible career opportunities open to them.

105 CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS

Pat Kirwan, Deputy Director & Head of Risk Management and Operations at the State Claims Agency, highlights a need for policies, procedures and systems when dealing with claims against the State for post-traumatic stress disorder or critical incident stress.

109 SAFETY ACCREDITATION

Limerick County Fire and Rescue Service is the first fire authority in Ireland to have gained the only auditable international standard for occupational health and safety.

113 EMS INTEGRATION

Following the success of the first-ever conference on 'Integration for the Emergency Services', organised by GMIT Department of Nursing and Health Sciences and Mayo General Hospital's Emergency Department, the aim is to hold similar events the future.

137



117 GARDA CYCLING CLUB

Six female Garda cyclists put in a 'wheely' great performance recently when they bagged Team Gold at the 7th European Police Cycling Championships in France.

119 AEROMEDICAL RETRIEVAL

The latest training programme for aeromedical retrieval teams in October at Weston Airport in Leixlip was the third course to be run by Aeromedvac Ireland since the company launched in March 2011.

121 MOUNTAIN RESCUE TECHNOLOGY

Additional radio terminals were provided by Tetra Ireland to mountain rescue teams during Reek Sunday 2012 to ensure the safety and security of over 12,000 pilgrims who climbed Croagh Patrick in Mayo.

127 MOURNE ADVENTURE

This year's inaugural Mourne Mountain Adventure in County Down, organised by the emergency services and local councils, brought together young teenagers from different communities across Northern Ireland. There are plans now to stage the event next year.

137 MOUNTAIN RESCUE LEADERSHIP

The next training course on 'Leadership of Voluntary Emergency Services' will take place in spring 2013, following the roll-out of this year's programmes in Ireland and Great Britain.

141 UK EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW

Ireland's emergency services personnel are invited to visit the UK's Emergency Services Show 2012 in November to discuss best practice and network with like-minded professionals.

145 UK NEWS

151 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

GREAT GARDA RUN RAISES €115,000 FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Over €115,000 was raised by the 'Great Garda Run 2012' in this year's Munich Marathon on 14 October in aid of Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin.

All members of the 'Great Garda Run 2012' Team personally funded all expenses incurred in this trip, so that every cent raised by them in this initiative will specifically be used in providing much-needed support to St John's Ward in the hospital.

The 'Great Garda Run 2012' saw 103 members of An Garda Síochána, including Irish Olympian Adam Nolan, participate in the Munich Marathon. They were joined by former world champion, Senator Eamonn Coghlan as the official team mentor, with former Kerry footballer Jack O'Shea and former Ireland and Leinster rugby player Malcolm O' Kelly on board as team patrons.

According to Inspector Niall Featherstone, one of the organisers of the 'Great Garda Run', "Considering the current economic climate in Ireland, this is an amazingly positive news story, which saw Gardai making a tangible difference to the

sick children in St John's Ward at Crumlin Hospital's. Gardai gave up their personal time and financed their participation in this Marathon, resulting in all fundraising going direct to Crumlin Hospital."



Gardai Tony Minter, Barry Hanrahan, David Redmond and Kevin Lawless pictured at the start of the Munich Marathon on 14 October.

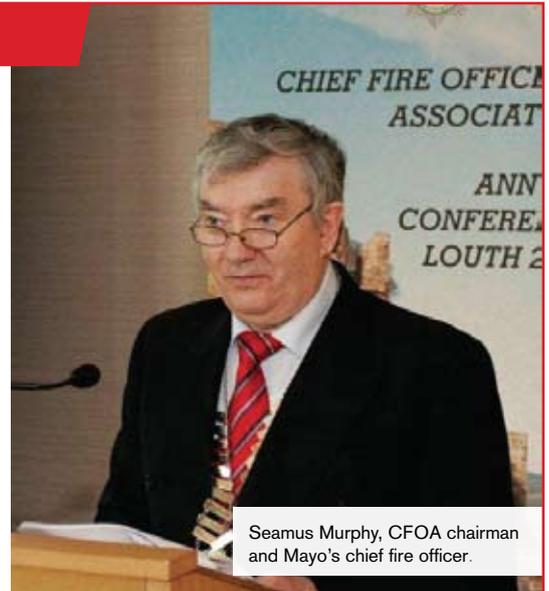
SIGNIFICANT DROP IN FIRE FATALITIES DURING 2012

New figures from the Irish Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) show a major drop in the number of deaths from fires in Ireland so far this year.

A total of 17 fatalities were recorded during the first nine months of 2012 compared to 30 for the corresponding period last year, with the deaths occurring in Dublin and Roscommon (3), Meath and Cork (2), Waterford, Mayo, Offaly, Monaghan, Donegal, Kerry and Kilkenny (1).

Seamus Murphy, CFOA chairman and Mayo's chief fire officer, said that smoke alarms must be fitted and in good working order.

"A total of 38 people died from house fires in 2011. Thankfully, we have witnessed a considerable reduction of the number of fatalities so far in 2012. These tragic incidents serve as a stark reminder of the importance of installing working smoke alarms and the need to have an escape plan should it become necessary to evacuate."



Seamus Murphy, CFOA chairman and Mayo's chief fire officer.

LABOUR SENATOR CONCERNED OVER WORKING HOURS OF PARAMEDICS

Seanad spokesperson on Social Protection, Senator Marie Moloney, has expressed concern over the HSE rule on the working hours of paramedics and ambulance drivers.

"An employee has to work a 12-hour shift and then be on call for an additional 12 hours.

This is a dangerous and reckless practice which recently resulted in an ambulance driver who after working 22 hours straight, fell asleep while at the wheel," noted Senator Moloney.

This follows on from her concern over cuts to home help workers and homecare services, and she has called on Health Minister James Reilly for an open debate on the issue.

"Home help workers are the only workers in the HSE not getting their contracted hours.

This is their livelihood and it's being cut to ribbons. I do not want the Minister to come into this house talking about legislation or a bill that has been pre-arranged, but to come in and allow senators to put the issues and concerns directly to him on behalf of the people we represent."

GARDAI AND NURSES ARE HOWLIN OVER FURTHER CUTBACKS!

A recent announcement by Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, **Brandan Howlin**, confirmed that the Government will renege on its previous decision not to cut the allowances of nurses, gardai and council officials, among others.

Intense pressure applied to the Minister by Government backbenchers has seen him opt to cut a total of 88 allowances for public workers.

These cutbacks will come into action by the end of February 2013, and will include the abolishment of such privileges as the entertainment allowance for Defence Forces personnel posted overseas, locomotive allowance for senior Gardai and acting-up allowance for senior council officials. Allowances to ambulance staff also face the axe.

This has met with a negative response from some of the afflicted emergency services; Gardai insisting on the cost-effectiveness of the locomotive allowance and Defence forces maintaining that the entertainment allowance is crucial for funding functions overseas.

The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) opposed the allowance cuts, claiming they comprised a key component of the pay package of health and safety workers. SIPTU echoed this sentiment, claiming it would not tolerate cuts to allowances that form an essential part of public worker's pay.

The implemented cuts will serve as a vanguard for a further €14 billion of reductions to the public sector pay packet expected to get the go-ahead from An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, which it is hoped will not impair frontline emergency services.

Brandan Howlin, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, is set to cut allowances.



ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY

A new online support group for people with epilepsy has been launched by Brainwave – the Irish Epilepsy Association – whose work this year is aimed at raising public awareness and shattering the stigma of epilepsy.

The free online service aims to provide support to people who wish to connect with others around the country using the latest technologies without having to leave the home. This would include those who are geographically isolated from existing face-to-face support groups and those who cannot drive due to their seizures.

Epilepsy is the most common serious neurological condition, with over 37,000 people living with epilepsy in Ireland. It is diagnosed when someone has recurrent seizures caused by excess electrical activity in the brain. Although many people's seizures can be controlled by medication or

surgery, thousands of people in Ireland still have uncontrolled epilepsy, which can give rise to a significant, but often hidden level of disability.

For further details contact Brainwave at 01-4557500 or visit www.epilepsy.ie



Stigma continues to be one of the hidden challenges faced by many people living with the condition. A recent survey conducted by Brainwave found that just over 51 per cent of those with epilepsy have experienced stigma as a result of their condition, while a similar number felt that their employer's and work colleagues' attitudes towards them changed after they disclosed their epilepsy.

LAWMAKERS TOLD OF HEALTH INEQUALITIES ACROSS EUROPE

Sean Kelly MEP co-hosted an awareness-raising workshop on health inequalities at the European Parliament in October.

The Ireland South MEP was joined by Professor Peter Mossey of Dundee University in leading the discussion on congenital birth defects and treatment across the EU.

"There are unfair health inequalities facing these European citizens from their birth as healthcare measures differ from member state to member state. A child born with a cleft palate in one EU country could receive treatment that allows them to live a full life while a child with the same condition born in another member state may not get any professional care and could suffer greatly as a result," noted Kelly.

Leading experts told those present that a coherent, unified effort in the treatment of congenital birth defects was urgently needed across the EU.



Ireland's Sean Kelly MEP and Dundee University's Professor Peter Mossey at a sitting of the European Parliament.

SUICIDE PREVENTION CHARITY TO OPEN CENTRE IN LONDON

An Irish suicide prevention and bereavement charity has been invited by the UK authorities to establish a centre in London, which is due to open its door later this year.

"We have been invited to establish a presence in London by a group of state and community agencies who have identified a specific lack of suicide resources in the London area," said Paul Kelly, CEO and founder of Console, which is marking its 10th anniversary.

Kelly was contacted by the Metropolitan Police and the UK's Department of Health after outlining Console's services at a conference in London. "It is both a fantastic honour to be asked to establish a UK operation, and an opportunity to spread and develop our professional post-vention counselling services, which already work so well here in Ireland. We hope to be up and running by the end of the year."

Initially, Console hopes to meet the needs of clients in London through the provision of information, resources,

training and education for relevant groups. A recent report found that unemployment in the UK has been linked to 1,000 additional deaths by suicide between 2008 and 2010.

Console recently published the National Quality Standards for the provision of suicide bereavement service in conjunction with the HSE. The nationwide professional suicide prevention and bereavement charity offers counselling services and 24-hour helpline support to people in crisis and those bereaved by suicide.

The charity has full-time centres in Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Limerick and Galway and also offers services in Mayo, Kildare, and other areas in Dublin such as Tallaght and Clondalkin.

Freephone 1800 201 890 or visit www.console.ie



RED CROSS AMBULANCE IS AT THE VANGUARD OF CARE

The first Irish-built van conversion ambulance for the Irish Red Cross has hit the streets of Limerick and joins the charity's fleet of vehicles in the mid-western region.

The Irish Red Cross ambulance was built on an all-wheel-drive 2.2 Litre Ford Transit 350 van, and was converted to an ambulance by Wilker Auto Conversions Ltd. of Clara, Co. Offaly. In order to meet the requirements of type approval, the completed ambulance underwent a two-stage inspection process.

"There was some learning in this process for us, particularly when we had to modify parts of our planned design in order to meet the requirements of type approval," said Scott Keenan, Irish Red Cross' project manager for the build. "But we received excellent support from the people at Wilker throughout the process, and we're all delighted to have achieved certification for this ambulance."

Greg Kerrigan, sales director for the Wilker Group, said the team was delighted to have been involved in the design, development and delivery of the first type-approved ambulance

for the domestic Irish market.

Anthony Lawlor, national director of units for the Irish Red Cross, said they wanted to be at the forefront of bringing modern, safe and fit-for-purpose ambulances into use in Ireland. "The type approval process specifies a clear-cut standard for us to achieve in this regard."



The Red Cross ambulance was built on an all-wheel-drive 2.2 Litre Ford Transit 350 van.

WALKING AND CYCLING IN AID OF THE RNLI

Dun Laoghaire RNLI and Howth RNLI organised a walk and cycle around Dublin Bay on Sunday 21 October.

Over 120 walkers and cyclists set off from Dun Laoghaire Lifeboat Station on the south of Dublin Bay and from Howth Lifeboat Station on the north. They followed along the coast roads gathering at Poolbeg Yacht Club for refreshments and entertainment. Funds raised will help to supply lifeboat crews with the best equipment available to ensure their safety when saving lives at sea.



Over 120 walkers and cyclists took part.

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES IRELAND WEEK DISPLAYS WORK

A nationwide programme of free events took place as part of the first Médecins Sans Frontières Ireland Week, to highlight work of MSF’s Irish office and Irish volunteers.

A cholera tent roadshow, the premiere of a documentary narrated by Daniel Day-Lewis, and a photo exhibition by Irish film-maker Michael Lavelle were some of the highlights during the last week of September.

The events were organised by the Irish office of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). This medical humanitarian organisation provides independent medical aid to victims of war, disasters and disease outbreaks in nearly 70 countries throughout the world.

The programme of events for the week in Ireland was officially launched by Jane-Ann McKenna, Head of MSF Ireland with Gabriel Fitzpatrick and Mark Campbell, two Irish doctors who have volunteered with MSF in the past. McKenna said the aim of the week was to highlight the contribution Irish volunteers and donors make to MSF’s international work.



For further information visit www.msf.ie

**MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**

“Volunteers from right across Ireland are heavily involved in the work of MSF overseas,” she said. “At present, for example, we have volunteers from Tipperary, Galway and Longford working on missions in Chad, Congo and Pakistan, while others have just recently returned from South Sudan and Afghanistan.

“MSF works principally in emergency situations, taking action quickly in order to save lives. The Irish office has been in operation since 2006, and we are providing crucial support to MSF’s international work, both in terms of fundraising and volunteers.”

€1 MILLION DONATED TO CANCER RESEARCH AT NUI GALWAY

A joint initiative between Cancer Care West and the Galway University Foundation has seen €1 million donated to provide fully funded scholarships for 10 PhD students at NUI Galway.

The Cancer Care West Hardiman scholars will perform translational and clinical research in the area of cancer biology, therapeutics and all aspects of oncology at NUI Galway and the associated University Hospital Galway.

Chairman of Cancer Care West John McNamara said: “Cancer Care West is delighted to partner with Galway University Foundation to create a research fund of €1 million, which will support high calibre PhD students at NUI Galway. We recognise the need to support the important medical research taking place at NUI Galway.”

The Hardiman Research Scholarship scheme was first launched in NUI Galway in 2011 to support outstanding PhD students whose research focuses on the five key areas of research in which the university offers leading expertise. A total of 32 Hardiman scholars started their PhDs in 2011 and 24 PhD students will be funded through this year’s scholarship scheme.

The scholarships offer opportunities for suitably qualified

individuals to pursue a structured postgraduate degree by research. Structured PhD programmes, while retaining the focus on the advancement of knowledge through original research of traditional programmes, also provide professional development modules in subject-specific and transferable skills.

Named in honour of James Hardiman, who was appointed the university’s first librarian in 1849, the scholarship programme aims to produce highly focused PhD graduates from a pool of national and international candidates.



The chairman of Cancer Care West, John McNamara, presents €1 million cheque to President of NUI Galway, Dr Jim Brown

GREECE NOW CHAIRS EUROPEAN COAST GUARD FORUM

The chairmanship of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) was handed over to Greece at Dublin Castle during the ECGFF conference in August. Commandant Dimitrios P.

Bantias, Vice Admiral of the Hellenic Coast Guard, is pictured here with Chris Reynolds, Director of the Irish Coast Guard, following the handover before the conference concluded. (Pic: Grace Heneghan)



IRELAND WINS GOLD AT EUROPEAN LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ireland recently won Gold at the European Lifesaving Championships in Sweden, when two junior lifesavers from Clare won their medals in the team beach event, which simulates a rescue from the water called a Board Rescue.

Clare's Bernard Cahill also won a Gold medal in the Run Swim Run event whilst his teammate Rory Sexton won silver. Bernard also won silver in the individual Rescue Board Race. In the Girls' Swim Run, Lily Barrett from Ennis took a bronze medal.

This is the first time that Ireland has won the overall beach competition. Ireland was 4th overall in the Boys Competition at beach and pool events and is now ranked 8th overall in Europe. These results reflect the excellent work done at local and national level in lifesaving sports for a number of years now, according to Irish Water Safety (IWS).

The championships simulate real-life rescue situations that these lifesavers can expect to encounter as lifeguards. "To secure six international medals at European level is testimony to how hard they trained and how well they prepared as individuals and as a team. Lifesaving sport is primarily intended to encourage lifesavers to develop, maintain and improve the essential physical and mental skills needed to save lives in the aquatic environment," noted John Leech, chief executive of IWS.

"Lifesaving competitions consist of a variety of

competitions to further develop and demonstrate lifesaving skills, fitness and motivation. Children around Ireland as young as eight can get involved in a series of progressive lifesaving classes taught by Irish Water Safety, through the www.iws.ie website and hopefully go on to represent their country in these competitions," he noted.



Bernard Cahill and Rory Sexton from Clare top the podium.

GARDAI ARE GEARED UP TO TEST FOR DRUG DRIVING

The recent rise in drug driving on Irish roads has incurred a strong response from Minister for Transport Leo Varadkar. A new drug driving test will form part of the new Road Traffic Bill grant Gardaí the permission to test drivers they suspect may have taken illegal substances.

Gardaí will now have the power to ask suspected drug takers to walk a straight line, count while standing on a single leg or complete similar impairment tests in a bid to deduce whether or not they have taken drugs prior to or while driving. A driver who cannot pass these simple examinations may be escorted to the local garda station for further examination.

Driving under the influence of drugs – particularly cannabis – has been on the rise in recent years and this new measure will be implemented in an attempt to curb this trend. Driving under the influence of cannabis, first illegalised in Ireland in 1961, can double the likelihood of an accident. Despite this, until now there has been no set legal limit for how much substance intake incurs dangerous driving and warrants an arrest. Because of this, successful prosecution of drug drivers often proves both tedious and fruitless.

The Medical Bureau for Road Safety (MBRS) is currently searching for a device that can be used to ascertain if a driver has used the substance in order to provide apprehending

officers with definitive proof in instances of suspicion. The MBRS will revisit the situation in January, when the Minister has asked the Bureau to discuss options with regards the rolling out the test nationwide.

MBRS director Professor Denis Cusack said: "Unlike alcohol, there is no legal limit for drugs. Under current road traffic law, the Gardaí must be satisfied that a driver is under the influence to such an extent as to be incapable of having proper control of a vehicle. This means that the Garda has to prove driver impairment to the satisfaction of the court and this can cause difficulties in successfully prosecuting such offences."



Unlike alcohol testing, there is no legal limit for drugs.

SAFETY MONITORING TO SERVE IRELAND'S DEMENTIA PATIENTS

A new monitoring service will see improved communications and enhanced levels of safety and care for 44,000 people with dementia and their families in Ireland.

With Alzheimer's disease accounting for up to 60 per cent of all dementia cases, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland has partnered with Tunstall Emergency Response to launch this service which will help provide tailor-made care packages for those living with the disease.

This initiative, which is the first of its kind ever undertaken in Ireland, is being piloted initially for 100 people living with dementia in Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare, Limerick, Clare and Tipperary. Plans are in place to roll out this service across all 26 counties by 2015.

Funded under the European Commission's Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), the initiative will see telecare technology installed in the homes of those with dementia. Specially developed by Tunstall Emergency Response, this technology allows for the discreet remote monitoring of users by the company's expert monitoring centre in Wexford.

The technology communicates to the monitoring centre in the event of an incident occurring (such as a bath or sink flooding or user wandering). This information is then instantly made available through a dedicated web portal to

the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland. This gives the team access to real-time information on clients for the first time and allows them to make informed decisions around the care plans for those with dementia.

The new initiative provides a comprehensive, round the clock, monitoring system in the homes of service users. The service includes movement detectors placed throughout the home and on key exit points to monitor the movements of users, the timing of movements and whether or not users leave the home with its dedicated property exit sensor. See www.emergencyresponse.ie



James Doyle, director of Tunstall Emergency Response (left) presents the Tunstall Emergency Response Carer of the Year Award 2012 to Peter Riordan (81) from Kildare, pictured with patrons of The Carers' Association and national broadcasters Mary Kennedy and Marty Whelan.

IRISHMAN PIONEERS DESIGN OF RNLI'S MOST ADVANCED LIFEBOAT

A young Irishman has played a significant role in developing the RNLI's most advanced class of lifeboat - the Shannon class.

Named after the River Shannon and almost 50 per cent faster than the lifeboats it will replace – the Shannon will help the charity's volunteer crews reach those in need even quicker.

Capable of 25 knots, the Shannon is the first modern RNLI all-weather lifeboat to be powered by water jets, not propellers. Over 50 new Shannons will need to be built within the next ten years to replace the older classes of lifeboat and the charity estimates that the 50+ Shannons in their class will rescue over 56,000 people and save the lives of over 1,500 in its lifetime.

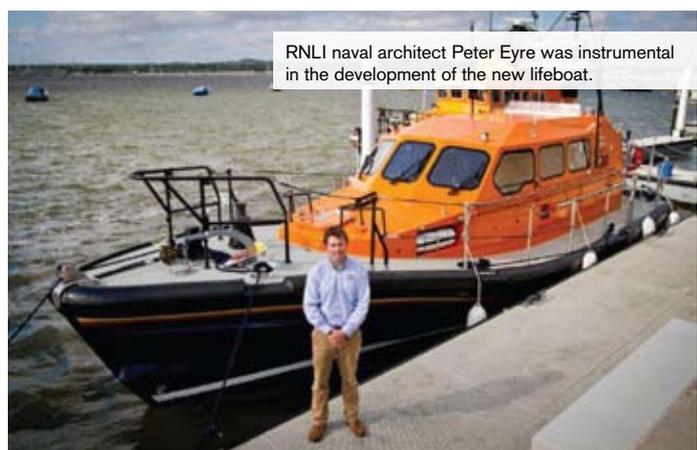
Peter Eyre, an RNLI naval architect from Derry, was instrumental in the development of the new lifeboat, designing the hull form at the age of 24 in his spare time. Four years after Peter's original design, the prototype of the 'Shannon' class lifeboat is undergoing sea trials around the coasts of the UK and Ireland, with the first lifeboat going into service in 2013.

Eyre says he kept the design under wraps in the early stages. "After a while my boss could see I was working on something and encouraged me to continue. My job was to find the design by working with other naval architects, not to design it. I was the youngest in the team and before long I had designed the new lifeboat hull."

"I'm chuffed it was named after an Irish river and the strong connection the boat now has with Ireland. I think

the moment it first goes out on a service will be the high point of my career. My Parents will be so proud. It's a great legacy to be a part of, especially at this age. I think it will sink in gradually. When the first life is saved I think that's when it will really hit home.'

The 'Shannon' class is expected to make up almost one third of the RNLI's all-weather lifeboat fleet and once rolled out all RNLI all-weather lifeboats will be capable of at least 25 knots. The 'Shannon' class will also improve the safety and welfare of the charity's volunteer crews, due to its shock-absorbing seats and computer monitoring and operating system.



RNLI naval architect Peter Eyre was instrumental in the development of the new lifeboat.

SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION – FACT OR FICTION?

State pathologist Prof Marie Cassidy was guest speaker at a recent workshop and training day, hosted by the Fire Investigators' Association of Ireland (FIAI).

The forensic awareness and fire investigation event at Dublin Fire Brigade's Training Centre on 26 September provided a hands-on approach from the practical and theoretical aspects of forensic awareness for frontline responders such as Gardaí and fire service personnel.

During her presentation, Prof Marie Cassidy outlined her viewpoints on 'Spontaneous Human Combustion', which she had described at one inquest in the past as a "myth" enjoyed by fiction writers. In her evidence at that particular inquest in Dublin Coroner's Court in November 2011, Prof Cassidy had said that the theory of human combustion had not been valid for 500 years.

The issue of spontaneous human combustion hit the headlines earlier in 2011 when West Galway coroner Dr Ciarán McLoughlin declared a 76-year-old pensioner had died as a result of the phenomenon. However, Prof Cassidy was quoted outside the Dublin court in November 2011 as saying that spontaneous human combustion was a "misnomer". "It captures everybody's imagination, this idea that somebody suddenly erupts into flame. The pattern is unusual in that the fire is localised to the body and the immediate surrounds because most fires that we deal with cause extensive damage to the fabric of the building, the body and everything else that is associated with it," she had noted.



Pictured at the FIAI workshop and training day (l-r): Dr J. Twibell, Twibell Associates, UK; Detective Inspector Kevin Brooks, Garda Technical Bureau, Garda HQ; Liam Fleury, FIAI President; State Pathologist Prof Marie Cassidy; Denis McCauley, formerly Forensic Science Lab, Belfast; and Dale Ashford, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service. (Pic: Grace Heneghan)

At the FIAI meeting, she reiterated the same view as she outlined the aims of an autopsy. "The main aims are to establish the positive identity of the victim, to determine if the deceased was alive at the time of the fire; the cause of death, any contributory factors and the time of death."

When identifying the body, Prof Cassidy said that it always comes down to looking for distinguishing marks, such as tattoos, body marks, jewellery, and pointed out that teeth are often well protected in extreme fire incidents.

"In terms of a badly burned body, x-rays are always helpful to identify the person and to determine the cause of death – indicating whether it was a homicide or a suicide."

In his concluding remarks to delegates at DFB's Training Centre, Liam Fleury, FIAI president, reiterated the importance for fire investigators north and south to come together. "It's vital that all stakeholders can meet and understand the training requirements of forensic awareness and fire investigations through such events as seminar, lectures and workshops."

PATIENT SAFETY IN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Over 85,900 adverse events were reported by hospitals and community-based healthcare facilities during 2011, according to the HSE and the State Claims Agency.

In Ireland, adverse events reported to the State Claims Agency range from near misses, where no harm was caused, to delays in access to services, to damage to a patient's health and well-being.

A total of 85,918 adverse events were reported last year. This is across a healthcare system which has in the region of 4.5 million patient contacts a year.

Some new categories of reporting, covering non-clinical personal injury were included in this 2011 data for the first time, which explains the overall increase in reports between 2010 and 2011. Examples of these types of adverse events include trips or falls in a car park or road traffic injuries involving HSE vehicles.

Dr Phillip Crowley, HSE National Director of Quality and Patient Safety, said; "

"International data suggests that approximately one in ten hospital in-patients will experience some harm during their treatment and this report is in line with incident reporting statistics internationally.

Ciarán Breen, Director of the State Claims Agency, said that the Agency is engaged in a number of joint initiatives with the HSE, including moving towards open disclosure, care of the deteriorating patient and providing system analysis training. "By working jointly, both organisations can achieve maximum effectiveness in terms of patient safety," he noted.

Slips, trips and falls are by far the most common adverse events that occur in a healthcare setting, and account for 32 per cent of all adverse events reported last year. Healthcare services have a range of policies in place to minimise these accidents, focusing strongly on staff training.

WHAT LIES BENEATH

THE RECENT ACQUISITION OF NEW SONAR SCANNERS BY THE IRISH COAST GUARD WILL ASSIST THE STATE AGENCIES GREATLY IN ALL FUTURE UNDERWATER SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS ON BOTH THE EASTERN AND WESTERN SEABOARDS, WRITES CONOR WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

The Irish Coast Guard has purchased two StarFish sonar scanners to assist in underwater search and rescue missions along the eastern and western coastlines. This is the first time a state agency has had this type of equipment at its disposal.

The new sonar scanners, which went live in October, will now serve all of the state agencies across the nation.

Towed behind a rigid inflatable boat (RIB), the devices use sound to detect objects beneath the surface of the water that may not be visible to those above.

A sonar image of the underwater landscape is relayed to a laptop onboard, thereby enabling divers to instantly identify objects of interest and respond accordingly.

This will vastly decrease the time required to scan an area such as a harbour or bay and makes the scanners invaluable in the search for missing persons or suspicious objects beneath the waves.

Previously, such undertakings would have involved lengthy, fruitless dives, often without much prior indication of where to start the search. The acquisition of the new sonar scanning equipment will allow coast guards to co-ordinate their search efforts with a far greater degree of efficiency.

"It can cover a large volume of water; whereas a dive team would take an awful long time to get through that area by just diving," according to Fergus Cooney, spokesperson for Howth Coast Guard.

VERSATILITY OF EQUIPMENT

Having acquired the equipment in June, coast guard teams across the country familiarised themselves with the technology during the following months before the scanners went live in October. They are now available for all state agencies to use at their disposal.

The versatility of the scanners is evidenced by their propensity to be



A sonar image of the underwater landscape is relayed to a laptop onboard.

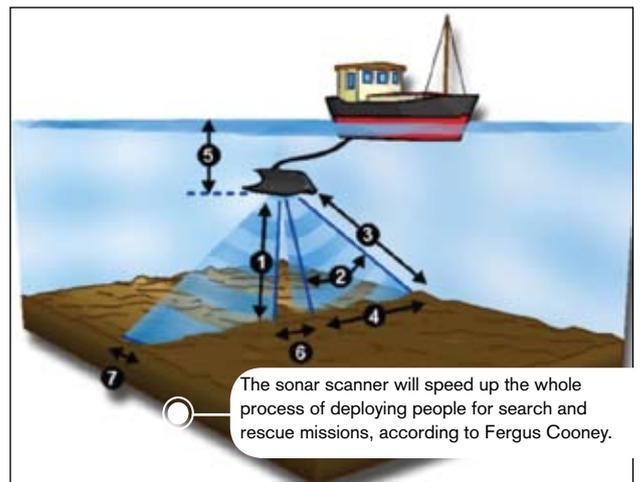
employed in the identification of suspicious objects beneath the surface, such as a missing car or boat, which may also fall under the mandate of the Coast Guard.

Their application is not limited to the sea, as rivers will also be potentially scanned when necessary.

The manufacturer – StarFish – is the expert in underwater imaging.

The company provides similar equipment to other emergency services worldwide.

"Howth Coast Guard is thrilled to have acquired a scanner," noted Cooney, and he added that it would be hugely beneficial in its continuing efforts to ensure safer seas for the people in the area and also to identify missing persons beneath the waves.



The sonar scanner will speed up the whole process of deploying people for search and rescue missions, according to Fergus Cooney.

"We probably do 50 to 70 calls a year; maybe 15 of those would be missing person calls," he said.

"So, for us to be able to examine a volume of water – like say Howth Harbour – reasonably quickly and then provide that information to the Gardaí, hopefully will speed up the whole process of deploying people for search and rescue missions."



Win a lavish spa break for two



'Emergency Services Ireland' has teamed up with the luxurious four-star Dunboyne Castle Hotel and Spa to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a lavish spa break for two.

The winner will receive a deluxe overnight break for two adults. In addition to a three-course dinner at the hotel's Ivy Brasserie, this prize includes luxury spa treatments at the hotel's award-winning Seoíd Spa, and complimentary access to the spa's extensive thermal treatment facilities with outdoor jacuzzi.

Dunboyne Castle Hotel & Spa is gearing up to celebrate this holiday season in style, and will host its renowned 'Christmas Fair' on Sunday 2 December, with artisan stalls, handcrafted Christmas gifts, a children's disco and special guest Santa!

The hotel has also launched its special Christmas Party Night's Offer of a delicious festive four-course meal, band and DJ from only €49.95 per person, with special accommodation rates also available.

HOW TO ENTER

Simply email your name, address and contact number to emergencyservices@oceanpublishing.ie and don't forget to include 'Dunboyne Spa Break' in the subject line!

*

The closing date for entries is **Friday 23 November**.

*

Even if you don't win this prize, check out the hotel's special offers, festive events and spa breaks on www.dunboyncastlehotel.com or contact 01-8013500.



THE CASE FOR A DNA DATABASE

IRELAND'S CRIME FIGHTERS HAVE LONG BEEN AWAITING A DNA DATABASE FOR THIS COUNTRY BUT WITH A NEW BILL PROMISED BY THE END OF THE YEAR, THIS CRUCIAL DETECTION TOOL MAY AT LAST BE IN SIGHT. REPORT BY SHEILA RYAN.

It is seven years since the Law Reform Commission recommended the establishment of a DNA database. A recent Irish Times editorial criticised the "political dithering and administrative foot-dragging" that has prevented the database from being set up, despite Ireland's signing up to the EU Prüm Treaty in 2008.

Under the terms of the treaty, Ireland committed to cross-border exchange of information, including fingerprints, vehicle registrations and DNA by August 2011. More than a year after that deadline, the Minister for Justice and Equality, Alan Shatter has promised to bring forward a Bill by the end of the year, but it may still take up to 18 months to implement the database.

Despite the illusion of governmental inaction, however, technical preparations are being made for the establishment of the database at Eolaíocht Fhóirínseach Éireann (EFÉ), Ireland's forensic science laboratory.

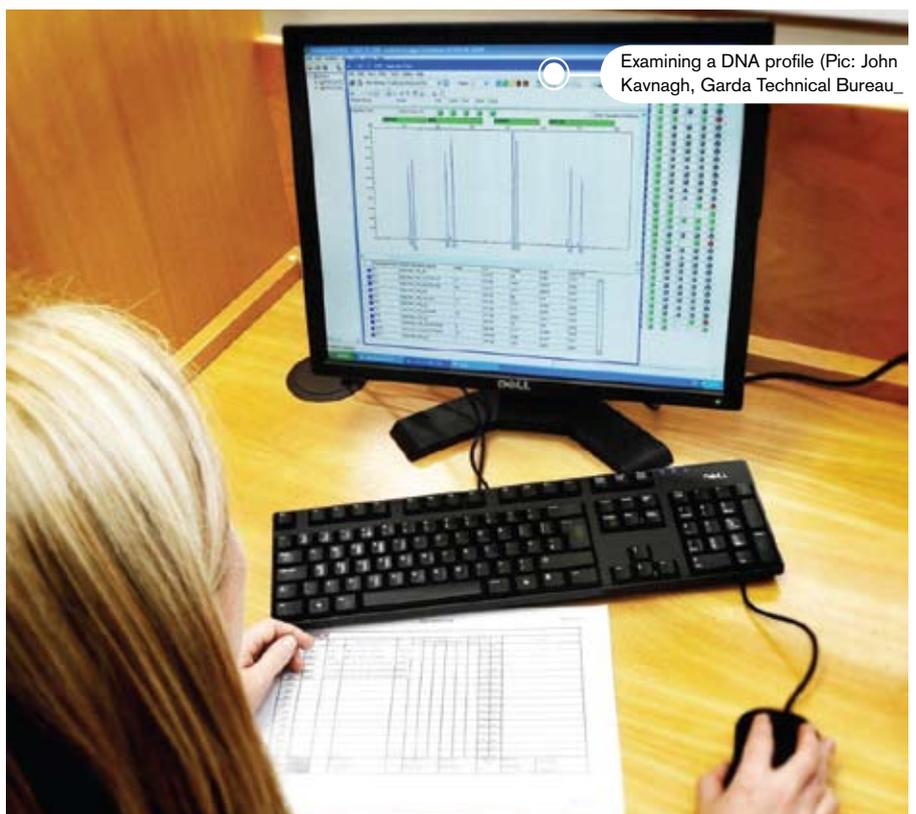
"In fairness to this government and the last government, we have been funded to prepare for it," said Dr Maureen Smyth, director of DNA at the Forensic Science Laboratory. "We have purchased quite a lot of instrumentation and equipment geared towards semi-automated extraction of DNA and also software to speed up the analysis."

CRIMINAL CASE SAMPLES

The lab is also changing the way the Garda Síochána takes samples in criminal cases to mirror the kind of samples they will take for the database. The new system involves a swab that takes loose cells from the inside of the mouth and is pressed onto absorbent paper. The DNA binds to the paper and can be stored at room temperature without deterioration. The



Technical preparations are being made for the establishment of the database at Ireland's Forensic Science Laboratory. (Pic: D/Sgt Paul Curran, Garda Technical Bureau)



Examining a DNA profile (Pic: John Kavnagh, Garda Technical Bureau)

card is bar-coded to facilitate processing.

"The profile can be converted into a string of letters and figures for digital storage. The DNA profiling in use in the laboratory generates profiles from non-coding regions of DNA; the profile tells nothing about the individual except whether they are genetically male or female.

The database will contain several different files of data," said Smyth.

"There'll be a file of unsolved criminal cases. There'll be a file of elimination samples, say, all of us who work in the lab. So, if a stray profile turns up in a case sample and it doesn't correspond to anything else in that case, we can make sure it wasn't one of us who contaminated it."

The DNA director pointed out that due to the sensitivity of the process, contamination is a possibility that is always considered by the forensic scientist and it can occur in spite of the rigorous precautions taken to avoid it.

"There may be a file for convicted persons and possibly suspects for a period of time. It's also envisaged there would be a file of profiles from unidentified bodies. The file contents will be determined by the legislation. The original legislation also has provision for an Oversight Committee, chaired by a judge and having representation from the Data Protection Commissioner."

REVOLUTIONISE INVESTIGATION

DNA is already used in individual case work, but a DNA database would revolutionise the investigation of serious crime in Ireland. A trace of DNA found at a crime scene could help to nominate a suspect or eliminate suspects known to the Gardaí.

"You've all heard 'round up the usual suspects'," said Smyth. "Well, if the usual suspects are on a database for other reasons, they don't have to be rounded up and they can be eliminated with a quick search. It saves police time and it saves hassle for the people involved because there may be no reason to look at them any further."

REPEAT OFFENDERS

The DNA database would also be useful in solving crimes such as burglaries. "DNA gets great publicity for major cases such as murders, rapes, but a database serves incredibly well the volume crime, mainly

burglaries, because there tends to be a lot of repeat offenders," noted Smyth.

Retired Garda Detective Inspector Gerry O'Carroll agrees that Gardaí often have strong suspicions about who committed a particular crime. "The truth of the matter is there's a small coterie of villains who are career criminals and who are suspects for these crimes," he said. "But we're fighting crime with one hand tied behind our back."

O'Carroll looks forward to seeing some of Ireland's 'cold cases' reopened and, possibly, solved as the DNA database becomes operational. DNA samples taken from the scenes of unsolved crimes have been saved against

the day when a database becomes available.

O'Carroll cited the example of the murder of Phyllis Murphy in 1979, which was solved in 2002 after Gardaí matched a sample, taken from the victim's clothing and kept in storage over the years, with the DNA of one of the suspects, John Crerar. "Crerar is now serving life imprisonment for the murder of Phyllis Murphy, a case that would be undetected but for DNA," he said.

OVERTURNING CONVICTIONS

It is also possible that some people under sentence could have their convictions overturned, according to O'Carroll. "Let's

EX-OFFENDERS TARGETED IN DRIVE TO ADD TO DNA DATABASE

Police in England and Wales hope to solve hundreds of crimes by taking samples of criminals who have committed offences in the last 40 years. Thousands of ex-offenders are to be targeted in a national drive to add their profiles to the police DNA database in an attempt to solve hundreds of crimes.

The campaign will focus on 11,993 criminals convicted of serious offences such as murder, manslaughter and rape in the past 40 years, according to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

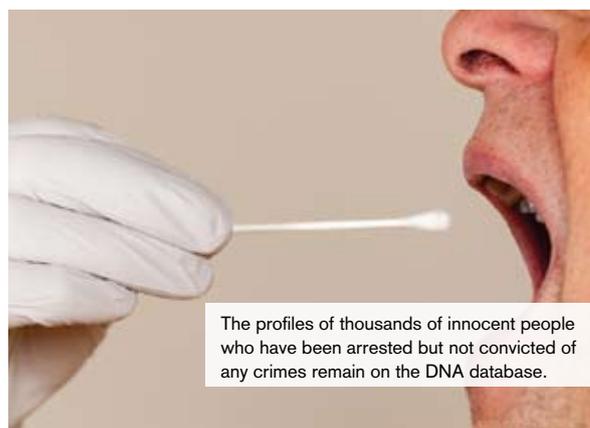
A linked operation has started in Greater Manchester with police aiming to test 2,000 people convicted of serious offences before 1995.

Forces are using powers under the Crime and Security Act 2010, which became law in 2011. The aim is to gather DNA profiles from criminals who were convicted before the database – which now contains 6.5 million profiles – was set up in 1995. Meanwhile, the profiles of 1.1 million individuals who have

been arrested but never convicted remain on the database.

Codenamed 'Operation Nutmeg', the sweep aims to ensure all those convicted of serious offences are added to the database. Their profiles will then be checked against unsolved crimes to see if there are any matches. Many of those targeted over the next year will now be in their 70s.

Each of the 43 forces in England and Wales has appointed an officer dedicated to the DNA sampling. ACPO said it would carry out an assessment of individuals who had committed serious crimes in the past but were not on the database. It would only take mouth swabs of ex-offenders after a risk assessment was made in each case. (Source: The Guardian)



The profiles of thousands of innocent people who have been arrested but not convicted of any crimes remain on the DNA database.

take the other side of the coin," he said. "People who have been convicted in America, were on death row, and where a DNA database came in, have been freed from death row and declared innocent. It works both ways."

A DNA database would be a major boost for crime fighting in Ireland, according to O'Carroll, who retired in 2000 and is now best known as a columnist for the Evening Herald and author of a crime novel *The Gathering of Souls*.

"DNA is one of the greatest leaps forward for crime detection since fingerprinting or blood grouping," he said. "It's a huge lacuna in our criminal justice system at the moment. We're losing valuable time already in compiling it."

THE PRIVACY DEBATE

O'Carroll blames the long delay on civil liberties groups who, he said, have portrayed the potential DNA database as an assault on individual rights. He argued that with the proper checks and balances in place, innocent people have nothing to fear, and that with CCTV cameras widely used, old-fashioned ideas about privacy are gone.

"Some of these civil liberties groups have whipped up some kind of hysteria about it," he said. "It doesn't hold water."

The Criminal Justice (Forensic Sampling and Evidence) Bill 2007 – the first proposed Bill to establish a DNA database – was dropped after a decision by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in *S. and Marper v. the United Kingdom* found the law on DNA collection and retention in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland to be in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

A revised Bill was published in 2010 but lapsed last year with the change of government. The new Bill was initially promised for the end of 2011, and is already a year overdue.

If the new Bill is fully comprehensive of all the data protection issues at hand, Dr Maureen Smyth said it may be worth the wait. "When the next Bill comes in, it may incorporate extra aspects that would have to be covered somewhere down the road on data protection, to conform with European standards, and also something to cover international exchange.

So, it may well turn out to be a better instrument than it would have been if it had been brought in way back then," she said.



Dr Maureen Smyth, director of DNA at the Forensic Science Laboratory.

Meanwhile, the Garda Síochána continues to wait for the technology that will modernise crime detection in Ireland. O'Carroll said, "I know that from the Garda Commissioner to the



Retired Garda Detective Inspector Gerry O'Carroll agrees that Gardaí often have strong suspicions about who committed a particular crime.

lowest Garda on the beat, we hope and pray that we get this database and that the legislators legislate for it. We are lagging behind most of our European counterparts."

THE HUMAN RIGHTS STORY

While the need for a DNA database is an open-and-shut case from a crime fighting point of view, from a human rights perspective, it is more complex. After the Law Reform Commission's 2005 recommendation, the first Irish bill to establish a DNA database was brought forward in 2007.

*That bill was dropped after the 2008 decision by the ECHR (European Court of Human Rights) in *S. and Marper v. the United Kingdom*, which led to a European-level change in the law on DNA databases. The ECHR found that the UK's policy of indefinitely retaining DNA records for people arrested but who were not convicted breached their right to privacy under the European Convention on Human Rights. While the UK passed legislation to restrict the retention of innocent people's DNA to six years for adults and three years, in most cases, for children, the Irish Government drafted a new bill in 2010.*

The IHRC (Irish Human Rights Commission) responded to the 2010 bill by calling for stronger human rights protection for people who will be affected by its provisions, while acknowledging the potential of a DNA database as a tool in crime

investigation.

"The bill has implications for protecting human rights standards, in particular the right to privacy," said Dr Maurice Manning, president of the IHRC. "A DNA database stores and retains people's most personal information.

"The guarantee of a person's right to privacy is fundamentally affected by the taking, retention and storage of their DNA profile on a database," he continued. "Some provisions and safeguards in the bill are in line with earlier recommendations by the IHRC on the scheme of the bill and I warmly welcome that. However, it is vitally important that this legislation is underpinned by rigorous safeguards governing the taking, retention, storage and destruction of bodily samples and DNA profiles. The scope of the DNA database system must be limited to the primary purpose of crime investigation."

The IHRC urges caution concerning the retention of DNA profiles, arguing that DNA profiles should not be stored for lengthy periods and that the DNA profiles of people who are not convicted of any crime should be removed and destroyed as soon as possible after the conclusion of legal proceedings.

SOME CASE STUDIES SHOWING HOW DNA WAS USED TO SOLVE CRIMES

• **The Body in the Royal Canal**

An unidentified male torso and dismembered body parts were found in the Royal Canal, Dublin. The victim had also been decapitated. The canal was searched, but no personal items were found which could help identify the body. Samples of bone marrow and muscle tissue were sent to the DNA section for profiling. A complete DNA profile was obtained from the samples but there were still no clues as to the identity of this man.

Some time passed until a woman reported to local Gardaí that her estranged partner had not been to visit their son in weeks. A paternity test was carried out using the samples from the bone marrow and the results showed that the body in the canal was the biological father of the child.

Following this information, detectives were led to a nearby flat, the last known residence of the victim and his new partner. The flat was now occupied by new tenants and had been recently redecorated. A team of forensic scientists soon located small amounts of blood on skirting boards and some on the bedroom furniture.

At this stage it could not be determined if this location had been the scene of the crime as very large volumes of blood would have been present after the dismembering of an adult body. Luminol testing was carried out in several areas of the flat including the bedroom door and proved that large volumes of blood had been present in the flat prior to a clean-up.

Lab analysis of the bloodstains showed that the DNA profile matched that of the body in the canal. There was

now no doubt that the victim had been murdered at this location. The victim's new partner and her two daughters were subsequently questioned and charges were brought against them.



Luminol testing on the bedroom door – before.



Luminol testing on the bedroom door – after.

• **Death in Mountjoy Prison**

A fight broke out between two prisoners during which one prisoner fatally stabbed the other. A knife was seen fall to the floor. There was a delay in getting the prison wing locked down and as a result the knife was picked up and concealed. The suspect offender also had time to change his clothes.

Following a search of the prison wing a bloodstained knife was found in the toilets and a set of bloodstained clothes were found in one of the cells.

Eyewitness accounts say that the prisoner who was fatally stabbed was stabbed first. They say after he was stabbed he removed the knife from his own chest and attempted to stab the other prisoner. The suspect offender says that he was stabbed first in the left chest and that he stabbed the other prisoner in self-defence.

On examination of a bloodstained football jersey found in a cell there was a single stab cut to the upper left chest and three small stab cuts on the lower centre front (right).

The stab cuts were examined under the microscope and two were found to have discrete bloodstains around the edges. This type of bloodstaining can occur when a knife with a wet bloodstained blade penetrates fabric.

DNA profiling was carried out on the bloodstains around the cuts. There was a mixed DNA profile obtained that matched the profiles of both prisoners. The stab cut on the sweatshirt of the deceased was DNA profiled. A single DNA profile matching his own DNA profile was obtained.

This result indicates that the prisoner was fatally stabbed before the suspect offender, as the deceased's DNA profile was obtained from the blood on the suspect offender's jersey having been transferred there by a bloodstained knife.

The presence of the stab cuts with the associated blood staining and the matching DNA profiles suggest that the version of events as proposed by the eye witnesses is more likely rather than the version proposed by the suspect offender. The suspect was later convicted of murder.

'CALL VETTING' IS A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN

THE USE OF 'CALL VETTING' OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES IS POSING AN INCREASING DANGER TO THE PUBLIC AND NEEDS TO BE ABOLISHED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE A MAJOR DISASTER OCCURS, ROS MAC COBB, NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE IRISH FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ASSOCIATION (IFESA), TELLS JOHN WALSH.

IFESA, the Irish Fire and Emergency Services

Association, has claimed that there is growing evidence throughout the country that more rigid interpretation of 'Call Vetting' of emergency calls is denying basic fire and rescue services to the public and local communities and has warned that it is an accident waiting to happen.

"This issue has been going on for quite some time," said Ros Mac Cobb, national vice chairman of IFESA, who maintained that call vetting was "a means of implementing tighter financial control on the provision of a vital public service".

Describing the process as an "insidious way of implementing more cutbacks in the fire and rescue service", he warned that the process is "being adopted in the majority of retained/part-time fire brigades around the country". He claimed it is only a matter of time before those counties that have a full-time brigade will also experience the practice.

The issue, according to IFESA, is



The whole reason call charges were introduced was not to generate revenue but to act as a deterrent to stop people calling for minor incidents.

that part-time firefighters are only paid for call-outs, so the fewer call-outs there are, the lower the costs, but at what price to public safety.

"People's lives are being put at risk unnecessarily and their suffering is being prolonged, and it's all down to money," Mac Cobb argued.

INTERAGENCY BILLING

While IFESA was investigating allegations

of call vetting right around the country, another issue raised its head, according to the IFESA national vice chairman. "Gardaí and HSE paramedics were hesitant in mobilising the fire services to incidents," and Mac Cobb claims this appears to be "a direct result of certain fire brigades charging either the HSE or Gardaí for call-outs to assist another emergency service".

Describing the process as "absolutely wrong", Mac Cobb argued that if an

emergency service goes looking for the assistance of another service, there should be no billing across the service providers.

“If I go looking for help from the Gardaí, they don’t charge the fire service for turning up; the HSE don’t charge the fire service for turning up; and yet, the fire service charge the Gardaí and the HSE. That plants the seed in the minds of front-line staff that if they’re coming under pressure from management to justify why they called the fire service, and that is wrong.”

He highlights a number of incidents where fire control officers have asked the Gardaí to scout out incidents to see whether or not it requires the attendance of the fire service. “In some instances, Gardaí have taken it upon themselves to try to extinguish fires using their own fire extinguishers.

“The Gardaí are under-resourced as it is, so we don’t see why they should have to take on the burden of doing the role of the fire service when it clearly isn’t their responsibility.”

MEETING WITH GARDAI

IFESA recently met with the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) to discuss this issue, a meeting described as “very productive” by Mac Cobb.

“AGSI would be concerned if any instruction has issued from the fire service or Garda management that prevents our members from requesting assistance from the professionally trained fire service members in any situation,” noted AGSI deputy general secretary, John Redmond.

To issue any such instruction would be incredibly dangerous to members of the public, and would be ironic, given that both agencies are primarily concerned with the protection of persons and property.

Furthermore, if this issue hinges on the €500 call-out charge, and which agency is responsible for paying the fee, it’s even more shocking. Both the fire service and An Garda Síochána must state that no such instructions apply to members of An Garda Síochána.”

The whole reason call charges were introduced was not to generate revenue but to act as a deterrent to stop people calling for minor incidents, according to Mac Cobb. This is outlined in the Department of the Environment’s

Consultation Document on keeping communities safe.

COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

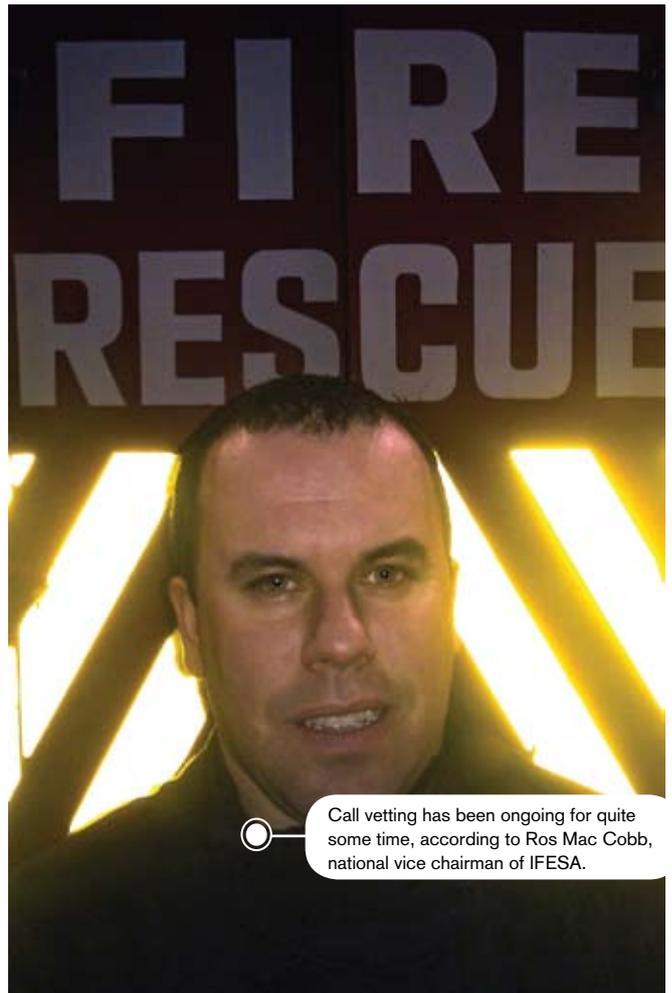
IFESA is also calling for a cost benefit analysis of the emergency services in Ireland. In the UK, integrated risk management planning has effectively quantified the cost of a human life. “They have calculated that an accidental death costs £1.6 million Sterling [approximately €2 million] to the exchequer, based on a 30-year-old male being involved in an accident that causes the loss of life. We

have asked for a similar exercise to be carried out here, because based on that, you can determine whether or not to cut resources,” Mac Cobb noted.

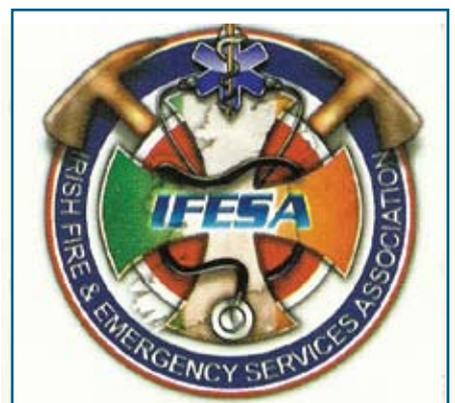
He cites the example of specialist cutting equipment, which may cost €500,000 annually to run but may save two lives in a year (€4 million, based on the UK figures), which would provide an annual saving to the exchequer in the long-run. The problem, according to IFESA, is that local authorities are so concerned over their budgets, that there is nobody examining the bigger picture. He cites the example of Offaly, where three fire stations were closed, resulting in higher insurance premiums for private and commercial residents.

NATIONAL SERVICE

Indeed, Mac Cobb called for the introduction of a national fire service that would come under the control of the Department of the Environment. “Currently, each local authority runs its own fire brigade so if anything really bad was to happen, the Department can walk



Call vetting has been ongoing for quite some time, according to Ros Mac Cobb, national vice chairman of IFESA.



IFESA recently met with the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) to discuss this issue, a meeting described as “very productive” by Mac Cobb.

CASE STUDIES OF CALL VETTING INCIDENTS NATIONWIDE

- **Wicklow:** *Gardaí are not requesting fire service to all RTAs, even when the HSE is requested, according to IFESA. This is particularly true on the N11, where it has been reported that the main objective seems to be to keep traffic flowing, rather than proving a safe area for all to work in. Wicklow has also seen other incidents where Gardaí have tackled small fires and car fires, IFESA maintain.*
- **Kilkenny:** *Gardaí tackled fires using fire extinguishers from cars and, allegedly, from Garda stations. One incident saw a number of trees on fire, in close proximity to an ESB pole with live cables. Flames were approximately 10 metres high when a fire engine arrived. The Garda had not requested fire service and soon after, a Garda car arrived, with a number of fire extinguishers in it to tackle fire.*
- **Waterford:** *Following an RTA between an SUV and a small car at a cross-roads, when the fire service arrived they were allegedly told by the Garda on the scene they were not needed. The person in the small car had to be cut out of the car. Another incident saw two Gardaí sent to a kitchen fire trying to tackle it with a 2kg powder extinguisher before calling fire service for assistance.*
- **Drogheda:** *A tandem bicycle was hit by a car with one person trapped under the car in a ditch. The ambulance from Carrickmacross was in attendance before the fire service was requested. In the same area, another situation, which was reported in 'The Irish Sun' newspaper, saw the fire service again not requested or mobilised until after Gardaí had arrived on the scene.*

away from it, saying 'the local authority runs that fire service. We just provide the capital grant funding'."

In relation to the question of funding, Mac Cobb is not optimistic about the forthcoming Budget. So, what is the best he can hope for? "To keep our heads above water," he said simply.

"Cuts within the fire service are having tremendous effects on the provision of service: even training is being cut in a bid to save money. But to maintain core skills, you need continuous training, and it is something you can't skimp on. When it gets down to that level, where cuts are having an effect on the operational readiness of crews, it is dangerous."

So what will have to happen for improvements to be made and more resources to be allocated? "Gardaí and firemen have been killed at RTAs (Road Traffic Accidents), and nothing has changed," Mac Cobb warned.

"If anything, cuts have got worse. Does there have to be another Stardust? That's how Dublin Fire Brigade was reformed and the fire prevention officer post came into existence. We now have less fire prevention officers than we would have after the Stardust."

He claimed that IFESA is not trying to alarm people, but pointed out that since he and his fellow firefighters are those working on the frontlines they see the effect that these cuts have. "We are very lucky that there hasn't been any major incident because it is getting to the stage where something will happen and the resources will not be in place to deal with it. That's how frightening it is.

"We welcome reform when it happens in the right areas to deliver a better public service; the Croke Park Agreement is about delivering a better public service. We have had some ideas to put policies and procedures in place to make this a better service, but certain vested interests aren't rushing to take them on board. They don't want to rock the boat."



PDFORRA REJECTS CALLS FOR ABOLITION OF ALLOWANCES

GERRY ROONEY, GENERAL SECRETARY OF PDFORRA, HAS DESCRIBED CALLS FOR THE REVIEW OR ABOLITION OF ALLOWANCES PAID TO THE DEFENCE FORCES AS “TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE”, AND ARGUES THAT THE ALLOWANCES ARE AS RELEVANT NOW AS THEY WERE UPON THEIR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1970S. REPORT BY JOHN WALSH.

PDFORRA, the organisation representing soldiers, sailors and airmen and women of the Defence Forces, has slammed the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform’s review of public service allowances and premium payments.

“It is quite remarkable and totally unacceptable that these allowances could now be abolished or reviewed,” said Gerry Rooney, general secretary of PDFORRA, speaking at the association’s annual delegate conference in Kilkenny, recently.

The issue of allowances across the public sector is a contentious one, which has been under the glare of the media spotlight in recent weeks.

“We see ourselves having a specific issue on this,” Rooney avowed, “because buried away in the documents released by the Department is a statement that the army and the Garda pay and allowance structures have ‘structural weaknesses’.”

PDFORRA believes that the majority of the allowances paid to the Defence Forces cover longer working hours or higher level duties. And he says that both would have formed part of the criteria that the Department said should continue to receive sanction for payment.

NECESSARY ALLOWANCES

The Department of Defence introduced the allowances in the 1970s “in order to deny members the Defence Forces the opportunity to earn overtime payments”, according to Rooney.

He maintains that the Defence Forces is the only uniformed service not entitled to claim overtime. The general secretary argues that the allowances are still as



Gerry Rooney, general secretary of PDFORRA, speaking at this year’s annual delegate conference in Kilkenny in early October. (Pic: Billy Galligan)



Particular courses of training and tours of overseas duty for those who joined since 1994 have to be completed to qualify for further periods of service.

necessary today as they were 40 years ago.

“They were introduced in the 1970s to capture the increased work of the Defence Forces in the context of the Northern Ireland troubles, when the Defence Forces were called on to aid the civil powers, essentially,” he noted.

“The reality is that all of those activities still take place. They may not take place as often as they did in the past, but they’re still there. So the Defence Forces still have that burden in terms of the work they carry out and the additional attendance associated with it.”

Allowances paid to members of the Defence Forces are properly part of core pay and should continue to be paid on this basis, according to Rooney: “This is simply an allowance to extend pay to cover longer hours. At its very heart, it is core pay or basic pay, which the Croke Park Agreement protects.”

CUTBACK IN NUMBERS

The disagreement over allowances is merely the latest round in what has been a difficult year for the Defence Forces, dominated by the Government’s decision to cut numbers employed from 10,000 to 9,500.

However, as well as the loss of 500 jobs, Rooney maintained that there is a change in the “teeth to tail” ratio within the army.

“There has been a downgrading of administrative and support functions and an increase of the ‘teeth’ element, the infantry corps in the main,” he said, leading to “deficits of some skills and disciplines in certain areas, and surpluses of skills and disciplines in others”.

So, what can be done to minimise the problem? One short-term solution is to retrain existing staff to address some of the skills shortfall, which is suitable for certain areas. Some of the skill shortages, however, are in very technical areas, such as people with building trades, according to Rooney. The problem is that it could take years to retrain existing staff to the levels required. PDFORRA’s goal is to minimise compulsory relocation.

Rooney admits that some staff will have to move, with the associated costs of relocating or commuting, which he estimates could be as high as €5,000 annually. “This is a bigger sum of money than either the pay cut or the pension levy, which everyone has taken to date, so

MISTAKE TO DOWNGRADE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, SAYS PDFORRA

PDFORRA has heavily criticised the decision to downgrade the Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces from a full-time to a part-time post.

The Department of Defence justified the downgrading of the Ombudsman’s position because the percentage of complaints resolved at local level increased from 21 per cent in 2009 to 46 per cent in 2011. But Simon Devereux, deputy general secretary of PDFORRA, feels that increase is directly attributable to the Ombudsman.

“Management at lower levels know that if issues are not addressed, they will land on the desk of the Ombudsman, who will address them,



Paulyn Marrinan Quinn, SC, recently stepped down as Ombudsman for the Defence Forces, after serving five years at the helm.

so people make a greater effort to handle them at local level.

“The presence of the Ombudsman has contributed hugely to the changing culture of the Defence Forces where action on bullying, harassment and access to fair process is now the norm,” noted Devereux.

“A reduction in the time that can be dedicated to resolving complaints at local level will probably see a rise in bullying and harassment incidents.”

to have this heaped on top of this could almost constitute forced redundancy in some circumstances, in our view, whereby some people just wouldn’t be able to bear that and may end up leaving the Defence Forces as a result of it,” he warned.

There is, however, an appeals mechanism in place, which allows family circumstances to be taken into account. “For example, if someone is nominated for relocation from Dublin to Athlone but they are the primary carer of elderly parents or disabled children, it may not be possible for them to commute and to carry out these other activities,” Rooney explained.

FACING THE FUTURE

Contrary to previous regimes, Rooney feels that the Government’s forthcoming Green Paper on Defence will “reflect the sum of the changes that have already taken place” rather than pre-empting reorganisation within the Defence Forces, as is normally the case.



Mark Scally was appointed new president of PDFORRA at the annual delegate conference in Kilkenny recently. (Pic: Billy Galligan)

One good piece of news, according to the general secretary, is that he feels "the prospect of future barracks closures is relatively limited. The vast majority of barracks now, after the reorg., have a minimum of 400-500. It reaches a point where it's not financially viable to continue to consolidate and I think we're close to that position."

One area where PDFORRA is set to be particularly active in the coming months, though, is in the area of contract reviews for individuals who joined the Defence Forces since 1994.

"If you joined since 1994, you have to maintain far higher standards of fitness and health; particular courses of training and tours of overseas duty have to be completed to qualify for further periods of service," Rooney explained.

"People of private and corporal rank can serve up to 21 years. Where they are meeting these high standards, we feel that there shouldn't be that limit in terms of a cap on their service." PDFORRA has

asked Defence Minister Alan Shatter to examine this situation.

The other big issue is how to replace the Croke Park Agreement, which Rooney feels "has served us pretty well in terms

of protecting pay and conditions, and we would like to see an agreement that continues with that process replacing it... That is the big elephant in the room: what's next?"

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RED LIGHT RECKONING ON SEX TRAFFICKING

THE APRIL 2013 DEADLINE FOR MEMBER STATES TO IMPOSE LEGISLATION DISCOURAGING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION HAS BROUGHT THESE ISSUES TO THE FORE. CONOR WILLIAM O'BRIEN SPOKE TO GERARDINE ROWLEY OF RUHAMA ABOUT ITS EFFORTS TO CRIMINALISE THE SEX TRADE IN IRELAND.

EU Anti-Trafficking Day seeks to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking in Europe. Launched in 2007, this year it was commemorated across the Continent on 18 October 2012. Events were organised to draw attention to this growing problem, including a brace of conferences in Limerick and Brussels.

Represented at both gatherings was Ruhama, a group which for more than two decades has striven to help women victimised by the sex trade in Ireland.

Under the latest EU Directive on Human Trafficking, which Ireland has signed and needs to transpose in law, each member state is required to take measures to discourage trafficking and reduce demand in the illegal sex trade before April 2013.

This has again brought the controversial issue of prostitution to the forefront of the public agenda.

"It's a hidden problem," Ruhama's Gerardine Rowley told *Emergency Services Ireland*. "People think it isn't happening in their locality. From our experience, working with women in prostitution for the last 23 years and victims of trafficking for the last 12 years,

it's a serious problem in Ireland. Last year we assisted 91 women, and 22 of them were new cases. We don't believe we are meeting every woman who is a victim of trafficking."

SYSTEM IN SWEDEN

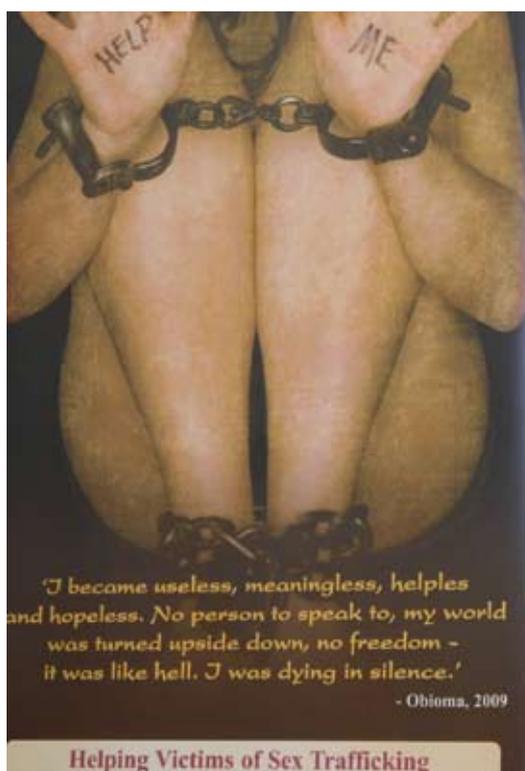
In an attempt to combat this, Ruhama has been pushing for legislative changes that would see Ireland adopt an attitude to prostitution similar to that exuded by Sweden, which enforces a system that criminalises the buyer but not the seller, thus curtailing demand.

It is a strategy which Ruhama claims has reaped results; Sweden now has amongst the lowest levels of human trafficking in Europe. This contrasts

with the Netherlands, where legalised prostitution has come hand in hand with rampant trafficking.

"We believe that this would be a very effective way of curbing the demand in the market," says Rowley. "If there were no buyers there would be no market and no profit for traffickers. They [Sweden] have greatly decreased street prostitution, and while all countries seem to have a problem with indoor prostitution, Sweden's sex trade in off-street prostitution is not increasing at the same rate and neither is their issue of sex trafficking."

This Swedish system contrasts with that in place in Ireland, where prostitutes can face prosecution. This can deter them from seeking legal help in instances of



Ruhama has been pushing for legislative changes that would see Ireland adopt an attitude to prostitution similar to Sweden, says Gerardine Rowley.



trafficking and abuse. A criminal record stemming from prostitution can also prove a burden to women seeking to overcome their past and reintegrate into mainstream society.

"Criminalising people who are prostituted only further marginalises them," says Rowley. "We have found this in our service. With some women who have left prostitution or are victims of trafficking, if they want to rebuild their lives they are often too embarrassed to go for jobs that may need Garda vetting. It can be a barrier to them moving on."

CONSULTATION

The EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October coincided with a consultation period with regards to the possibility of addressing current legislation governing prostitution in Ireland. A discussion document on the future direction of

legislation on prostitution has been published by the Minister for Justice, and Ruhama has submitted a proposal calling for a model similar to the Swedish one to be implemented.

Among its suggestions is a tougher stance on the role of telecommunications in prostitution, with sex services now being advertised freely online and mobile phones used in solicitation. A further change seeks to address complicit landlords who sublet properties for the purpose of prostitution.

Ruhama claims all of this can only be accomplished by a much more proactive policing approach undertaken by a unit with ring-fenced resources geared



Justice Minister Alan Shatter has published a discussion document on the future direction of legislation on prostitution.

towards rescuing victims of trafficking.

"It's a very important time in Ireland looking at how we can address criminality within the sex trade and legislate to protect those who are prostituted but [also] to criminalise those who are making profits or exploiting people in the sex trade," says Rowley.

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INTERAGENCY ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY ROLLED OUT

A CASUALTY REDUCTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN HAS BEEN ROLLED OUT IN A BID TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ROAD USERS KILLED AND SERIOUSLY INJURED. WITH THE MAIN FOCUS ON PEDESTRIANS, PEDAL CYCLISTS AND MOTORCYCLISTS, THE NEW INTERAGENCY STRATEGY WILL RUN UNTIL 30 NOVEMBER.



Adam Moynihan, aged 9 from Limerick, joins the force at the launch of the latest road safety campaign. (Pic: Clodagh Kilcoyne)

In 2001, there were 49 people killed in the Dublin area. While this reduced somewhat in the following years, it was still unacceptably high. As a result, the Casualty Reduction Implementation Plan was created in 2010. Its aim is to use collision data in a targeted way to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

Over the past number of years, two particular periods were identified as having a greater number of fatal and serious injury collisions in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. They are April/May and October/November.

Since the Casualty Reduction

initiatives began in October/November 2010, fatalities in the Dublin Metropolitan Region have reduced significantly. There were 32 fatalities in 2009, 19 fatalities in 2010 and 11 fatalities in 2011.

Although fatalities have reduced significantly, serious injury collisions still remain a concern. As a result, the Garda Analysis Service, in conjunction with input from the Forensic Collision Unit and each Garda Division, was again commissioned to carry out a review of all fatal and serious injury collisions in 2012 in the Dublin region.

It found a total of 51 collisions, which resulted in eight fatalities and 43 cases of

serious injury, total 51 KSI (killed/serious injury).

INTELLIGENCE-LED INITIATIVE

The Casualty Reduction Implementation Plan is an intelligence-led initiative utilising a combination of Traffic Corps and all divisional and district policing resources at key times and locations. In addition, the Garda Pedal Cycle Units will target vulnerable road user behaviours, including red light running and safety equipment.

Garda Assistant Commissioner Gerard Phillips said: "Dublin now has the safest roads of all EU capital cities. That is a very significant honour and is achieved



Supt Aidan Reid talks about the big media drive to members of the press at Heuston Plaza following the launch.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

- 76% (38 out of 51) of those killed or seriously injured were vulnerable road users, pedestrians, pedal cyclists and motorcyclists;
- 79% (40 out of 51) of all incidents occurred in 50kph zones alone;
- 75% (38 out of 51) of collisions occur on dry roads;
- The high risk time periods have been identified as between 4pm and 6pm, Monday to Friday, for mainly vulnerable road users;
- Friday night into Saturday morning, and Saturday night into Sunday morning, 12am-4am, has been identified as the high risk time period for mainly vehicle users, in particular involving single vehicle collisions, often involving speed/ alcohol;
- A significant proportion of motorcycle/ pillion passengers injured involved young males, often wearing no helmet;

- Garda Districts where high levels of fatal and serious injury crashes occurred were Clondalkin, Tallaght, Coolock, Blanchardstown, Ballymun, Store Street, Lucan, Dun Laoghaire and Raheny.



with the support and help of all road users."

However, he did admit that An Garda Síochána can always do more. "Dublin's vulnerable road users are still over-represented in casualties every year; six of the 11 fatalities last year alone were pedestrians. To date, we have had eight fatalities, compared to six this time last year."

Chief Superintendent Aiden Reid noted that the Casualty Reduction Implementation Plan, in conjunction with the stakeholder partners, is a combination of high visibility enforcement and education to raise awareness and reduce the number of casualties on Dublin's roads. "We are aiming this at every road user to help us achieve our goal, including pedestrians, younger/inexperienced drivers, cyclists and motorcyclists," he added.

Chief Supt Reid continued: "We will target speeding drivers (particularly in 50 kph zones), drink drivers, dangerous drivers, errant cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians. There will be a major media campaign, supported by the NRA and DCC VMS displays, including bus stop message boards. There will be road safety programmes in both primary and secondary schools.

"Dublin now has the safest roads in

Europe. We ask all road users to work with us to keep it that way."

LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT

The initiative is being supported by the capital's four local authorities – Dublin City Council; Fingal County Council; South Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council.

Dublin City Council (DCC) is carrying out works on improving pedestrian facilities at a number of locations throughout the city, including South Great Georges Street/Stephen Street, Castle Avenue, Clogher Road, and Harcourt Street/Hatch Street. DCC is also utilising more than 30 Variable Messaging Scheme (VMS) signs in the city for safety messages and seven locations with dialogue speed displays.

DCC's Radio Station 'Live Drive' will carry safety messages and information, while safety messaging will run on over 400 bus information displays in the greater Dublin area. The Canal Way cycle segregated route is now open, while DCC is also running a new cycle training initiative for schools, and will be operating a HGV cordon and monitoring of permits in the city centre.

Fingal County Council (FCC) is running vehicle activated signage

displaying 'Your Speed' in 15 locations, as well as VMS display warning signage. FCC is also involved in the organisation of the AXA Road Safety Road Show at The Helix, Ballymun, on 11 December from 1.15pm, as well as its responsibility for winter gritting routes.

Up to 1,500 school children are trained annually through a schools cycle safety programme run by South Dublin County Council (SDCC).

The local authority is also running a focused media campaign, including regular press releases and the use of social media outlets, as well as a poster campaign on all public buildings and libraries.

SDCC is also running a HGV Pedestrian/Cyclist Safety Initiative Day, where hi-visibility vests and LED safety cycle lights will be provided, while a zebra crossing pilot scheme will see a host of new zebra crossing facilities across South Dublin by 2013. SDCC will also

run a comprehensive winter maintenance programme.

Finally, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCoCo) is carrying out ongoing road safety works at school zones throughout the county, in addition to an N11 Safety Review and ongoing accident investigation and prevention schemes. The AXA / DLRCoCo Road Safety Road show takes place on 26 and 27 November, while a cycle training scheme is taking place in schools during October and November. VMS signage will also form a big part of the programme, with different road safety messages every two weeks.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

As well as enjoying the support of the four local authorities, key stakeholders, such as the National Transport Authority (NTA), Road Safety Authority (RSA), National Roads Authority (NRA), Dublin Bus and LUAS, are also supporting the operation.

They are each running their own initiatives throughout the duration of the campaign. It is also supported by taxi representatives, the Coach Tourism and Transport Council, Road Haulage Association, Dualway Coaches and Bus Eireann.

The National Transport Authority will further encourage cycling, and to assist cyclists' visibility to other road users, the NTA will provide up to 7,500 sets of bike lights to the public. Distribution of the lights is due to take place at major events and popular cycling locations.

Dublin Bus is producing a Casualty Reduction Poster, which will be distributed across the county, while 500 of these A2 posters will be displayed on the Dublin Bus fleet up until 9 November.

Meanwhile, the Railway Procurement Agency will ensure the display of its Casualty Reduction Safety Poster on all LUAS Trams, as well as highlighting a cycle safety campaign, and promoting all of their activities through the media.

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KEEP THE BALL ROLLING ON MENTAL HEALTH

FORMER IRELAND AND MUNSTER RUGBY PLAYER ALAN QUINLAN, WHO WAS AT THE LAUNCH OF MENTAL HEALTH REFORM'S LATEST CAMPAIGN, TALKS TO CONOR WILLIAM O'BRIEN ABOUT THE NEED FOR CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. THE CAMPAIGN, WHICH RUNS UNTIL DECEMBER, IS URGING THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO DROP THE BALL IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET.

Long a taboo subject, the issue of mental health in Ireland has in more recent times been brought to the fore of the public debate. Spearheading this shift has been a number of remarkable individuals eager to speak up about the importance of mental health, not least of all former Munster and Ireland rugby player Alan Quinlan.

For so long a formidable figure in Munster's back row, Quinlan has for a number of years been open about his own personal battle with depression. He recently lent his voice to Mental Health Reform – the group was set up to help people with mental health conditions achieve complete recovery and bring a greater level of awareness about the importance of good mental health to the Irish public.

In the build-up to Budget 2013, Mental Health Reform launched its 'Don't Drop the Ball on Mental Health' campaign, which will run until December.

The aim is to ensure that vital mental health services do not sustain fatal cuts and that the coalition honours its commitment to maintain high levels of mental health services to the people of Ireland as promised in its Programme for Government.

"I was asked to come and support their submission," Quinlan told Emergency Services Ireland. He was at the campaign launch and says he got involved to help heighten attention of mental health and the importance of mental health services.

TOUGH CHANGES

Quinlan commended the work the Government has done so far in providing mental health services to people who need them. He also urged those in power to continue in this vein by not sacrificing said services in the forthcoming budget.



Former Ireland and Munster rugby star Alan Quinlan joined Mental Health Reform's Director Orla Barry and Róisín O'Doherty (centre), Mental Health Reform volunteer, for the campaign launch on 1 October. (Pic: Conor McCabe Photography)

"The Government made a commitment last year to support and protect mental health services. We've got a tough budget coming up; the Government will have to make tough changes in tough times.

Mental health services need to be supported by all. We've gone away from the institutional approach towards a more community-based approach to mental health and that definitely needs to continue into the future."

This gravitation away from institutionalisation towards a more understanding and sympathetic methodology of community-based approach to mental health issues has been one of the defining accomplishments of the shifting mental health paradigm, and has led to the proliferation of a much

improved attitude towards mental health amongst the public.

"A lot of people view this [the work of Mental Health Reform] as a very positive thing," says Quinlan. "I've spoken out about it and got a good reaction from people."

STIGMA STILL EXISTS

Despite this, mental health has been burdened by stigma in Ireland for decades, and Quinlan admits that vestiges of this negative or dismissive perception do still linger. However, he draws hope from the huge strides made in recent years to raise awareness about mental health and alert people to how important it can be for overall quality of life.

"There is still a little bit of a stigma," he

says. "But the misunderstanding is slowly changing. With the current economic climate, people are under a lot more pressure and people are now speaking more and more about their problems."

His belief that current economic conditions are the root cause of a lot of mental health issues would appear to ring true in findings earlier this year that confirm that many suicides in the UK (particularly amongst young males) can be linked to the recession.

Statistics in Ireland from recent years paint a similar picture, with suicide reaching new heights in years of economic difficulty.

A TEAM EFFORT

Many companies and sports clubs are also contributing their share to the struggle for improved mental health, and Quinlan is very optimistic about their work thus far.

"A lot of employers are doing stuff for mental health," he enthuses. "And a lot of sporting organisations are helping too. This wouldn't have happened a few years ago."

Sport can play a fundamental role in reversing poor mental health for a variety of reasons. Coupled with the fact that sporting figures – such as Quinlan – are widely-admired role models, regular exercise and maintaining physical fitness can dramatically reduce depression and increase levels of happiness. Not surprisingly, Quinlan frequently touts lifestyle changes as one of the main factors that can help improve mental health, particularly the combination of diet and exercise.

"I honestly believe that people can help themselves, be it through lifestyle change, exercise and diet. This can greatly improve their mental health as well."

Above all else, however, Quinlan is adamant that the support of family and friends forms a fundamental first line of support for those who feel as if they are suffering from mental health problems. The help of such people is critical to aid sufferers of mental health conditions in making a full recovery.

"People who don't suffer from mental health problems themselves can offer encouragement and support to those who do," says Quinlan. "The first thing to do [for someone with mental health

MENTAL HEALTH REFORM CAMPAIGNS AGAINST FUNDING CUTS

In keeping with its 'Don't Let the Ball Drop on Mental Health' campaign, Mental Health Reform's Pre-Budget Submission suggests some of the ways to ensure sufferers are not adversely affected.

Some points in the submission:

- An additional allocation of €35 million in 2013 for community mental health services as promised in the Programme for Government;
- No further funding cuts for mental health and related voluntary and community organisations;
- Re-considering introducing a requirement for employers to contribute to illness benefit;
- Allocating €1 million to support the transition of people with low and medium support needs from HSE mental health facilities to local authority social housing;
- Funding innovative peer-led groups;
- Maintain social welfare payments at their current level and restoring the fuel allowance.



problems] is talk to someone; get advice from someone with a clear head, someone trustworthy."

The former rugby star attributes much of his recovery to his local GP, and maintains that others can follow the same route to recovery.

"Doctors and GPs are becoming more aware and sympathetic to the problem," he insists. "What really helped me was opening up and talking to people."

COMMUNITY SERVICES

On 1 October, Alan Quinlan joined Mental Health Reform's Director Orla Barry to launch the 'Don't Drop the Ball on Mental Health' campaign, which aims to safeguard mental health support funding in the impending budget, widely feared as one of the harshest implemented by a Dáil in decades.

"The current Government promised to invest €35 million every year in developing community mental health services," said Barry. "Yet little of this money has been spent in 2012. We are asking them to keep their word and invest the full €35 million in 2013."

"The mental health of Ireland's population is under severe strain and our mental health services are in an important time of transition towards modern, community-based services.

Further cuts to the mental health budget risk undermining work already done and safety within our existing services.

"With the right support, people will have the chance to recover their mental health and live their lives to the fullest. We need to show that there is public support out there for this issue," she concluded.

NEW CONNECTION FOR SAMARITANS ON FREEPHONE HELPLINE

A NEW FREEPHONE HELPLINE NUMBER FOR SAMARITANS IRELAND IS EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL IN THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR, AND FOLLOWS A UNIQUE AGREEMENT RECENTLY SIGNED BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S LONGEST-SERVING ORGANISATION AND THE SIX LARGEST TELECOM PROVIDERS IN IRELAND.

In July 2007, the European Commission decided to reserve a common telephone number – 116 123 — for emotional support helplines in all EU member states. This followed on from the decision by the European Commission to designate other 116 numbers for services of extreme social value, such as those concerned with missing children or victims of crime.

In Ireland, ComReg was charged with managing the assignment of the 116 numbers. It assigned the emotional support helpline to Samaritans, as it is the only organisation in Ireland (voluntary or statutory) already meeting and exceeding all of the European Commission's minimum standards for the harmonised emotional support service, notably its 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a week coverage.

Samaritans' helpline provides support for anyone struggling to cope, including those with feelings that could lead to suicide.

TELECOMS PROVIDERS

Since the number was allocated, the organisation has been in negotiations with the six largest telecoms providers (BT Ireland; eircom/Meteor; 02; Three; UPC; and Vodafone), which are members of IBEC's Telecommunications and Internet Federation (TIF). They have now committed to a two-year funding programme for the number.

Suzanne Costello, Director of Samaritans Ireland, said her organisation is extremely grateful to each of the telecoms providers who listened to the case for funding the 116 number and who have now taken it on.

"Samaritans operates a lo-call helpline number, which received more than 400,000 calls over the past 12



Pictured following the agreement signing on 6 September were (standing l-r) Gary Healy, 02; Torlach Denihan, TIF; Colm O'Neill, BT Ireland; Ministers of State Fergus O'Dowd and Kathleen Lynch; Brian Gaynor, Samaritans; Stephen Hibbitts, Three; (front l-r): Suzanne Costello, Executive Director, Samaritans; Paul Bradley, Eircom.

months," said Costello. "Eircom has always generously supported this lo-call helpline. The fact that the five other largest telecoms providers are now joining eircom to support Samaritans' new helpline number is ground-breaking, and a great example of collaboration between the voluntary and commercial sectors.

Under the new partnership agreement, calls to the 116 number for emotional support will be free to the customers of each of the six participating telecoms companies. The annual value of the arrangement is expected to be in excess of €400,000, and according to Samaritans, this represents strong recognition by the six largest telecoms providers that there is a need for a consistently accessible helpline for people struggling to cope.

UNIVERSAL NUMBERS

"Our experience has been that the actual and perceived cost of phone calls prevents many people in distress from calling Samaritans. This is particularly so for some

of the most vulnerable groups," Costello added.

"In addition, despite the strong public response to our existing numbers, they are still not as widely known as we would like them to be. As an EU-wide, easy-to-remember number, 116 123 has the potential to be as universally known as the numbers 999 or 112."

Torlach Denihan, Director of TIF, said that the industry was very pleased to be able to assist Samaritans in its vital work: "This is a great example of corporate social responsibility at work. We will now work with Samaritans to ensure that the technical and organisational arrangements are put in place to allow the free-phone number to become operational from next year onwards. We will also work with Samaritans to ensure the new 116 number is adequately promoted and becomes familiar to everyone in the country."

For further information visit www.samaritans.ie

SUICIDE COCOON THERAPY TO HELP SURVIVORS

AN IRISH GP AND AUTHOR HAS UNVEILED A NEW CONCEPT THAT HELPS TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN DANGER OF TAKING THEIR OWN LIVES. DR HARRY BARRY LAUNCHED THE THEORY OF THE SUICIDE COCOON AT THE CONSOLE WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER.

The almost universal refrain from many family members bereaved by suicide is how the person in distress seemed so normal before the event, according to Dr Harry Barry. He delivered a keynote speech to delegates at a conference marking the 10th anniversary of suicide prevention and bereavement charity Console.

"Survivors looking back at the period before the attempt also struggle to explain how they behaved. Before entering the cocoon, people may demonstrate worsening of physical symptoms such as increasing fatigue, difficulty concentrating and sleeping, agitation and restlessness, and increasing withdrawal from those close to them," Dr Barry added.

"However, when in the cocoon they seem to become much calmer, their mood may even improve and previous distresses may seem to have settled down. Those close to them may feel that any previous issues with mood or anxiety have actually been left behind.

"Some may make special efforts to visit family members or friends or even give away objects to good friends or close family members. By using the Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) model that I outline, we can identify those at risk earlier – before they enter the cocoon. It is my belief that if we don't understand the signs of the cocoon, we are going to struggle to reach the person in difficulty," he said.

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Dr Barry claimed that this understanding may go some way towards helping many families come to terms with their grief. He said he has explored the mystery of suicide by looking at the mental health issues behind it, with a particular emphasis on depression, and also by the



Paul Kelly, Console, CEO & Founder, pictured with Mary Kennedy, broadcaster and keynote speaker Dr Harry Barry, GP and Author at the Console World Suicide Prevention Day Conference at Croke Park in September. (Pic: Conor McCabe Photography)



Console CEO Paul Kelly pictured with Radio presenter Ray Darcy who hosted a forum discussion on suicide with a panel of expert speakers. (Pic: Conor McCabe Photography)

neurobiology of suicide.

"However, I have learned most by listening to those who have been survivors of very serious attempts, and by helping countless others suffering from depression and also family members of those bereaved by suicide."

Dr Barry, a GP of 35 years standing and a board member of Aware, has written four successful books on the subject of mental health. He is an advocate of using CBT in helping to understand the thinking underlying many of the unhealthy emotions often underlying suicide – particularly depression, shame, guilt, hurt and damning anger.

RISK FACTORS

Paul Kelly, CEO of Console, said: "With suicide rates at a consistently high level in Ireland, Console is determined to bring

fresh ideas and innovative community-based suicide prevention and post-vention knowledge to these shores.

"We need a new understanding of the risk factors associated with suicide, and importantly, more insight into how we can reach those at such a critical point in their lives."

Dr Barry was joined at the Console conference by a wide range of national and international speakers, who focused on the role of the community in providing crisis support and suicide prevention/postvention services.

They included Susan Beaton, national suicide prevention co-ordinator, Lifeline, Australia; Jill Fisher, national co-ordinator, StandBy Response Service, Australia; and Dr Jerry Reed, director, Suicide Prevention Resource Centre, Washington DC, USA.

NORTHERN IRELAND GETS READY FOR WPFPG GAMES 2013

NORTHERN IRELAND IS COUNTING DOWN TO THE 2013 WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN BELFAST AND VARIOUS VENUES DURING THE FIRST TEN DAYS IN AUGUST.

Competitors can now start to plan their travel itineraries and book accommodation for the 2013 World Police and Fire Games (WPFPG), taking place in Belfast. The recently-published sports schedule maps out the dates and duration of each of the 66 sports from 1 to 10 August 2013.

The event is expected to attract 10,000 competitors and a further 15,000 visitors from over 70 countries to Belfast and a variety of locations throughout Northern Ireland.

John Tully, chief executive of 2013 WPFPG, explained: "It is five years since Belfast was announced as the 2013 host, following a lengthy competitive process. The WPFPG team is working full-time on every aspect of games delivery.

"In the last couple of months, we have hosted a very successful visit by the WPFPG Federation, which enabled us to finalise and announce the 41 preferred venues for the 66 sports.

We have also agreed significant sponsorship from companies, including Fujitsu, Deloitte, Northern Bank and Kukri."

SPORTS SCHEDULE

The website www.2013wpfg.com/2013-sports includes next year's sports schedule, which will enable potential participants to plan their trips to both compete and maximise their leisure time in Northern Ireland.

"Whilst competitors can now focus on their own individual plans for the Games, we are looking forward to further milestones when we launch the campaign to attract over 3,500 volunteers; make the announcement of a comprehensive schools' programme; unveil the title sponsor and boost bookings for accommodation, following confirmation of



John Tully, WPFPG chief executive, Colin Ward, Northern Ireland Prison Service; Stephen Welsh, PSNI, Caral Ni Chuilin, Sports Minister; Chris Kerr, NIFRS Interim Chief Fire Officer; and Lindsey Elwood, 'Ultimate Firefighter' with NIFRS.

sports schedules," Tully noted.

He said that overall they are on target and he expressed confidence that Northern Ireland will deliver the most successful and the friendliest event ever.

Sports Minister Caral Ni Chuilin pointed to a real sense of anticipation building around the Games.

"The benefits should not be underestimated; 10,000 competitors will arrive here next year bringing with them an additional 15,000 visitors. It will hopefully create a £20 million boost for the local economy," she added.

Northern Ireland is only the third European host city in the Games history, which were last held in New York in 2011.

WPFPG is the third largest international multi-sport event in the world after the Olympics and the World Masters. It is almost three times the size of the

Commonwealth Games in terms of competitor numbers.

BIENNIAL GAMES

The first World Police and Fire Games took place in San Jose in 1985. The biennial event is organised for all 'sworn law enforcement officers,' including police, fire, customs, prison service and some smaller enforcement agencies.

The governing body for the Games – the World Police and Fire Games Federation – comprises both serving and retired fire, police and prison officers from across the world.

Its mission is to create community interaction with the emergency services, educate children on the benefits of sport, and develop camaraderie between emergency services from around the world.

would do well to use the resource of retired Gardaí such as himself, given the increase in welfare fraud and the fact that the Department is under constant pressure to deliver savings for the Exchequer.

“There’s a wealth of experience out there among retired Gardaí,” he said, adding that there is an element of trust in retired Gardaí that makes them particularly suitable to do this work. “Most of these guys, members of the Garda Síochána who retire, are still governed by the Official Secrets Act, and they can’t divulge certain things even after they retire.”

Trust is crucial in the relationship between private investigator and client, and the part Galligan played in his local community as a Garda gives people that confidence to approach him. “Once you have that contact with the community, you never forget it, and people never forget you,” he said. “It’s all about that element of trust. If they trust you, that’s the most important thing.”

INVALUABLE CONTACTS

His many contacts from his days on the beat are also an advantage:

“The fact that I know a lot of people both within the force and outside the force helps too. I’ve a lot of connections with former members as well.”

While some might see private detectives as a necessary evil, Galligan sees the demand for his investigative skills as a good business opportunity. He charges clients an hourly rate, depending on the type of work, with additional fees for telephone calls, transport and administration.

“It has a certain amount of fun with it as well. It might not give you the same buzz as tracking down major criminals, but at the same time, this job is all about privacy and confidentiality as well,” he said. “I find it worthwhile, I find it exhilarating and I’m still using the old grey matter and putting it to good use!”



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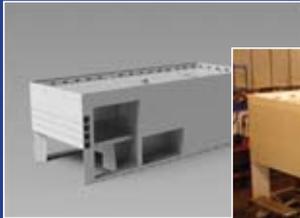
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NEW STANDARDS ON THE HORIZON FOR EVENT SECURITY

NEW STANDARDS AND TIGHTER CONTROLS ON THE LICENSING OF EVENT SECURITY GUARDS ARE TO BE INTRODUCED, IN THE WAKE OF CONTROVERSIAL EVENTS AT THIS SUMMER'S CONCERT IN THE PHOENIX PARK. BARBARA MCCARTHY DISCOVERS THAT A LACK OF OFFICIAL TRAINING FOR IRISH SECURITY STAFF COMPARED TO OUR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS, IS PART OF THE PROBLEM.

The festival and sporting summer has been and gone and though the weather didn't always play ball, most of the hundreds of music, entertainment and sporting fixtures across Ireland went by pretty much without a hitch.

Hundreds of thousands of people visited events across Ireland, from the high profile Volvo Ocean Race to Westlife's goodbye concert at Croke Park, Electric Picnic and many more. So as emergency service agencies reflect, the big question mark over the summer was the hugely publicised Swedish House Mafia gig, which took place in the Phoenix Park on 7 July.

The event, which saw nine people stabbed, 40 people treated in emergency departments, over 1,000 people seeking medical aid and two deaths from suspected drug overdoses, raised many questions.

Most notably, people wanted to know who is ultimately responsible when something goes wrong at a large scale event. Is it the responsibility of An Garda Síochána, security and events staff, promoters, parents, teachers, the individuals themselves or was it just one of those things that happens when you put 45,000 people together and throw in some popular dance music? Eventually, going by the law of averages, something will happen, particularly in a society where knife violence and drink and drug taking are commonplace.

At a press conference for Electric Picnic, promoter John Reynolds said: "My feeling has always been there has to come a stage where people have to take



responsibility for their own actions. I think many factors can cause situations, but responsibility can't always be passed over to the promoter, the Gardaí, the council or whoever else."

POINTING FINGER OF BLAME

A Garda report published in mid-summer

pointed the finger for the Swedish House Mafia events at the promoters, MCD. Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan stated that security was inadequate and the Phoenix Park was an unsuitable location for an electronic dance music event.

Promoters, the report stated, need

to stipulate the type of artists and music that will perform at a venue. It also accused stewards of not knowing what the procedure was for ejecting drunken fans, while it also argued that the policy towards checking ID was not clear.

Gardaí had limited access to CCTV for the venue, meaning they were unable to proactively monitor the footage, while the Event Control Centre provided by MCD was not deemed fit for purpose, according to the report. Gardaí also claim that they requested additional accommodation in the centre, which never materialised, even though it had been promised.

In early September, a detailed



This year's Electric Picnic saw no increase in security and went ahead without any major security issues.

161-page report on the incidents in the Phoenix Park was released by MCD. Amongst other things, the report suggested that Gardaí adopted a low-key approach to policing, which was simply not adequate. They did not enforce the law within the Phoenix Park and failed to control public drunkenness outside

the venue, according to MCD's response. Hence, it had an "overwhelmingly adverse affect on the sobriety of the audience seeking to attend the event".

According to MCD, a risk assessment carried out on April 16 in relation to the three concerts stipulated that the Swedish Mafia Concert should be policed by 206 serving Gardaí, but that number was reduced to 149 and only 145 were on duty during the day. MCD maintains that the reduction was made "without explanation".

MCD's Denis Desmond said that he was 100 per cent satisfied with the security personnel provided by MCD on the day. He also mentioned that anything that happened outside the concert area was the responsibility of the Gardaí and that he was not the person selling spirits to underage concert-goers from off licences.

Dublin City Council stipulated a minimum of 364 security personnel for each concert. Desmond said MCD provided 511 security personnel and 145 Gardaí within the arena, which the promoters had to pay for.

LACK OF OFFICIAL TRAINING

Ronan McLaughlin, managing director of the Right Track Group, a company which provides security training, says that it is very difficult to point the finger at anyone in terms of blame when something goes wrong. "In many ways, security guards' hands are tied, as certain instances are specifically for Gardaí to look after," he said.

The problem with security services here, he argues, is that there is no official training available. "Usually, security companies will offer in-house training. People with door security officially only have one day's training behind them. If someone gets hurt or injured, a door supervisor can't do first aid or if there is a



Minister for Justice Alan Shatter said he had been working on regulations that would license all individuals in the event security sector.

fight, they can't do physical intervention," McLaughlin states.

In the UK, you do a minimum of four days training, while in Germany it is a much longer, more detailed process. In Finland, staff have to train for two years to work the door. In Ireland, we are light years behind, notes McLaughlin. "The Swedish House Mafia fiasco was only a matter of time," he says. "Regulation is long overdue. There is no law for event security in Ireland. There is a standard in place, but there is no law. People who work on the ground need to be trained and licensed.

"Another issue here is also that there is no requirement in place for trainers or decision makers, managers or owners," he continues. "They don't have to have any level of expertise or competency." So, if you have the money, you can set up a security company. "That very often leaves security staff between a rock and a hard place. They have to do what their managers tell them, even if it could be the wrong course to take," McLaughlin warns.

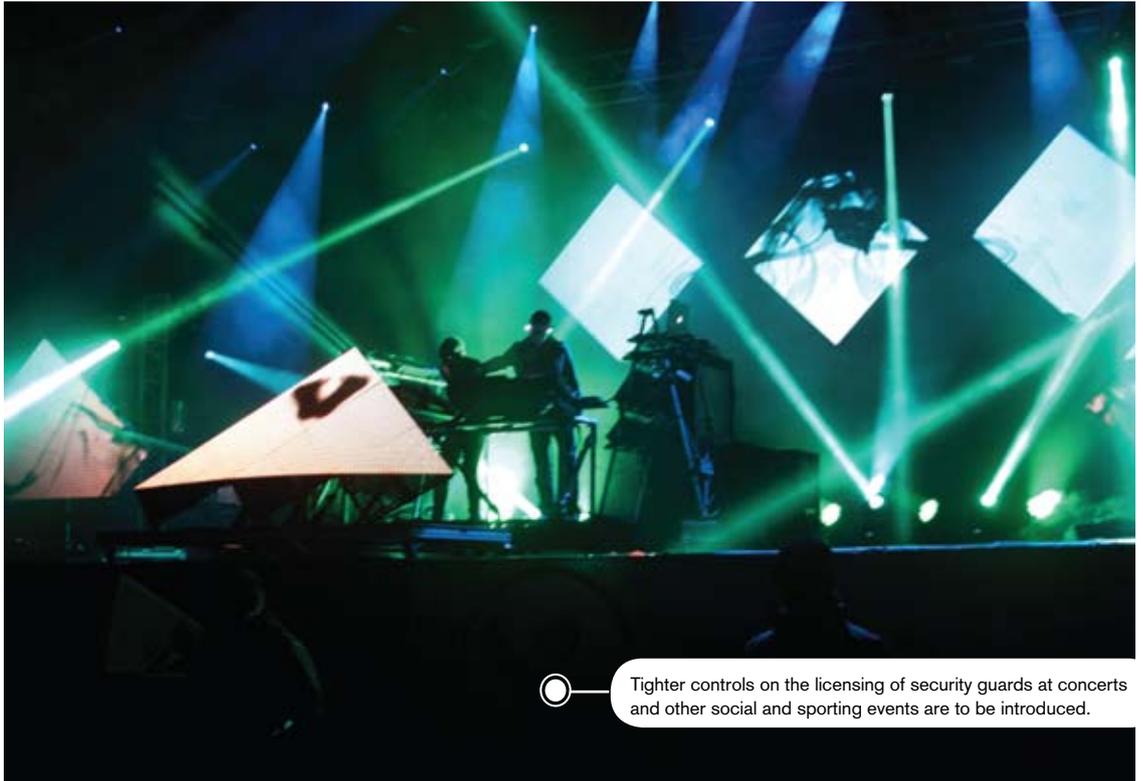
NEW

REGULATIONS

Minister for Justice Alan Shatter said he had been working on regulations that would license all individuals in the event security sector, while the Private Security Authority has proposed to license all contractors.

A lot of security guards at festivals and sporting events in Ireland are students, and while there is nothing wrong with that, they won't have the same skills as security guards in other countries, who have chosen this career as a profession and have studied accordingly.

"So you do ask yourself how focused they really are," says McLaughlin. "The safety of the people is what is essential,



Tighter controls on the licensing of security guards at concerts and other social and sporting events are to be introduced.



Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan said that security was inadequate and the Phoenix Park was an unsuitable location for an electronic dance music event.

so security guards not only need to be prepared for all eventualities, but they also need to know when not to assert their authority."

After the events this summer, many festival goers were worried that future gigs would be so highly policed that their fun would be curtailed. However, as no two events are the same, different procedures are used for every concert, according to a representative from An Garda Síochána: "It goes without saying that you wouldn't need the same number of Gardaí for a Leonard Cohen gig, as you would for a David Guetta gig, which attracts a much younger audience.

"We don't want to stop people from having fun," the Garda representative continues. "Our agenda is quite simple. We just want people have an enjoyable experience and stay safe and unharmed."

Where there are large crowds of people, situations will arise. If you were to take 50,000 people on any given night across the country, a percentage of them will get up to no good, no matter how much you police them.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

At this year's Electric Picnic (31 August to 2 September) there were approximately 968 security staff and 125 Gardaí on duty each day, as well as a new customer care team to monitor campsites. However,

there was no increase in security, as organisers felt the audience wouldn't require it. As it turned out, the crowds were more than happy with security precautions and there were no problems.

Things were slightly different for the David Guetta concert in Marlay Park, which took place in August. All 22,000 fans were asked to show identification to prove their age; under-17s were not permitted to attend, with promoters giving refunds to anyone who booked a ticket, while Gardaí ensured that all alcohol would be confiscated within a one-mile radius from the venue. Fans and promoters alike were very happy with the outcome of the event.

Each event will bring its own issues, according to an on-site paramedic: "Around 400 to 500 people came to the first aid area for David Guetta, while there were a few hundred for the Stone Roses, which took place at the Phoenix Park just before the Swedish House Mafia gig. At the Swedish House Mafia, there were well over a thousand."

Not all these cases are serious, however: a lot of the time someone could just be looking for a headache tablet, he adds. "The biggest problems at any gig are always underage drinking and drug taking. It's not necessarily an issue for the promoters, security guards or the police: it's an education, parenting and cultural

issue that is much bigger and needs to be addressed.

"If 15 year-old girls are lying in a field outside a concert barely dressed, getting sick from alcohol and drugs, it's not necessarily the fault of the promoter of a gig."

THE LESSONS LEARNED

So, what lessons have been learned this year? Tighter controls on the licensing of security guards at concerts and other social and sporting events are to be introduced.

During future outdoor events, stewards will be given clear instructions by members of An Garda Síochána about ejecting drunken fans from concert venues in future or refusing them entry in the first place.

Concert promoters will also have to provide a detailed risk assessment, based on the type of the audience turning up for such events, according to Alan Shatter. "If licences are to be granted, conditions will have to fully reflect a comprehensive risk assessment that took into account the profile of persons likely to attend," he said.

Education Minister Ruairi Quinn suggested that concert goers should be scanned for weapons, as well as searched for drinks, on their way

into events from now on.

It is important to remember, however, that only a small number of a certain age demographic caused trouble this year.

Of the combined figure of 67,000 at the

Swedish House Mafia and David Guetta concerts, the vast majority (99.5 per cent) were well behaved, while just 0.5 per cent showed no respect for authority, their peers or themselves.



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Dublin Airport Authority has one bodyscanner, which is still being trialed by staff at this point.



EUROPE TO SCRAP AIRPORT BODY SCANNERS

CONTROVERSIAL BODY SCANNERS, WHICH SHOW HIDDEN EXPLOSIVES, WEAPONS AND DRUGS ON A PERSON'S BODY AT AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKS, ARE BEING SCRAPPED, DUE TO THE POTENTIAL EMISSIONS OF HARMFUL RADIATION. THE DECISION FOLLOWS RECENT RULING BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. REPORT BY BARBARA MCCARTHY.

In May this year, the European Commission (EC) said that radiation levels were 'close to zero' and that 'naked' scanners could soon be commonplace across Europe.

Yet a u-turn decision came in September when research showed that the scanners, which use ionised x-ray technology, could cause cancer and will hence be scrapped. However, they will

remain in use across 140 US airports and other airports across the globe.

Extremely costly, with prices ranging from €90,000 to €200,000, the scanner had been trialed across European airports for three years. According to Siobhan Moore, communications manager at Dublin Airport Authority, the DAA has one bodyscanner, which is still being trialed by staff at this point.

"Our type of body scanner does not use x-ray technology; the L3 ProVision security scanner uses millimeter wave technology which is a passive, non-intrusive way of detecting metallic and non-metallic items. Millimeter wave technology emits a radio wave so slight it is 10,000 times less than that of a mobile phone," said Moore.

Essentially, the scanner creates a 3D

black-and-white silhouette of the subject to reveal concealed weapons, explosives and other banned items, even intellectual property.

PRIVACY COMPROMISED

Since the scanners first appeared in airports, passengers feared their dignity and privacy would be compromised; they were deemed to show them fully naked in front of members of staff security with some religious groups calling upon their disciples to boycott them on the grounds of human rights violation.

The Muslim Public Affairs Centre said that Nigerian Muslims should object to the use of body scanners at the country's international airports as the idea of another person seeing their naked bodies was against their beliefs.

Other passengers complained that the scanners took too much time and lead to missing flights, while experts, who have studied the bodyscanners in detail, have come out with incredibly different survey results in terms of how dangerous or not they really are.

Some claim the use of an iPhone is worse, while others say even low doses of the ionising radiation could result in cancer in anywhere from six to 100 passengers a year.

OUTLINE OF BODY

"There seems to be a lot said about the nudity issue, but scanners don't actually show the naked form, just an outline. What security personnel see is not your body, it's just a body outline," said a source at Dublin Airport.

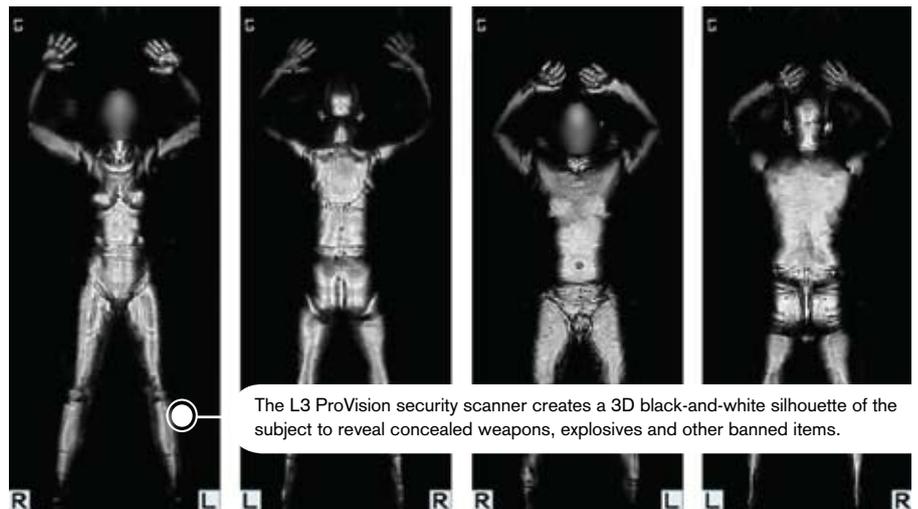
"That said, they are without a doubt, the most effective technology for detecting small threat items, be they drugs, explosives or more specifically semtex, which can't be detected in most other security systems," continued the source.

UNDERWEAR BOMBER

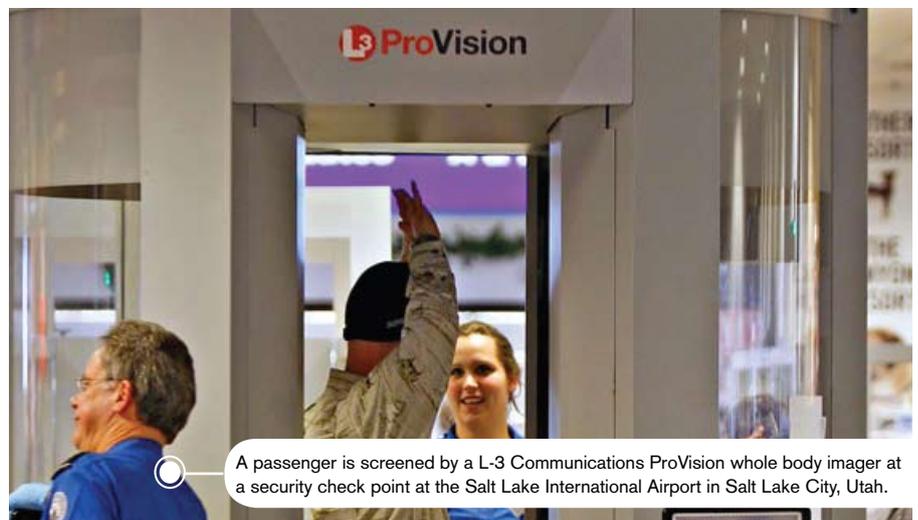
Semtex can bring down an aircraft. This is what Nigerian native Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (AKA 'the underwear bomber') used back in 2009 in his attempt to blow up a Northwest flight from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day.

He managed to get through the airport with concealed plastic explosives, which he had held in his underwear for three weeks before the incident.

Once on board and almost at his final destination, Abdulmutallab injected



The L3 ProVision security scanner creates a 3D black-and-white silhouette of the subject to reveal concealed weapons, explosives and other banned items.



A passenger is screened by a L-3 Communications ProVision whole body imager at a security check point at the Salt Lake International Airport in Salt Lake City, Utah.

a mixture of liquids and solids into the explosive chemicals by using a plastic syringe. His plan was foiled because the explosives became ineffective since he was carrying them around for so long, so he just set himself alight and had to be put out by other passengers and airline staff.

When Abdulmutallab was sentenced to three life sentences, some people believed a federal agent gave him a defective bomb to carry onto the plane to create an incident that would cause the government to install full body scanners at airports nationwide. A top spiritual Muslim leader noted at that time that security systems costing the US €40 billion since 9/11 still were not able to detect the explosive device.

COSTLY OPERATIONS

The incident propelled the use of body scanners globally and since then, 600 scanners have been deployed in the US. Though the machines are pricey, there is also an added cost of hiring staff to man

them.

In the US, around 5,300 workers are required to operate them. The direct cost of the bodyscanners over their seven-



The Dublin Airport Authority has one bodyscanner, which is still being trialled by staff at this point, according to Siobhan Moore, communications manager.

year cycle is over €2 billion. That doesn't include the costs to passengers, who miss flights because of using them.

To date, their use is voluntary and passengers who object have the choice of a patting down or being searched with hand-held devices. Citizens from nations such as Afghanistan, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Syria have to undergo specialist examination in the US.

BLOG BASHES SCANNERS

Earlier this year, the US Transport Security Administration (TSA) invested \$1 billion in body scanner technology, which it claimed would make air travel safer, but the scanners have come under fire since the agency first revealed its intentions.

A Florida engineer is trying to challenge the use of the bodyscanner by the TSA, though the Supreme Court is not having any of it. Jonathan Corbett, who runs the US blog 'TSA Out of Our Pants', explained in a video how he snuck a small metal case through the TSA's billion-dollar fleet of bodyscanners in two different US airports.

He said in the video: "If you have a metallic object on your side, it will be the same color as the background and, therefore, completely invisible to both visual and automated inspection."

So, what about the terrorists? Are they aware of this? "I'm sure the TSA will accuse me of aiding the terrorists by releasing this video, but it's beyond belief that terrorists haven't already figured this out and are already plotting to use this against us." He said it was an "epic fail" placing everyone in danger.

"USELESS" IMAGING

The website bodyscannertruth.com, recently printed an article by 'The Vancouver Sun' in which a leading Israeli security expert said that millions of dollars had been wasted installing these 'useless' imaging machines at airports across the country.

"I don't know why everybody is running to buy these expensive and useless machines. I can overcome the body scanners with enough explosives to bring down a Boeing 747," Rafi Sela told parliamentarians who were probing the state of aviation safety in Canada.

The 30-year security veteran told MPs in a videoconference in the House of Commons that this is the reason why they



The ProVision whole body imaging machine, which can see clothing to search for banned carry-on items, is used at Los Angeles International Airport.



The US Transport Security Administration's use of the full bodyscanner is being challenged by Florida engineer Jonathan Corbett, who runs the blog 'TSA Out of Our Pants'.

were not installed at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport, which has some of the toughest security in the world.

MPs, however, disagreed with Sela's take on full-body scanners. They claimed that the machines offered a 'genuine leap forward' as they could detect liquid explosives and next non-metallic threats.

OPTIONS IN CANADA

The Canadians purchased 44 body scanners for the country's major airports. Three of them were for Vancouver International Airport alone. Costing over €200,000 each, they will be used for secondary screening to detect non-metallic threats. Yet, if the passenger prefers a physical pat down, they will have the option.

This costs a further €11 million and begs the question that given the choice, would a terrorist who is carrying explosives (not visible in other security checks) opt to use a body scanner if he knows he can get through an ordinary check unnoticed. This would in turn, of course, render the scanner utterly useless and time consuming.

Some experts say a trusted traveller system would be easier, where pre approved low risk passengers can move through an expedited screening process, while using financial resources for other areas.

In Manchester Airport, where the scanners were in place over the last number of years, officials stated that generally travellers were very happy with

them, and said they were 'frustrated' with Brussels' decision to no longer use them. They will be replaced by 'privacy-friendly' scanners at a cost of €11.8 million and an extra 55 security staff.

was developed in 1992 by Steven W. Smith. He sold the technology and rights to Rapsican Systems, which now manufactures the devices. Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport was the first airport to

implement them.

What will happen to all the scanners, which have been on trial across Europe, if they are no longer required, is not yet known.

INCREASED PRIVACY

According to the experts, the new technology has taken significant steps forward, allowing increased privacy and a move away from radiation technology. Manchester Airport's intended upgrade to radio frequency based millimeter wave technology scanners offers the highest protection to the privacy of those subjected to screening.

According to a security survey run in by Manchester Airport and the Department of Transport, passengers had regularly rated their experience in Manchester as one of the best security processes in the UK, if not in Europe, hence chiefs were saying that "body scanners played a large part in this".

TRIAL BASIS

The European Commission said the scanners were only installed on a trial basis. It added that since they were first used, technology has improved and now allows for more privacy and a move away from radiation technology.

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GUARDIANS OF THE STATE CELEBRATE 90TH ANNIVERSARY

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1922 AS A NEW POLICE FORCE FOR A NEW IRELAND, AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA HAS BEEN PLAYING A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN THE MOST CRITICAL MOMENTS IN IRISH HISTORY OVER THE LAST 90 YEARS, WRITES CONOR WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

An Garda Síochána will succeed not by force of arms or numbers, but by their moral authority, as servants of the people."

Thus was the prediction of the very first Garda Commissioner, Michael Staines, about the future of the fledgling police force he had been charged with.

Over its 90-year history, that same force has gone on to play a pivotal role both in the daily lives of the Irish people as well as some of the most critical changes in the history of the State whose laws it is entrusted to enforce.

An Garda Síochána emerged at a combustible period in the pantheon of Irish history. The country itself was at a turning point, the thrill of independence sallied by a bloody and divisive Civil War costing more lives than the freedom strife that preceded it. A secondary antagonist in that struggle for sovereignty was the Royal Irish Constabulary, Ireland's primary police force at the time (with the urban areas of Dublin, Derry and Belfast maintaining their own constabularies).

Established in 1822, this armed police force was the sole mechanism of law enforcement throughout most of what would become the Irish Free State. Dublin possessed its own unarmed, independent counterpart – the Dublin Metropolitan Police – founded in 1836. During the War of Independence, the rulings of Sinn Féin courts and basic law and order were maintained and enforced by a self-appointed 'Irish Republican Police.'

NEW FORCE, NEW NATION

Following the foundation of the Free State, the toxic perception of the RIC ensured that a new police force would need to be established for a new nation. This led to the formation of the



The last 90 years have seen phenomenal changes to An Garda Síochána.

Civic Guards on 22 February 1922, later to be renamed An Garda Síochána na hÉireann ('Guardians of the Peace in Ireland.') This new force grew to encapsulate the Dublin Metropolitan Police in 1925 and in doing so become the sole police force in the Irish Free State.

An Garda Síochána borrowed much of its initial customs from its predecessor the RIC, although in a move that sought to contrast the bloodshed and gun running of recent years opted to go unarmed.

The tentative years of the force were turbulent. First Commissioner Michael Staines tendered his resignation after less than a year in office, citing the infamous Kildare Mutiny – whereby new recruits denied the authority of their ex-RIC commanders – as justification for doing so.

He was replaced by Eoin O'Duffy, a figure who would go on to attain a certain infamy in Irish history for his role as leader of the Blueshirts before and during the Spanish Civil War. O'Duffy held the post for over a decade, being dismissed in 1933 due to his involvement with the Blueshirts, and continued where Staines had left off by attempting to imbue this new unarmed force with a sense of obligation to all sections of Irish society, an ethos it has maintained to the present day.

PREVENTION NOT REPRESSION

Prevention rather than repression was to be the name of the game from here on in. Impartiality, sobriety and courtesy were paramount. O'Duffy's stewardship saw the western seaboard disproportionately represented in the fledgling force, owing in part to his preference of rural recruits.

The next Garda Commissioner would also achieve fame for external activities, although in this case they occurred previous to his involvement with the force. Eamon 'Ned' Broy had previously worked as a double agent for Michael Collins



The force has had to adapt in order to deal with the rising level of criminality through the last nine decades.

during the War of Independence, and brought extensive policing experience to the position.

His time as commissioner is most notable for the formation of an armed auxiliary squad known as the 'Broy Harriers' to provide security for Government ministers and counter the Blueshirts under O'Duffy. Despite this, the Harriers would find themselves embroiled in a number of controversies that would taint their standing with the Irish public.

DEFINING MOMENTS

Broy's replacement Michael Kinnane

would lead the Gardaí through one of the defining moments of the 20th century – the Second World War. Eager to demonstrate its independence, Ireland opted to remain neutral throughout the conflict, which saw widespread rationing of fuel and food across the country in what became known as 'the Emergency'.

The Gardaí played a pivotal role during this period, and under the Emergency Powers Act 1939 were afforded heightened authority in the interest of maintaining public safety during the course of the war.

The latter half of the twentieth century



Since CAB was set up in 1996, it has facilitated the Gardaí with the means to pursue those at the pinnacle of the drugs trade.

AN GARDA COMMISSIONERS (1922 – PRESENT)

- *Michael Staines,*
February - September 1922
- *Eoin O'Duffy,*
September 1922 – February 1933
- *Eamon Broy,*
February 1933 – June 1938
- *Michael Kinnane,*
June 1938 – July 1952
- *Daniel Costigan,*
July 1952 – February 1965
- *William P. Quinn,*
February 1965 – March 1967
- *Patrick Carroll BL,*
March 1967 – September 1968
- *Michael Wymes,*
September 1968 – January 1973
- *Patrick Malone,*
January 1973 – September 1975
- *Edward Garvey,*
September 1975 – January 1978
- *Patrick Mc Loughlin,*
January 1978 – January 1983
- *Lawrence Wren,*
February 1983 – November 1987
- *Eamon Doherty,*
November 1987 – December 1988
- *Eugene Crowley,*
December 1988 – January 1991
- *Patrick J Culligan MSc,*
January 1991 – July 1996
- *Patrick Byrne,*
July 1996 – July 2003
- *Noel Conroy,*
July 2003 – November 2007
- *Fachtna Murphy,*
November 2007 – December 2010
- *Martin Callinan,*
December 2010 – Present



also saw the Ireland rocked by its most bloody and divisive conflict since the civil war, the 'Troubles' when nationalist and loyalist tensions beyond the border finally boiled over, incurring several decades of death and despair across Ireland and Britain that would only end with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1994.

During this period, the Gardaí played a critical role in curtailing dissident republican activity south of the border and as a result helped minimise the effect of the 'Troubles' in the Republic.

BOXING CLEVER

As with any police force, the principle duty of An Garda Síochána since inception has been to fight crime. Over the last 90 years the force has had to adapt in order to deal with the varying criminal threats it has opposed through the decades.

Among the first organised criminal gangs to terrorise the streets of Dublin were a group known as the Animals, a violent youth movement that has its roots in the 1930's and continued for several decades thereafter it finally met its match in the form of the formidable Sergeant James 'Lugs' Brannigan, one of the most famous figures to pass through the ranks of An Garda Síochána. A former heavyweight boxer, Brannigan took a tough (if controversial) approach to apprehending crime which has seen him become somewhat of a cult hero to Gardaí and civilians alike.

However, during more recent decades a far greater menace arrived en masse into the country – narcotics, such as heroin and cannabis and the crime that accompanies them wherever they go in the world.

DEALING WITH DRUGS

In Ireland, substances such as drugs, in particular, have seized a foothold which has for years ignited and fuelled a wave of crime by addicts and a much larger and more sinister struggle for control of this lucrative trade. This trade has seen many of Ireland's most infamous gangsters pass through the annals of An Garda Síochána over the last 40 years.

The force has remained tireless in its efforts to combat what is now commonly recognised as one of the most urgent social issues in modern Ireland. Since the Criminal Assets Bureau was set up in 1996, it has facilitated the Gardaí with the means to pursue those at the pinnacle of the drug trade who continue to ruin countless lives across the country.

The last 90 years have seen phenomenal changes to An Garda Síochána that first emerged from the ashes of The Civil War. What resulted was a police force that throughout its long history has sought to deliver justice to the people of Ireland, forever adapting to handle whatever threats it may face and remain a potent and impartial mechanism for fair law enforcement in our nation.

FORENSIC INTELLIGENCE UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

FORENSICS INVESTIGATOR ROBERT MILNE SAYS THAT HIS NEW BOOK 'FORENSIC INTELLIGENCE' IS THE FIRST PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE USE OF FORENSICS IN CRIME AND INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS AIMED AT POLICE, CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATORS AND CRIME ANALYSTS.

Forensic Intelligence', my new book, can be best described as a reference for police officers, CSIs and analysts into the value and significance of forensic recoveries, which if properly processed and recorded, can be used as a major intelligence source for use by crime investigators and analysts.

Indeed, forensics can be used to create intelligence products either as standalone products or in support of other crime analysis and intelligence products for police action.

The book draws on my 40 years of experience as a crime scene examiner, latent print examiner and the head of forensic intelligence, New Scotland Yard, in the London, Metropolitan Police Intelligence Bureau (MIB). During that time, as it is now, the mission of Metropolitan Police Forensic Services was to maximise crime scene examinations and results.

Academics have published the view that modern forensic techniques, crime analysis and police intelligence models have tempted forensic science to move in new directions in applying all forensic recoveries in such ways as to contribute to and indeed create intelligence products for police action.

REAL CASEWORK

In working on forensic intelligence development on real casework in the Metropolitan Police, the main factors leading towards making the development a reality are outlined here.

Although in comparative terms, the Metropolitan Police (MET) is a large, well resourced organisation, compared with most other police services worldwide, it was one of the first law enforcement



'Forensic Intelligence' covers issues on what is done with all the evidence recovered and not just the smaller percentage making it into a laboratory or fingerprint bureau.

organisations from the 1960s onwards to modernise and civilianise forensic services in order to provide a stable forensic support service.

Likewise, the adoption of the UK's National Intelligence Model (NIM) led the MET to change its business model to make it an intelligence-led organisation. Civilian crime analysts were also recruited to provide intelligence and analytical services at the NIM's three levels of crime analysis. These range from level one in local community policing, and level two in more serious crime with cross divisional crime, to level three of covering serious crime.

BENEFITS OF CIVILIANISATION

It is through the practical applications of forensics in this modern intelligence-led environment that the contents of this book have been created. Forensic intelligence techniques are used in countries where all police staff are sworn officers, so civilianisation in forensic and intelligence roles is not a pre-requisite to setting up a capability.

It is just a fact that sworn officers progress through promotion and often there are no positions for newly promoted officers at higher ranks within forensics or intelligence analysis units, so their expertise is lost on promotion to other areas in policing.

More long-term experts in technical posts are created by civilianisation, as well as the ability to directly recruit personnel with the right academic backgrounds. Processes from the world of academia and police science are also called upon, covering crime mapping, geographical profiling, investigative psychology and the processes inherent in generic police intelligence models, which, like the UK National Intelligence Model (NIM), have their roots in problem solving work, originally researched in the Problem Solving Laboratory, Washington DC.

These processes, combined with forensics, provide powerful tools in the areas of crime scene linking, linking offenders to crimes and to improving crime detection rates.

Where possible, the UK National Intelligence Model is compared with the Comparable Statistics model, COMPSTAT, used by police services in the USA to show the convergence of aims and how the basic generic techniques in

both models are used broadly to achieve similar objectives.

INTELLIGENCE RESOURCE

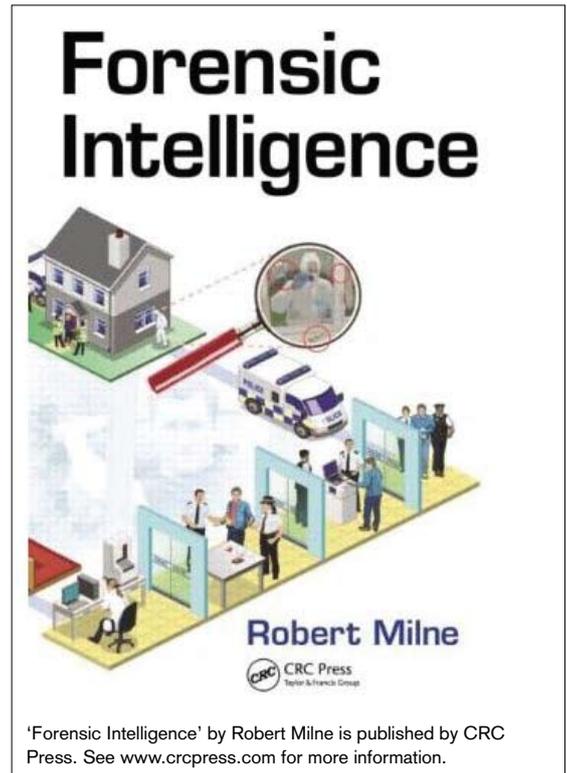
It should not be assumed that forensic intelligence is just for large, well resourced police organisations: nothing could be further from the truth. In pioneering the uses of forensics in intelligence from the 1980s onwards, its roots were in volume crime on police divisions when only limited resources in information technology were available.

Indeed, in dealing with crime intelligence and forensics, small is beautiful, because smaller police services can concentrate the intelligence analyst(s) alongside forensic services management.

In the same close working environment, colleagues can easily share information and develop intelligence from analysis of crimes, source intelligence and forensics.

Some of the smaller police services using forensic intelligence achieve best results for this very reason.

The main purpose of the book is to offer a forensic intelligence resource for police services of all sizes and capabilities. This ranges from large



organisations with thousands of staff and corresponding big budgets, down to the small service with few officers, who can, by making use of basic crime recording and intelligence processes, make best use of all of their forensic recoveries.

Each main evidence type is covered and each main crime type, showing the processes and means to make intelligence products from the data and forensic links.

All that is required is a business model, which ensures that crime scenes



Forensics can be used to create intelligence products either as standalone products or in support of other crime analysis and intelligence products for police action.

are adequately examined forensically, together with basic police information technology, combined with Microsoft Office.

In the text, scene linking and the significance of crime clusters with forensic recoveries will be of interest to crime analysts, whereas those investigators dealing with suspects will be interested in assessments of the potential numbers of detections, which can be accrued by understanding the significance of the forensic links leading to an arrest.

The techniques of taking reactive forensic results and turning those reactive results into intelligence products for proactive up-streaming of casework will be of interest to drug squad detectives.

BEST USE OF FORENSICS

Most publications about forensic science cover best practice and basic advice about evidence recovery and storage.

This book takes the subject of forensics further by covering the issues about what is done with all the evidence recovered and not just the smaller percentage making it into a laboratory or fingerprint bureau.

The enthusiastic reader will find information and advice to enable best use of forensics in the modern police intelligence-led environments in the 21st century.

That enthusiasm and the results which will accrue will cause those involved to work on improving their policing business models and make progress, for that has been my experience and the reason why this book has been published. Working in an intelligence-led environment starts at the bottom, with the rank and file officers and support professionals.

It should not just be driven by the few at the top of the intelligence business inside organisations, who have too distant a view, leading to grand strategies around few objectives, which lead to the neglect of issues until they become large strategic problems by default.

If everyone thinks along the lines of setting their strategies and tactics to deal with their own remits and prepare problem assessments, then a different, more effective way of doing business in problem orientated policing can be achieved.

DUE PROCESS

It would not be beyond the wit of man to arrange the knowledge and system

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Milne has completed nearly 40 years of service with the Metropolitan Police Forensic Services Directorate, New Scotland Yard, as a forensic practitioner in the roles of ACPO registered fingerprint expert, crime scene examiner, and manager.

He has written and presented on electrostatic mark lifting, the mathematics of scene linking, the crime mapping of forensic evidence, forensic intelligence in arson investigation, the design of self-contained sequential treatment fingerprint laboratories, and on the subject of forensics in intelligence-led policing.

Milne is the inventor of the Pathfinder three-electrode wireless electrostatic dust mark lifter system, used by crime scene investigators worldwide.

Since retiring from the MET in 2008, he has worked in the role of technical consultant with Crime Scene Investigation Equipment Ltd, developing and improving crime scene examination equipment and forensics software applications.

In 2011, he became an associate fire investigator with Fire Investigations (UK) LLP and Fire Investigations Global LLP, a role that is ongoing.



assets inside modern policing so that an intelligence-led due process is set out for all to follow in the course of daily work, with forensics an integral part of the process.

At least by this process, it is expected that an intelligence-led process is followed by all to provide explanation and proof of the accounts of actions taken.

This can be achieved without entombing the organisation in a

bureaucratic straightjacket, which can be so slow to respond, that often problems have moved on before action is taken, as is often the case today.

A major factor in the whole business in dealing with crime is securing evidence to provide proof and truth, for without it, we just think or know something is going on and can only disrupt it, without taking out the causes. That is the true worth of forensic intelligence.

CORK EXERCISE IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

THE MAJOR EMERGENCY SERVICES EXHIBITION AND MULTI-AGENCY EXERCISE IN CORK CITY IN SEPTEMBER WAS THE FIRST SUCH EVENT TO HIT THE LEESIDE SINCE 2009. THE MAIN FOCUS WAS TO ENLIGHTEN STUDENTS ON THE WORK OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND POSSIBLE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO THEM. REPORT BY CONOR WILLIAM O'BRIEN.

In 2009, Gardaí in Cork city hosted a highly successful exhibition in Knocknaheeny in collaboration with the Garda Youth Diversion Project, designed to encourage young people to pursue alternative outlets to crime.

The event was praised at the time for placing emphasis on the crucial issue of road safety by exhibiting the aftermath of a road traffic crash scene, jointly organised by the Health Service Executive and the Road Safety Authority.

Now three years later, the Gardaí in Cork City joined forces with over 30 statutory and voluntary emergency services on the Leaside to host a three-day exhibition in City Hall from 14-16 September. The organisers estimate that the three-day event attracted over 20,000 visitors to Cork City Hall.

One of the stated aims of this year's major exhibition and exercise was to encourage greater youth participation in the emergency services. There were demonstrations on the range of skills and capabilities offered by each agency, as well as informing students of possible career opportunities across the emergency services sector.



Pictured outside City Hall prior to the official opening (l-r): Dan Allen, chairman of the Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill Justice Project; Mayor of Cork County, Cllr Barbara Murray; Supt Con Cadogan, one of the event organisers; Minister Simon Coveney; Cork City Lord Mayor Cllr John Buttimer; John Mullins, CEO of Bord Gais, Pat O'Neill, Knocknaheeny/Hollyhill Justice Project, Cork City Manager Tim Lucey and Chief Supt. Mick Finn.



RTE news anchor Anne Cassin was one of the 'victims' during a car crash simulation.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Prior to the exhibition, each of the 30 secondary schools in Cork city and its environs was visited by an emergency services agency, which had been assigned a school by the Garda Liaison Officer in the region.

Each hour-long meeting with Transition Year students included a 10-15 minute presentation followed by a discussion about their own organisation and the emergency services as a whole. The intention was to encourage students to visit the exhibition.

Each school visited was in turn charged with providing feedback on the visit by the emergency services, to provide an outline of the students' thoughts on the visit to be submitted to the Juvenile Liaison's Office.

The exhibition itself aspired to surpass the success of its predecessor in 2009, which saw roughly 30 new recruits join St John's Ambulance and approximately 20 join the local Civil Defence.

"It has diverted young people who may have been on the periphery and provided them [with] another outlet," according to Garda Supt Con Cadogan, who was one of the main organisers of the exhibition. "It gave them skills which they acquired for life. I have seen that people who went through Civil Defence have now enlisted in the Garda Reserves and the fire service."

QUAYSIDE CRIME

Similar to the event in 2009, road safety was top of the agenda, and this time a number of hometown heroes were recruited to help drive home this critical message. Munster and Ireland rugby legend Ronan O'Gara and Cork Gaelic Football's Captain Graham Canty were joined by RTE news anchor Anne Cassin to take part in a car crash simulation.

A range of outdoor demonstrations also took place on nearby Kennedy Quay, starting with the Coast Guard performing an exercise with the Crosshaven Lifeboat.

This was followed by an extensive series of exercises by the Search and Rescue Dogs' Association (SARDA) and Irish Search Dogs, demonstrating how truly valuable man's best friend can be in apprehending suspects, uncovering contraband and finding missing persons. Expertly-trained dogs honed their finely tuned senses in on a missing person on site.

STATUTORY AND VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY SERVICES

The following statutory and voluntary emergency services joined forces on the Leaside:

- An Garda Síochána
- Defence Forces
- Cork City Fire Brigade
- Irish Coast Guard
- St John's Ambulance
- Irish Red Cross
- Civil Defence
- SARDA (Search and Rescue Dog Association)
- Community Alert
- Port of Cork
- Academy of Emergency Care in Sport
- Kinsale Youth Support Service
- Crosshaven Lifeboat
- Scouting Ireland
- Cork Area Water Safety
- The Order of Malta
- Cork Volunteer Centre
- National Office of Suicide Prevention
- Inter-Agency Emergency Management
- Irish Lifeboats (RNLI)
- HSE Ambulance Service
- Knocknaheeny/Holyhill Justice Project



Representatives of the emergency services at Cork City Hall.



Ronan O'Gara was involved in a scrum of a different kind and received 'treatment' following a serious traffic incident!

Once again, local celebrities were recruited to make the activities all the more fun. This time, Eoin English of the Irish Examiner offered himself as a 'criminal' unable to escape the keen nose of a bloodhound sent to track him down. The full extent and value of canine tracking abilities was eloquently demonstrated by dogs trained specially to assist in uncovering bodies and suspicious substances beneath the waves.

Meanwhile, Naval Service personnel also had the opportunity to demonstrate their skill sets, as they boarded a boat on the River Lee and apprehended two main 'suspects'; Eoin English and 96FM's PJ Coogan were promptly returned to shore and dispatched to the waiting Gardaí. English attempted a desperate dash for freedom, seeking shelter on a naval vessel before quickly being sniffed out by the bloodhound who needed only a whiff of the suspect's jacket to weed him out!

INTERAGENCY NETWORKING

As well as affording the public with an opportunity to experience first-hand the work of the emergency services, the event also enabled those same services to network over the three-day event.

"The networking between each of the agencies was absolutely brilliant," noted Supt Cadogan. "It was a great way of interacting for all the agencies involved, both voluntary and statutory," he added.

"Normally we meet at, for example, a road accident or in the event of a large search and rescue operation. This was an exhibition weekend, and it gave everybody the opportunity to meet, sit down and mingle in a more relaxed environment. You can't buy that type of opportunity between the agencies. It cuts out the red tape and builds a great level of trust between all of the agencies working together."

FEASIBILITY STUDY

Such has been the success of this year's exhibition that the Irish Red Cross has stepped up plans to establish a new base on the northside of Cork due to interest generated at the event.

"They were doing a feasibility study in the area," noted Cadogan. "But the weekend actually confirmed that for them. There is a need there, and it is an area that would benefit from it. Quite a lot of young people showed interest in doing first aid courses and becoming involved with the Red Cross."



RTE's Anne Cassin, Assistant Commissioner Tony Quilter, Ronan O'Gara, Supt Gary McPolin and Jerry Walsh pictured on Kennedy Quayside.



Paul Ramsell with his search and rescue dog 'Achilles' trailed the scent of Eoin English from 'The Irish Examiner' who was unable to escape the keen nose of the bloodhound.



Members of the RNLI and Civil Defence responded to a 'casualty alert' on Kennedy Quay.

In extending his appreciation to all agencies who participated during that weekend, he recognised that they each invested a lot of time. "From the naval service and the army to the fire service and the ambulance service, every agency participated fully.

"You get out what you put in, and I'd be hoping that in the years to come we'll see benefits from it. From a policing perspective, I can certainly see that young people who maybe would not become involved in sports, then this is another outlet that they maybe didn't think of in the past. Certainly once you divert people away from crime, the knock-on effect of that is very hard to measure, and everybody in society benefits."

(Images courtesy of Tony O'Connell Photography)



Pictured (l-r): Coast Guard winchman Gary Roberson; co-pilot Andy Rees, captain Liam Flynn, and winch operator Paul Truss, who performed an exercise with Crosshaven Lifeboat.



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NEED FOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IS CRITICAL

WHEN DEALING WITH CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS, THERE'S A NEED FOR POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS, ACCORDING TO PAT KIRWAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR & HEAD OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS AT THE STATE CLAIMS AGENCY.

A workshop on preparing for a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) response in relation to relevant policies, procedures and systems was recently addressed by Pat Kirwan, Deputy Director & Head of Risk Management and Operations at the State Claims Agency.

Addressing members of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Network at NUI Maynooth, Kirwan said that over a ten-year period, payments of €300 million have been made by the State to the Defence Forces. He said there is a need for policies, procedures and systems in Ireland when dealing with claims against the State for post-traumatic stress disorder or critical incident stress.

"Most Defence Forces cases dealt with overseas duties in Lebanon, and substantial awards of between €218,000 and €300,000 were given to the claimants. It is estimated that €27 million has been paid out over the past ten years in total on claims costs, and these include out-of-court settlements; 10 per cent of cases only go to court whilst the 90 per cent are settled out of court," he noted.

When a State indemnity applies a commitment is made to protect against losses should the state be negligent. State indemnity is equivalent to self insurance and is not unique to the State. Risks are uninsurable in some cases, and the State can absorb the losses. Some organisations buy insurance because they may be too small to absorb the total losses, or maybe they do not have claims management skill sets.

ROLE OF AGENCY

The concept of the State Claims Agency was originally mooted in the mid 1990s and the Agency was established under



Pictured following the CISM Network workshop at NUI Maynooth were (l-r): Lt Col Ollie Barbour, PRO, CISM Network Ireland; Dr Sinéad McGilloway, Department of Psychology, NUI Maynooth; Prof Susan Klein, Director of the Aberdeen Centre for Trauma Research; Pat Kirwan, Deputy Director and Head of Risk Management and Operations, State Claims Agency; and Brigitta O'Doherty, Chair, CISM Network Ireland (Pic: Grace Heneghan)

the National Treasury Management Agency (Amendment) Act 2000. It had its own SCA Mandate in terms of the Management of Claims. Its main remit is to manage claims so as to ensure that the State's liability in relation to such claims is contained at the lowest achievable level.

The Agency will advise and assist State authorities on measures to be taken to prevent the occurrence, or to reduce the incidence, of claims. It ensures that State authorities are fully aware of the measures necessary to address any risks highlighted by their claims' records and by risk evaluations /audits.

The main finding of State Claims Agency's PTSD Review noted that as a litigation risk, PTSD-type claims resulting from critical incidents is controllable. "Pre- and post-event interventions such as those provided through Critical Incident Stress Management programmes can be used to prevent and successfully defend PTSD-type personal injury claims."

Under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 employers must identify, assess, controls, record all post-traumatic stress cases, in addition to providing information, training and supervision.

Kirwan pointed out that courts are lagging the advancements in the fields of psychiatry and psychology, and compared Ireland to our neighbours in Scotland, as he referred to the Scottish Law Commission's 'Report on damages for psychiatric injury' and the UK Court of Appeal in relation to 'The 16 Hatton Guidelines'. "Both reports deal with non PTSD cases but looked at factors necessary for awards for psychiatric or psychological injury."

He said that lessons can be learned from Scottish Report, which noted that for a claimant to be successful he/she must satisfy the following four criteria:

- Establish a duty of care;
- Provide evidence that they have

- suffered a psychiatric injury as a result of a shock;
- Provide evidence that the event(s) occurred during the course of their employment;
- Prove that the event(s) leading to the psychiatric injury were foreseeable.

KEY HATTON GUIDELINES

1. Ordinary principles of employers' liability apply to claims for psychiatric illness.
2. Foreseeable – injury to health attributable to stress at work.
3. Foreseeability depends on what employer ought to know or reasonably know about an individual employee.
4. No occupations should be regarded as intrinsically dangerous.
5. Guideline on factors for assessment.
6. Employer entitled to take employee at face value.
7. Signs of work related stress must be plain to trigger action.
8. Reasonable action only is required.
9. An employer who offers a confidential service, with referral to appropriate

counselling or treatment services is unlikely to be found in breach of duty. 10. If show steps employer should have taken will identify breach or otherwise of duty of care.

CASE LAW LESSONS

Pat Kirwan also highlighted a number of lessons to be learned from case law. "Where sources of stress are not reasonably foreseeable the employer is not likely to be found negligent. In addition, where an employee presents PTSD symptoms, where the source of the PTSD is possibly work-related then the employer must intervene.

"Where an employee is provided with appropriate interventions (contemporary knowledge) the courts are likely to rule in favour of the employee. Failure in statute law erodes your ability to defend claims," he told CISM Network delegates, adding that the Hatton guidelines had been affirmed by Irish courts

Type of event which triggered claims:

- Exposure to violent episode (weapon

- discharge, assault);
- Road traffic collisions and other accidents;
- False detention;
- Exposure to biological hazard (needle stick, brucellosis);
- Rescue and recovery;
- Witness death;
- Wrongful accusations

COST OF CLAIMS

A lot of money has been spent by the State in training programmes for emergency services personnel, Defence Forces and members of An Garda Saochána, according to the Director and Head of Risk Management and Operations, State Claims Agency.

"If critical incident stress management (CISM) works well, people will normalise quicker and are less affected for a period of time. If CISM is effective they will be able to get back to work quicker. There's a need to quantify the exact costs to get the point across effectively and a policy needs to be signed and supported by senior management (such as 18001 OHSAS)."



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SAFETY ACCREDITATION FOR LIMERICK FIRE SERVICE

LIMERICK COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE IS THE FIRST FIRE AUTHORITY IN IRELAND TO HAVE GAINED THE ONLY AUDITABLE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY.

The OHSAS 18001: 2007 certification for occupational health and safety management systems was first published by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in 2007 and is currently held by approximately 16,000 certified organisations in more than 80 countries. The standard sets out a preventative

and proactive approach to identifying workplace hazards and assessing and controlling risk.

Minister of State, Jan O'Sullivan said: "The safety and management awards are another step in improving the overall standard of our safety performance and provide both service providers and the public with independent assurance

of a high quality service. I would like to congratulate all involved in Limerick County Council on this achievement."

In addition to OHSAS 18001:2007 certification, Limerick County and Fire Rescue Service is also certified to ISO9001:2008, a separate standard of excellence in service delivery that has been maintained since 2000.



Fire officers John Mulready, Cappamore Fire Station, Michael Mooney, Kilmallock Fire Station, John Lyons, Rathkeale Fire Station, Christy Colbert, Abbeyfeale Fire Station, Des Normoyle, Newcastle West Fire Station and Eoin Kelly, Foynes Fire Station, who received a NSAI ISO 9001-2008 and OHSAS 1801-2007 certificate from Minister Jan O'Sullivan TD, at Foynes Fire Station on behalf of their stations. Front row from left; Carmel Kirby, Chief Fire Officer, Limerick County Council, Paul Crowe, Director of Services, Transport and Water Services, Limerick County Council, Cllr Jerome Scanlan, Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, Jan O'Sullivan TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Limerick County Manager Gerry Behan and Cllr Kevin Sheahan. (Pic: Dave Gaynor)

Carmel Kirby, Chief Fire Officer, Limerick County Fire and Rescue Services, explained: "Since achieving accreditation to our first international standard in 2000, our service has grown and matured in terms of how we do our business.

"We have also successfully managed to keep our resources up to date to meet the growing needs and expectations of our community. In addition, we are working to ensure that fire service staff are provided with proper facilities and a proper working environment.

"As chief fire officer, I look forward to continuing our service to the highest possible standard.

We face new challenges in the Fire Service regularly and we will continue to plan and further up-skill ourselves to deal with those," Kirby added.

€370,000 VEHICLES

The certificate presentation was followed by the official roll out of two new water carriers costing €370,000, which was funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.

The vehicles will be used primarily for the provision of firefighting and water supply.

The water carriers were built by High Precision Motor Products Ltd, Carlow, and each comes with a water carrying

capacity of 8,500 litres; the main body is constructed from recyclable plastic, and includes significant equipment storage space, a retractable electronic road traffic management sign and twin scene lighting masts.

The addition of the vehicles to the fleet

brings the number of the county's water tankers to five.

County Limerick Fire and Rescue Service operates a total fleet of 19 fire appliances, which includes fire pumps, water carriers, an emergency tender and an aerial ladder platform.

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EMS INTEGRATION INTO THE WEST

GMIT DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES AND MAYO GENERAL HOSPITAL'S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ORGANISED THE FIRST EVER CONFERENCE ON 'INTEGRATION FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES'. THE AIM IS NOW TO HOLD SIMILAR EVENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

The 'Integration for the Emergency Services' conference was the first event of its kind to be staged in the west.

The one-day conference in September attracted up to 100 delegates from both the voluntary and statutory services to Castlebar, Co. Mayo. Now the organisers aim to hold similar events in the near future.

GMIT's Department of Nursing and Health Sciences in Castlebar was the venue for this multidisciplinary conference to explore aspects of the different roles performed by emergency services personnel.

It also reviewed a possible smoother integration of services at both the practical and policy level. Delegates were given an outline of each discipline and the advancements being made across the services by a number of medics, paramedics and nurses.

SHARING EXPERTISE

Following a welcome address by Dr Andrew Jackson, lecturer in GMIT, NUIG and Mayo General Hospital, Brian Carlin, lecturer in emergency management at UCD, outlined the importance of integration in emergency medical services.

Cavan's Dr Seamus Clarke discussed 'GPs in Pre-Hospital Care' while 'Retrieval by Land or Air, What is Different?' was presented by Dr Fergal Cummins, ED Consultant from Limerick's Mid-Western Regional Hospital.

The nurse's role in retrieval and transfer was offered by Kathy Brickhill, flight nurse with



Mary Kilcoyne, advanced nurse practitioner at Mayo General's Emergency Department, checks 'the patient', pictured alongside HSE West paramedics John Joyce and Brain Moran, Dr Andrew Jackson and Rena Mc Donnell, staff nurse at Mayo General's Emergency Department.



Pictured at the conference (l-r): Ken Hogan, Department Head of GMIT School of Nursing; Dr Andrew Jackson, joint conference co-ordinator; Michael McDonagh, conference co-ordinator Emergency Department, Mayo General Hospital; and Charlie Meehan, CEO of Mayo General Hospital.



Brian Carlin, UCD lecturer in emergency management, pictured with pilots Paul Forbes and Colm O Grady.

Aeromedvac Ireland, HSE West advanced paramedic Derek Walsh offered his thoughts on integration in EMS Therapeutic Hypothermia, while the acute coronary care programme was outlined by Rosemary Walsh, Galway University Hospital's Coronary Care Unit.

'Prescribing in the Emergency Department' was presented by Mary Kilcoyne, advanced nurse practitioner at Mayo General's Emergency Department.

Michael McDonagh, conference co-ordinator, who is clinical nurse manager at Mayo General's Emergency Department, highlighted inter-professional education within the emergency services.

Advanced paramedics Darren Figgis and Jason Kennedy presented a case study to highlight the advantages of integration within the emergency services.

Dr Jason van der Velt from University College Cork and his team demonstrated the advantages of simulation, while advanced paramedic Joe Gorman gave an update on advances in mountain rescue over the last number of years.

UTILISING SKILLS

The one-day event highlighted how to effectively utilise the skills of personnel working across the emergency services in both the state and voluntary sectors.

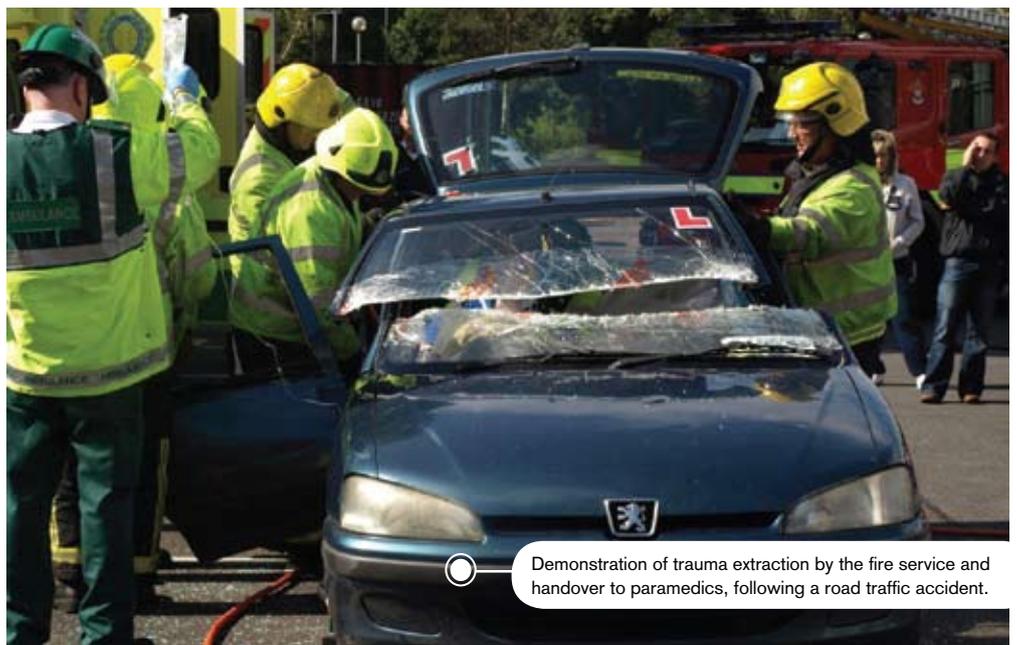
A series of morning presentations were followed by large-scale demonstrations of emergency care provision by the fire and ambulance services, the Irish Coast Guard helicopter and the Defence Forces.

For further information email Michael McDonagh, Mayo General Hospital michaelmcdonagh1@yahoo.co.uk

Photographs courtesy of Seamus Rouse, Mayo General Hospital.



Delegates check out the Defence Forces medical equipment on board.



Demonstration of trauma extraction by the fire service and handover to paramedics, following a road traffic accident.



The Irish Coast Guard helicopter took part in the large-scale demonstrations of emergency care provision,

GARDA CYCLISTS BAG GOLD IN EUROPE

SIX FEMALE GARDA CYCLISTS PUT IN A WHEELY GREAT PERFORMANCE RECENTLY WHEN THEY BAGGED TEAM GOLD, IN ADDITION TO INDIVIDUAL GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS AT THE 7TH EUROPEAN POLICE CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FRANCE.

Six male and six female Garda cyclists competed in 7th European Police Cycling Championships – an international event which is held every four years and attracts some of the best amateur and semi-professional cyclists from the Continent.

And while the men all clocked some very good times in the Men's Road Race, it was the ladies who won Team Gold. In addition, they bagged the silver medal in the Ladies Time Trial, which took place over a very testing and technical 20.5km circuit through the Brittany countryside, starting and finishing in the town of Ploeren.

Six female Garda competed in this event against some of the best in Europe, and they recorded three of the fastest rides in the top seven. Garda Caroline Ryan (Pearse Street) finished second in a time of 30:01.74, behind French rider Marie Laure Cloarec (29:59.42) who is a regular on the French national cycling team, with whom she has competed internationally during 2012.

The Team Gold was awarded to the Irish ladies for having the team with the four fastest finishers. Ireland took gold with a combined time of 2.04:34, ahead of Switzerland at 33 seconds and the UK at 2 minutes 48 seconds.

On Sunday 16 September, the ladies road race was held over an 85-km route, again starting and finishing in the town of Ploeren. The pace of this race was fast from the start, with the French rider Marie Laure Cloarec making a solo break on lap two and at one point in the race, she led the chasing bunch by over 90 seconds. She was reeled in prior to the start of the final 11km circuit.

In the final kilometre, Cloarec again made a break for the line and was closely marked by Garda Sandra Fitzgerald (Irishtown) who jumped from the chasing bunch with 500 metres to the line. She powered past Cloarec to take the victory, leaving her with only the silver medal in this event.

Fitzgerald's win brought to a close a long cycling season in 2012. She was a 'pilot' for the partially-sighted Katie George Dunleavy in the track and road events of the London Paralympics.

Garda Eve McCrystal (Ballybay) who finished second, had suffered some mechanical mishaps on the second and third laps.

However, she rode aggressively over the fourth lap to regain her position in the peleton. Had she not expended so much energy in regaining her position in the peleton, it may have been an Irish first and second!



The winning Irish ladies team (l-r): Gardai Caroline Ryan (Pearse Street), Eve McCrystal (Ballybay), Sandra Fitzgerald (Irishtown), Sheila Clavin (Henry Street), Sheila Griffin (Watercourse) and Laura Griskeviciute (Kilkenny).



Garda Sandra Fitzgerald's win puts the finishing touches to a long cycling season.



Thomas Lavery (centre) finished the best of the Gardaí for Team Ireland in the Men's Road Race. They all finished in the main bunch, just over three minutes behind the leading six riders. The gruelling 134-km race was won by French rider Benoit Daeninck.

AEROMEDICAL RETRIEVAL TRAINING TAKES OFF

THE LATEST TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR AEROMEDICAL RETRIEVAL TEAMS, TOOK PLACE IN OCTOBER AT WESTON AIRPORT IN LEIXLIP. THIS WAS THE THIRD COURSE TO BE RUN BY AEROMEDVAC IRELAND SINCE THE COMPANY WAS LAUNCHED IN MARCH 2011.

Systems Training for Aeromedical Retrieval Teams (START) took place on 20 and 21 October at Weston Airport, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.

Hosted by AeroMedevac Ireland, this START programme was the third such course since the company was first launched in March 2011.

People had previously travelled to the UK for such training, with the company using the services of a UK training provider. The rationale behind the development of this programme, according to Keith Trower, chief executive of Aeromedvac Ireland, is to establish "a level of professionalism" necessary for the safe and efficient transfer of patients from one hospital setting to another.

"This is via aeromedical transportation, whether fixed wing or rotary, by dedicated jet air ambulance, as a medical escort of a patient in a jet airliner, or by helicopter," he told *Emergency Services Ireland*.

START is open to all qualified EMTs, paramedics, advanced paramedics, nurses and doctors. Given that transport of patients by air presents medical escorts with many problems unique to this mode of travel, staff involved in aeromedical transport must have both a high level of expertise, specialist knowledge and practical training.

SAFE TRANSPORTATION

Since March 2011 Aeromedvac has carried out over 60 missions from some 25 countries, with a range of clinical conditions and paediatric to adult patients.

"We remain Ireland's only indigenous air retrieval and repatriation firm. We have provided the Irish market with the capability to provide safe and efficient transportation of patients throughout Europe and beyond, including North America and Africa," noted Trower.

"Staff without appropriate training



Aeromedvac personnel transfer a ventilated patient to a helicopter.



Candidates gain experience in dealing with the complexities and logistics of transferring a sick ICU ventilated patient from the air ambulance to ground ambulance.

should not undertake aeromedical transfers.

Patient safety is at the forefront of a formal retrieval model. START is recognised by the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland for CME points and by An Bord Altranais and the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) for CPG.

The course director and medical director of Aeromedvac Ireland, Dr Fergal Cummins, is a consultant in emergency medicine.

He is a retrieval specialist, having worked as a consultant retrieval specialist

with Australia's premier retrieval agencies, Careflight NSW and Sydney HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medicine Service).

Dr Cummins has also worked as consultant in emergency medicine at Sydney's prestigious level one trauma centre at the Royal North Shore Hospital and held an academic title at Sydney University.

He said the course has been greatly supported by the medical profession.

"It is an open course to anyone involved in aeromedical retrieval medicine or those who wish to enter this specialist area," noted Dr Cummins.



Tetra Ireland provided additional radio terminals to mountain rescue teams during Reek Sunday 2012.

MOUNTAIN REEK RESCUE TUNES INTO TETRA

TETRA IRELAND PROVIDED ADDITIONAL RADIO TERMINALS TO MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAMS DURING REEK SUNDAY 2012, TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OVER 12,000 PILGRIMS WHO CLIMBED CROAGH PATRICK, IN MAYO WRITES KENNY ROBERTS, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF MOUNTAIN RESCUE IRELAND.

On the last Sunday of July every year, thousands of pilgrims from around Ireland and across the world travel to climb Croagh Patrick, located outside the Mayo town of Westport. Overlooking Clew Bay, the 'Reek' (as it is more commonly known) attracted over 12,000 people during this year's pilgrimage.

As with every year, a huge logistical operation was rolled out by both the state and voluntary emergency services to ensure the security and safety of those who made the trip. Gardaí and HSE ambulance

personnel were drafted in from all local divisions, while mountain rescue teams were joined by other voluntary agencies such as the Order of Malta, Civil Defence and Irish Cave Rescue Organisation (ICRO).

MULTI-AGENCY RESCUE

Mayo Mountain Rescue Team provides rescue cover for Croagh Patrick all year round, but on Reek Sunday their main role is to provide operational co-ordination for the largest multi-agency mountain rescue event in Europe.

Every year Mayo MRT drafts in other mountain rescue teams and the ICRO to provide support.

A number of teams from the UK also travel over to provide assistance, on an open invitation from Mountain Rescue Ireland (MRI).

This year, Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team travelled from North Wales to experience first-hand the provision of rescue cover for the Reek.

The Irish Air Corps supplies a vital support role to mountain rescue by providing the use of its helicopter. This

year's weather provided for good flying conditions and was able to assist in returning rescue equipment, including the medical tent, from the mountain at the end of the event.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

With any event of this size, mountain rescue relies heavily on an effective communications network for a successful outcome. Mountain rescue communication has come a long way from using the basic CB-type radios to VHF radios.

Moving to the next level of communication, Mountain Rescue Ireland (MRI) is exploring the possibilities offered by Tetra Ireland's National Digital Radio Service (NDRS), to assist us in our ever-demanding role of saving lives in wild and remote places.

Mountain rescue teams currently use the Sepura STP8000 Tetra terminals, while a number of Motorola MTP 850S radio hand-sets have also been ordered. Three mountain rescue teams in Ireland – Dublin/Wicklow MRT, Galway MRT and the Glen of Imaal Red Cross MRT – have signed up to Tetra's secure reliable network, which fit their requirements.

This year, Tetra Ireland kindly provided additional support to Reek 2012 by supplying a further five terminals, which enabled mountain rescue teams to fully explore the capabilities of Tetra.

A new key aspect of the secure network has been the ability for mountain rescue medics on the mountain to talk directly with a command physician, who could be located anywhere within the Republic of Ireland, to authorise the use of medication.

When a mountain search and rescue hill-party locate a casualty on a mountain or in a remote environment, one of the first key pieces of information required by the rescue base is the location of the missing or injured person.

This allows the operations management group of rescue co-ordinators to plan extraction routes and additional resources required. This process is made much easier by using a GPS-enabled Tetra terminal, since all that is required is for the



It is estimated that over 12,000 pilgrims climbed Croagh Patrick during Reek Sunday 2012.

operator to select the location menu on the terminal.

INTEROPERABILITY

Tetra is a key communications tool of An Garda Síochána and also continues to be rolled out amongst the key primary response agencies such as the HSE ambulance service, the Irish Coast Guard

and Civil Defence, while the fire service is the next primary agency due to sign up to the network.

The opportunities for interoperability between the agencies to communicate on a single network can only improve our response to dealing with emergency situations. MRI works in conjunction with these agencies to give assistance to those



Three mountain rescue teams – Dublin/Wicklow MRT, Galway MRT and the Glen of Imaal Red Cross MRT – have signed up to Tetra Ireland's National Digital Radio Service.

who find themselves lost or injured on our mountains.

MAPPING SOFTWARE

Thanks to our mountain rescue colleagues in the UK, and some ingenious computer programming, MRMap was developed by Rob Brookes, Langdale/Ambleside MRT, and Dave Binks, Duddon & Furness MRT.

The MRMap software gives mountain rescue search managers, team leaders and control room staff the ability to better manage their team by giving continuous live assets tracking of mountain rescue resources on the mountain.

We can now integrate the use of smartphones to track mountain rescue members utilising the MRMap software. Another leap forward was the addition of 'SARLOC', created by Russ Hore from Ogwen Valley MRT. If a person is lost, the rescue team can transmit them a link to their mobile phone, the link interrogates the mobile phone and will then send the information of your location that can be displayed on the MRMap software.

As part of the MRMap software role-out to mountain rescue teams in Ireland, along with the overwhelming help from our colleagues in UK mountain rescue, the project would not have been possible without the backing of both

Ireland (OSI) and its counterparts in Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland.

To complete the project, MRI is working with OSI to enhance the MRMap, as the developers have introduced an aerial digital imagery overlay for the mapping imagery. Discussions are ongoing with OSI to secure the digital imagery of Ireland for the mountain rescue teams.



For more information on Mountain Rescue Ireland visit www.mountainrescue.ie



TEVA PHARMACEUTICALS IRELAND, WATERFORD

NORTHERN YOUTH TEAMS GET DOWN TO MULTI-TASKING

THIS YEAR'S INAUGURAL MOURNE MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE IN COUNTY DOWN WAS ORGANISED BY THE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND LOCAL COUNCILS TO BRING TOGETHER YOUNG TEENAGERS FROM DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES ACROSS NORTHERN IRELAND. FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL DAY OF OUTDOOR TEAM CHALLENGES AND TASKS, THERE IS NOW GREAT ENTHUSIASM TO STAGE THE EVENT NEXT YEAR.

Up to 42 teams of 15 to 18-year-olds joined forces for an action-packed day of activities in the Mourne Mountains in County Down towards the end of April as part of a pilot project to get them to interact with each other across a range of challenging outdoor pursuits.

The main objective of the inaugural Mourne Mountain Adventure was to push these young people out of their comfort zone and to recognise the opportunities for adventure close to home. Each six-member team was tasked with completing the 11km route from Tollymore Forest Park, ascend a path through the Mourne Mountains and down to Newcastle Harbour.

There the teams met with RIBs from the emergency services and voluntary rescue teams to take them across Dundrum Bay and disembark at Ballykinler Beach. At Ballykinler Army Training Centre the teams were faced with six challenges, designed to test their first aid knowledge, team working, fitness, agility, target shooting and observation skills.

At the end of the day the teams were reunited with their group leaders at Ballykinler Camp wherein each participant was presented with a certificate and event T-shirt, while a trophy was also presented to the overall winning team.

FIRST MAJOR YOUTH EVENT

Taking many ideas from the 'Ten Tors' competition, the Mourne Mountain Adventure was the first mass outdoors youth event to have taken place in Northern Ireland. It was the brainchild of Lt Col Huw Morgan, the Joint Regional Liaison Officer (JRLO) for 38 (Irish)



The teams before setting off on first task.



Participants faced a long trek up the Mourne Mountains.



A safety brief is given by the Irish Coast Guard.



The team members are fully kitted out for adventure.

Brigade.

The adventure day included teams from youth organisations such as the Venture Scouts, sea, air and army cadets, schools, community groups and sports clubs. According to Morgan, the aim was to include children who would not normally have the opportunity to take part in adventurous activities and to open up the occasion to all parts of the community.

“The event was funded by both sponsorship and youth engagement programmes, working in co-operation with other uniformed services and the voluntary sector to provide an excellent framework in which to test resilience communications and interoperability,” he told *Emergency Services Ireland*.

The six main sponsors were the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), the National Trust, Newry and Mourne District Council, Down District Council and 38 (Irish) Brigade.

In addition to the main sponsors, Morgan described HM Coastguard’s involvement as “critical to the success of the event” while St John Ambulance and Ireland’s Civil Defence provided medical cover on the day. Each team completed each phase without adult supervision, although responders were in place to ensure safety of all the participants.

“The effectiveness of this support was demonstrated when a young man, who had nothing to do with the event, was recovered from the sea by the

BENEFITS OF MOURNE MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

- Community engagement can be delivered effectively in partnership at minimal cost.
- Working with other agencies highlighted the difficulty in accessing parts of the community.
- Multi-agency command, control and communications can be exercised whilst engaging.
- The military forged new links with other agencies.
- The military can act as a catalyst by injecting ideas and organisational skills.
- All organisations faced the challenge of how to engage positively with young people.
- DIO infrastructure is a very valuable resource in support of community engagement.



Cross border co-operation EXCON from NIFRS - Ambulance from Civil Defence.



Boarding the RIB in Newcastle, Co. Down for the start of the adventure.



Mourne RIBs to the rescue in the event of any incidents.

FEEDBACK ON THE INAUGURAL MOURNE MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

• **A Team Leader:**

Jenna Finnegan was team leader for a group from Ardglass Youth Club. She said: "We all really enjoyed taking part. It was pretty tough but we feel like we've accomplished something. I'd never done anything like this before so it was a brilliant opportunity to make the most of the Mournes, which are right on my doorstep really."

• **The National Trust**

"Our six registered groups were local scout groups with whom we have long established relationships and they were all equipped, excited and ready for the challenge. A pre-event briefing and instruction day also took place to teach all participating groups how to erect a tent, administer first aid, orienteer in open spaces and learn basic survival skills for outdoors."

• **Police Service of Northern Ireland**

Sergeant Kenny Gracey of Newry City Neighbourhood Policing Team commented: "The project has given us the opportunity to build relationships with young people in our own areas as well as to offer them the chance to get to know people of their own age from other communities. Hopefully this event has allowed the youths' taking part to see that we can help and assist them with different issues and problems they might face."

• **Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Newry & Mourne District Council**

"The Mourne Mountains are an invaluable resource within our district, but one that is under-used by the youth in our community. It is important that our youth are encouraged to use and explore this magnificent resource and in challenging themselves, to find that no mountain is insurmountable with the right preparation and determination. The Council is supporting the Mourne Mountain Adventure as an initiative that may prompt positive change in young lives."

• **Down District Council**

Down District Council's chairman, Councillor Dermot Curran, said: "Down District Council was delighted to work in partnership with the National Trust and a wide range of multi-agency organisations to organise this new event for the

Mournes. It was a wonderful opportunity to encourage our youth to explore and enjoy their natural surroundings."

• **Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service**

NIFRS Station Commander Mark Fell said: "The Mourne Mountain Adventure was an excellent event for our fire cadets to be involved with as it supports our work in community safety education. We entered seven strong teams of fire cadets from Glengormley, Portrush, Newry, Carnlough, Cookstown and Bangor and each team really enjoyed the challenge.

"These young people are not only ambassadors for their community but also for NIFRS and the work that we do in protecting our community. Our Specialist Rescue Team was also involved in the event and representatives were on hand to provide safety advice and support throughout the demanding course."



Volunteers man the starting point.



Participants are briefed for the RIB crossing.

RNLI inshore lifeboat that was on hand to provide water safety. Saved from drowning, he was then transferred to the ICD ambulance in a severely hypothermic state before being transported to hospital in Craigavon. This prompt action certainly saved his life and demonstrated the benefits of cross-border, multi-agency co-

operation."

AGENCY INTEROPERABILITY

Military support was limited to manning the stands at Ballykinler, which were run by QUOTC, 253 Med Regt, the Army Recruiting Team and the NI Garrison Support Unit. He pointed out that TETRA

interoperability was fully demonstrated with the PSNI, NIFRS and 40 Sig Squadron working together for the first time with a high level of support from Ballykinler Army Training Centre.

Post-event evaluation of both the teams and their group leaders was carried out by Newry and Mourne District

Council. He said that subsequent feedback revealed overwhelming support for the initiative and a real enthusiasm for another event next year.

“We managed to organise and deliver this event in six months. It had cost the Ministry of Defence about 30 man training days,” said Morgan. “All other bills have been paid for by the event sponsors. We have engaged with all parts of the community in Ireland and it was a delight to see the Dublin Scouts present as the international representation.

“This has been a pilot. It has worked and we can now seek to expand and develop the adventure. The National Trust is keen to partner in other parts of the UK and to encourage young people to take part in outdoor challenges on their land.”



The teams were taken across Dundrum Bay by the emergency services and voluntary rescue teams to Ballykinler Army Training Camp.



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HOLISTIC CARE IN THE HOME

HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE PROVIDES A HOLISTIC SERVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE THAT CARES FOR NOT JUST THEIR PHYSICAL NEEDS BUT ALSO THEIR SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS, TO GIVE THEM THE HAPPINESS, INDEPENDENCE AND CONFIDENCE TO WANT TO KEEP ON LIVING THEIR LIVES.

Home Instead Senior Care was founded on the mission of enhancing the lives of older people. Since setting up in Ireland in 2005, strong relationships have been developed with the Department of Health and the HSE; they trust Home Instead Senior Care to take a personal and holistic interest in people's lives.

This is done by developing a close partnership with their clients and families to help transform their lives. Home Instead Senior Care has a rigorous caregiver recruitment process including Garda-vetting, training and supervision, with each caregiver specifically matched to like minded clients.

All of Home Instead Senior Care's offices are locally-owned and run by people from each community who are committed to and take responsibility for providing the most trusted, personalised and professional care to older people in their own community.

HIGH LEVEL OF CARE

Having won multiple awards for quality, systems and service, in addition to delivering 3.5 million hours of care to the HSE in the last seven years, Home Instead Senior Care continues to provide extensive levels of care hours through each of their local offices to the HSE local health organisations.

All offices nationwide were approved by the recent HSE tender, based on their high standards and professional infrastructure. Approval in 32 LHO areas in Ireland is certainly testimony to their mission to enhance the lives of older people, enabling them to live happy, healthy and independent lives in their home for longer than otherwise possible.

The HSE is not be able to help everyone with the hours required for a quality home care service; sometimes the HSE can only afford to provide 15-30 minute shifts to older people. Home



Instead Senior Care genuinely believes it is not possible to provide an appropriate home care service in this timeframe with dignity and respect. The company prefers to stick by its values of providing a high quality and professional home care service, which requires more time per visit to meet the personal and social needs of their clients.

To help people maintain independence a range of home care services are tailored to the individual's needs and preferences. These services range from companionship to post-hospital care, to palliative care through to care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementia, disabilities and chronic health conditions.

Their philosophy is to put relationship before task when it comes to caring for older people. Care giving is more than a job, to their employees; it's personal with Home Instead Senior Care providing the same level of care to their clients that they would to their family and friends.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Home Instead Senior Care's holistic approach to care in the community has led them to develop a number of guides, education evenings, training and booklets to support older people, their families and people in the community who also assist and support older people.

For instance, Home Instead Senior Care publishes an annual 'Irish Pensioner's Handbook' with local directories, older persons' organisations and old age pensioner entitlements. Recently they also continued to extend their education reach to run a number of workshops across the country for family members caring for someone with Alzheimer's or other dementia.

AFFORDABLE PEACE OF MIND

Home Instead Senior Care offers an affordable service for many people that enables them to have peace of mind during a worrying and stressful time. Tax relief of up to 41 per cent is available towards the cost of home care.

Many of their clients have adult children who work and have their own children to care for.

These pressures of modern family life do not lend themselves to providing the necessary support from family alone. This is where home care from Home Instead Senior Care is a highly effective service, enabling older adults to remain at home, happier and healthier, reducing the pressure on expensive nursing homes and hospital beds.

For more details on your local Home Instead Senior Care contact 1890 930 013 or visit www.homeinstead.ie

LEADERSHIP TRAINING ON COURSE FOR 2013

THE NEXT MOUNTAIN RESCUE TRAINING COURSE ON THE LEADERSHIP OF VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE IN SPRING 2013, FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL ROLL-OUT OF THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMMES IN BOTH IRELAND AND GREAT BRITAIN.

Mountain Rescue Ireland organised two training courses this year on the Leadership of Voluntary Emergency Services; the first was held in Tipperary in April, followed by the second course across the water in Exmoor in Great Britain in May.

The aims of the training courses were to provide senior emergency service and community leaders with appropriate leadership knowledge, skills and self-awareness.

The methodology, topics and ethos of the course have now been fully evaluated and the way ahead is clear. The comments from this year's delegates showed that the course is here to stay.

Delegates came from a variety of statutory and volunteer organisations such as Civil Defence, An Garda Síochána, The Coast Guard, the HSE, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, in addition to mountain rescue teams from Galway and the south east.

The Exmoor participants comprised of two local teams and one team from the Lake District. This cross-section of personnel from different organisations and agencies is one of the main strengths of the course.

The informal discussions were as valuable as the official learning topics. The creation of neutral interagency discussion and learning space has been a useful result of the course.

This interagency focus has the additional benefit of keeping course numbers up to the level required in a difficult economic time for mountain rescue teams.

LEADERSHIP OF VES MODULES

- Leadership Styles and Values
- Changing a Leadership Style



The training course focused on relevant human interaction aspects and techniques useful in leading voluntary emergency teams.

- Creating a Learning Organisation/Team
- Team Culture
- Different Individual Working Styles
- Practical Scenarios involving Interpersonal Conflict and Solutions
- Personal Leadership Action Plans
- Taking Care of One's Self as a Leader

HUMAN INTERACTION

Led by Pat Holland, South East Mountain Rescue Association (SEMRA), the courses were delivered by his SEMRA colleague Mary Mullins, and Diarmaid Scully of the Glen of Imaal MRT. All three have qualifications in relevant areas, as well as many years of service in voluntary and professional public services.

The course avoided technical mountain rescue techniques, as this is covered by a

separate MRI operations course. Instead it focused upon relevant human interaction aspects and techniques useful in leading voluntary emergency teams.

Topics included leadership traits of particular value to voluntary emergency services leaders, where the delivery of the unit mission is critically dependent upon the integrity and leadership qualities of the team/unit leader.

The course modules facilitated sessions on various human interaction topics, discussion periods for learner groups and practical scenarios.

The training ethos of the course is based on coaching rather than teaching.

** Applications are now welcome. For further details email pathollandchange@gmail.com*

SEMRA LEADS THE WAY IN THE UK

Representatives from Exmoor, Cornwall and Wasdale mountain rescue teams gathered at Exmoor Search and Rescue's centre for the 'Leadership in Voluntary Emergency Services' course in May 2012.

"SEMRA's Pat Holland and Mary Mullins of SEMRA and Diarmaid Scully of Glen of Imaal (Red Cross) MRT, introduced the fascinating topic of how leadership styles, ranging from operational to executive roles, can influence and inform leadership at all levels in mountain rescue," noted Caroline Young, training officer with Exmoor's Search and Rescue Team.

"The balance between information giving, coaching and self-driven activities, along with time to reflect on your own leadership roles, made for a powerful mix.

"The scenarios dealing with a 'rogue' team member, for example, caused much hilarity, but the message got across. On other occasions, the modelling, for example of a coaching session, or the drama triangle, gave practical examples of a wide range of



SEMRA's Mary Mullins and Pat Holland and Diarmaid Scully, Glen of Imaal (Red Cross) MRT pictured with their UK mountain rescue colleagues at Exmoor SAR centre.

leadership models available."

The participating teams had interpreted the term 'leader' in all its guises in selecting those who attended; representatives on the course included team leaders, deputy team leaders, chairpersons, search party leaders and trustees.

Young said that team members agreed

that the activities had given them a great deal to think about in terms of their own leadership roles.

"Some elements were self-affirming while other areas took us out of our comfort zone and will hopefully help us to develop new approaches to the mountain rescue challenges we will all undoubtedly face in the months and years ahead."

KILKENNY CIVIL DEFENCE POINT OF VIEW

Three team leaders from Kilkenny Civil Defence attended the 'Leadership in Voluntary Emergency Services' course in Tipperary in April, and according to one team leader "expectations were mixed, as leadership can be such a broad area".

However, Paraic Kelly says that on completion of the course, he and his two colleagues had a clearer vision for the development of team leadership in Kilkenny Civil Defence.

The course provided a multitude of views and an excellent opportunity for networking and building contacts, added Kelly.

"Pat Holland, Mary Mullins and Diarmaid Scully facilitated the course and their combined efforts and expertise made it enlightening and challenging, with an extensive amount of material to cover, while discussions

and scenario role-play included leadership values, styles and culture."

"Time spent on working with people, styles and the PAC model were put to good use in the scenario role-play. Everyone agreed that it was paramount to practice the tools for dealing with conflict during the role-play.

"The role-play and break-out

sessions were good ice breakers and helped group participants to get to know each other. Rotation of the groups was excellent for the group dynamic and kept everything fresh."

In conclusion, Kelly said the real value can only be gained by putting it into practice, adding "that's where the challenge lies".



Mountain rescue personnel pictured at the start of the leadership training course, held in Tipperary in April 2012.

CALLING IRELAND'S EMERGENCY SERVICES

IRELAND'S EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL ARE INVITED TO VISIT THE UK'S EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW 2012 IN NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS BEST PRACTICE AND NETWORK WITH LIKE-MINDED PROFESSIONALS.

From 21 to 22 November, professionals from the UK's emergency services, partnering agencies, voluntary groups and government departments will attend The Emergency Services Show 2012 at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire.

The role of the emergency services has come under particular scrutiny over the past year as the UK hosts a number of important events including the Diamond Jubilee and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

These high profile events have thrust the emergency services in to the public eye and have opened up discussions around the importance of interoperability between the blue light services. Networking and collaboration with suppliers, colleagues and partner agencies is an essential part of ensuring an emergency is dealt with as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Emergency Services Show 2012 is the ideal place for Irish emergency professionals, including the An Garda Síochána, fire, rescue and ambulance services, coastguard and prison services, to network with like-minded professionals and explore efficiency savings.

RESPONSE ZONE

The Emergency Response Zone (ERZ) features exhibitors from fire and rescue, police, ambulance, government and voluntary organisations from around the UK, demonstrating the capabilities of partnering agencies and the voluntary sector – an ideal opportunity to discuss interoperability.

INTEROPERABILITY SUMMIT

Following the establishment of the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) CFA, AACE and ACPO will be bringing together leaders and strategic managers from UK Cat 1 & 2 responders at the first ever high profile



national summit addressing this critically important topic. Topics will cover the following:

- Government aims and priorities with input from the Home Office and the Civil Contingencies Secretariat;
- An overview of JESIP to explain its structure and work programme
- Views from ACPO, CFA and AACE;
- An Olympics de-brief providing a view of how the UK managed the world's largest sporting event;
- External challenges from the worlds of law, academia and the military.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Christina Scott – Head of Civil Contingencies
- Professor Paul Allison – Forensic Psychologist
- Fiona Barton QC

PARAMEDICS WORKSHOPS

Visitors will also have the chance to build on personal development by attending the CPD accredited workshops that are being held by the College of Paramedics. Two separate areas on the stand will focus on different ways of learning; Area 1 offering a hands-on, practical workshop and Area 2, lecture style presentations.

Taking place over the two days of the show, each free-to-attend session will last 20 to 30 minutes and topics covered include:

Day 1 – Trauma Care

- Spinal immobilisation – pelvic splint demonstration
- Extrication
- Basic life support
- Primary assessment and triage

Day 2 – Pre-Hospital Care

- Emergency childbirth
- Management of minor injuries
- Diabetic emergencies
- Mental health

Registrations for the workshops will take place at the show so please visit the College of Paramedics Demonstration Area in Hall 2 to sign up.

ROAD RECOVERY DEMONSTRATION

Involving all emergency services, the RHA recovery's demonstration will showcase each service's particular skills and specialities when involved in a road traffic collision.

The demo will also show how the services work together to rescue individuals who are unlucky enough to be involved.

The scenario will involve an HGV articulated vehicle/petrol tanker that has been in a collision with a car and has ended up on its side.

To register for a free visitor pass or for more information visit

www.emergencyuk.com

FIRE ENGINEERING IS ON COURSE FOR DIT

Dublin Institute of Technology has a long and proud tradition of providing part-time education in the technical and engineering sector. Indeed, DIT Bolton Street celebrated its centenary in 2011, as one of the first purpose-built technical education sites in the country.

In keeping with this tradition, the School of Civil and Building Services Engineering has developed a unique part-time BEngTech ordinary degree programme in fire engineering in collaboration with the Institution of Fire Engineers (Rof Branch).

The programme has been designed for anyone working, or wishing to work, in the general fire engineering/fire safety sector. However, it has also been designed with a view to career progression for those within the fire service. It contains several module options specifically designed for fire service personnel.

The four-year programme covers a range of legal, technical and scientific areas of fire safety and building construction. Graduates will be eligible for advanced entry into relevant honours degree programmes in compatible areas. A Higher Certificate award is also available after the third year, while holders can return to complete the degree at a later stage.

DIT has designed the programme to facilitate those who work and have experience in the area to the maximum degree. Classes take place on Thursday evenings and Fridays.

Applicants who have prior experience or learning may be eligible for advanced entry or exemption from some modules. This includes studies

or qualifications in a range of engineering disciplines, qualifications from the Institution of Fire Engineers, in addition to relevant work experience.

Following its launch in 2011, the engineering course is now in its second

year; the graduates from the first programme are expected in 2015.

For further details, please contact the School of Civil and Building Services Engineering at 01-4024039 or email cbse@dit.ie

Dublin Institute of Technology School of Civil & Building Services Engineering

B Eng Tech in Fire Engineering

This part-time programme has been developed by DIT in collaboration with the Institution of Fire Engineers (Republic of Ireland branch) and is an ordinary degree programme in Fire Engineering (NQAI level 7) which is aimed at members of the fire services and the fire safety/engineering sector in general.

Structure

The programme can be completed in 4 years and is delivered at DIT Bolton Street. Students who successfully complete the programme receive a level 7 B. Eng. Tech award. A level 6 Higher Certificate exit award is available on successful completion of stage 3.

Career Opportunities

This programme is suitable for career development in the fire services and fire engineering sector generally, and will permit advanced entry to honours degree programmes in the relevant fields.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 subjects in the Leaving Certificate or equivalent to include at least two ordinary level C3's or equivalent, a pass in English or Irish and an Ordinary level D3 grade in Mathematics

or

Successful completion of any IFE examination will allow entry and some will allow for exemptions or advanced entry. Mature students are also considered on an individual basis.

Programme Webpage

<http://www.dit.ie/study/parttime/programmes/dt715-fireengineering/>



Republic of Ireland Branch

Further Information:

School Administrator
School of Civil & Building Services Engineering
DIT Bolton St
Dublin 1

CBSE@dit.ie
(01) 402 4039



HOSPITALS TOP THE LIST OF UNNECESSARY FIRE CALL-OUTS

Hospitals in London are the biggest culprits when it comes to calling firefighters to false alarms, according to the London Fire Brigade's top 10 list.

The list revealed that all hospitals accounted for 1,189 false alarm calls to the Brigade last year, more than three a day.

Despite a reduction of 23 per cent in the last five years, a fire engine is still called to a false alarm every 12 minutes in the capital, costing an estimated £34 million each year. As well as being costly for London, false alarms are a nationwide problem, with the Government estimating that they cost the UK around £1 billion a year.

James Cleverly, chairman of London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, said: "We can't keep sending our crews out to non-existent fires, particularly when a little extra care and attention from the owners or managers of buildings could solve this problem. This is about the Brigade being able to attend real emergencies. The management of these alarm systems must improve so that our crews are not sent to needless call-outs."

Over one third of all emergency calls are to false alarms, with 40,839 attended last year. Of these over 27,000 call-outs are to commercial or public buildings and mainly due to faulty or badly maintained automatic alarm systems.

These unnecessary calls impact on the Brigade's ability to attend real incidents, deliver training and carry out vital community safety work.

Fire alarms act as a vital early warning system, helping keep people safe by alerting them to fires and giving them more time to escape. But, the majority of false alarms caused by faulty or badly maintained automatic fire alarm systems or things like burnt toast, steam or cigarette smoke.



James Cleverly, chairman of London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority.

LONDON TRAUMA CONFERENCE 2012

Now in its sixth year, London Trauma Conference will take place on 4-7 December once again at the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington.

Featuring the profession's most celebrated trauma leaders the four-day event promises to be the most comprehensive educational and research event of the year in the UK.

The first day of the conference will centre on the second London Cardiac Arrest Symposium and an Air Ambulance Symposium, hosted by the Norwegian Air Ambulance Foundation.

Day two covers Pre-Hospital Care and Major Incidents, with the final two days focussing on trauma issues. In



addition, there will be multiple breakaway sessions running in parallel to the main conference.

The programme will cover a broad range of trauma, pre-hospital care and major incident issues relevant to many specialities and all professional groups, doctors, nurses and ambulance teams. For further details visit www.londontraumaconference.com

BUSY YEAR FOR LONDON'S AIR AMBULANCE

Incident breakdown figures show that it has been a busy year for London's Air Ambulance, as it delivered advanced trauma teams to critically injured people on the capital's streets

The incidence of violent crime in London creates an ongoing requirement for open chest surgery and London's Air Ambulance remains a world leader in terms of

experience and success with thoracotomy.

Dr Gareth Davies, chair and medical director of London's Air Ambulance, says London's Air Ambulance was the first medical service in the world to perform this emergency procedure at the scene of injury in 1993. Now other air ambulances throughout the world have followed in our footsteps."

WEST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE CHIEF IS NOW AACE CHAIR

The chief executive of West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Anthony Marsh, is the new national chairman of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE).

Marsh has successfully led West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust since 2006 and has consistently focused his efforts on improving patient care and developing staff within the Trust. He replaces Peter Bradley CBE who leaves the UK to start a senior ambulance role in New Zealand.

Commenting on his recent appointment, Marsh said: "The NHS and the ambulance sector is presented with a fantastic opportunity to make further

improvements to the care that we already provide to patients. My role will be to work with the other ambulance CEOs, chairs and stakeholders to support this transformation."

The Association of Ambulance Chief Executives provides ambulance services with a central organisation that supports, co-ordinates and implements nationally agreed policy. It also provides the general public and other stakeholders with a central resource of information about NHS ambulance services. The primary focus of the AACE is the ongoing development of the English ambulance service and the improvement of patient care.



Anthony Marsh is the new national chairman of the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives.

FIRE INVESTIGATION ENHANCED BY FIRE-POLICE AGREEMENT

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) have signed an agreement to further enhance partnership working between both organisations in relation to fire investigation.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ensures effective and efficient co-operation between NIFRS and the PSNI when dealing with fires which may involve fatalities, injuries to people or when a crime is suspected. It will enhance accuracy in the recording of the causes of fire and will assist with the prosecutions of those responsible for arson.

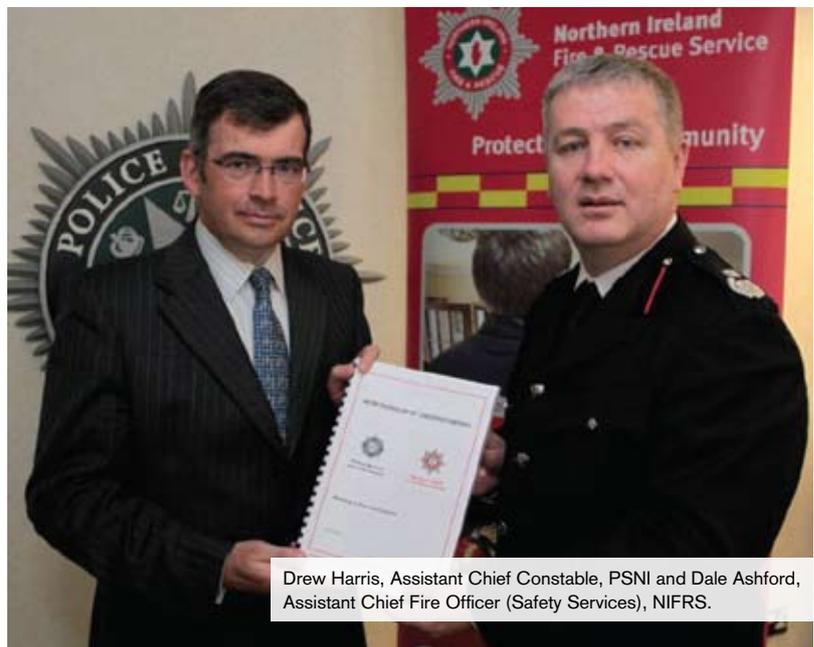
Dale Ashford, NIFRS Assistant Chief Fire Officer of Safety Services, described the agreement as a further extension of their long-standing relationship with PSNI colleagues and their joint work on fire investigations.

"Working together and effectively managing fire scene investigations is crucial to providing accurate information in recording the causes of fire. The sharing of expertise and information between our organisations is invaluable, and this will assist us in pinpointing the actual causes of fires and this important information will continue to shape our work in fire prevention, community education and engagement.

Drew Harris, PSNI's Assistant Chief

Constable, described the memorandum as an important step forward in our co-operation with NIFRS.

"The document formalises our agreement to continue to work in partnership with our colleagues in an effort to ensure the best possible response and investigative procedures. We are committed to working with NIFRS to prevent fires, save lives and improve community safety," noted Harris



Drew Harris, Assistant Chief Constable, PSNI and Dale Ashford, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Safety Services), NIFRS.

UNIONS DEMAND A HALT TO COASTGUARD CUTS

Unions representing coastguards and seafarers have demanded a halt to the government's planned cuts and closure programme to coastguard and maritime rescue centres.

The move by unions PCS (Public and Commercial Services) and RMT (Rail, Maritime and Transport) came as it emerged one of the threatened rescue facilities, Clyde, is set to be closed in December this year even though a planned new national Maritime Operation Centre is not due to open until 2014.

The unions say this will leave the life-saving services with 'hopelessly inadequate' cover for months. They warn the 'botched' Clyde coastguard closure plan, confirmed in a letter from transport minister Mike Penning, shows that the nationwide reorganisation by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is a cuts-led exercise that will have 'devastating' implications for safety at sea.

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka said: "We believe these cuts could put lives at risk, and we know our concerns are shared by seafarers and people in our coastal communities. Instead of gambling with people's lives, ministers should be investing to ensure we have the proper resources

in place to run a safe and effective coastguard service."

Bob Crow, general secretary of seafarers' union RMT, added that his members at sea depend on facilities like the Clyde coastguard daily to ensure their safety. "We are 100 per cent behind the PCS-led campaign to save these essential services from the government axe. Clearly, the whole botched handling of the Clyde centre, the first on the hit list, is a foretaste of what can be expected around the rest of the coast as the cuts plans are rolled out."



CARE WORKERS CAN HELP PREVENT FIRE DEATHS

Care workers in the UK received special training in September for the first time in how to spot those individuals in their care who are at risk from fire.

The development comes in the wake of findings by the London Fire Brigade, which revealed that one person in receipt of care is dying in London every month from fires. As such, carers can play a paramount role in fire prevention

Of the 119 accidental fire deaths registered over the preceding three years, 36 were in receipt of some form of care, with factors such as alcoholism, smoking and mental

health issues also playing their part; half of the deceased had some form of mental problem, all but 3 smoked and 14 were alcoholics. This training will attempt to imbue carers with the ability to identify people most at risk from accidental fires.

Carers in the UK started to receive fire safety training in September to complement their existing carer training. The Care Quality Commission now requires that carers demonstrate fire safety, with carers needing to undergo a fire safety induction within the first 12 weeks of joining an organisation.

ANTI-BURGLARY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN LONDON

The London Metropolitan Police has launched an information campaign urging Londoners to safeguard their homes from burglary during winter.

The campaign provides the public with simple steps they can take to alleviate the risk of burglary during a time of year when houses are exposed to the greatest amount of risk as a result of shortened daylight hours. Homes that appear empty are at greatest risk of burglary.

These include closing and locking all windows and doors, keeping valuables (including ID and documents) away from

windows and letterboxes, leave lights on at home if you can't get back before dark and marking your property with your address or postcode.

"A burglar will select their target because it offers them the best opportunity to carry out their crime and with the fewest number of possible obstacles in their way," according to a spokesperson for Croydon Police.

"A building that presents itself as unoccupied and insecure is far more likely to be targeted than one which is properly secured."



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NSW FIRE BRIGADE FACES TOUGHEST BUDGET CUTS YET

Fire and Rescue NSW Commissioner Greg Mullins has warned of the need to save \$64 million over the next four years, with the abnormally high rate of firefighter's sick leave in the firing line.

Firefighters average 120 hours of sick leave compared with an average 56.1 hours for all other public sector workers. Covering for sick firefighters had also led to a blowout in overtime of \$7 million in the past financial year.

Under the cuts, fire stations could instead be left temporarily unmanned if there were not enough firefighters due to sick leave. Fire and rescue sources also suggested up to 300 jobs could go and 30 stations would be permanently closed.

While the government claimed that frontline services would not be affected, the Fire Brigade Employees' Union has accused the government of playing "Russian roulette with community safety" and said that it was working with FRNSW to reduce sick leave.

Fire stations would be temporarily

unmanned - or even shut down - as sick firefighters are not replaced under government budget cuts. A high rate of sick leave and a blowout in overtime are blamed for the tough budget for the state's firefighters.

Mullins said firefighters had "very high levels of sick leave compared to the rest of government," averaging 120 hours per firefighter compared with an average of 56.1 hours of sick leave taken by all other public sector workers.

"It is necessary to make savings immediately or face the prospect of more significant measures, including possible job losses," he noted in his letter the Fire Brigade Employees' Union. The letter outlined changes such as temporary closures of stations when staff are absent, a need for medical certificates if firefighters apply for carers leave, and a review of overtime for firefighters working outside their usual districts. It also said that within six months there could be closures of fire stations in the Sydney metropolitan area and a review of annual leave.

NEW EMS PHONE TRANSLATOR APPROVED BY MICROSOFT

A new Windows Phone 7 App called 'EMS Translator' has been released to help assist emergency medical personnel in communicating with non-English speaking patients.

The EMS Translator App contains 30 sections with 258 questions broken down into colour-coded units and utilises Microsoft's Translator Online translation service that allows the device to speak 15 different languages.

The full version of the EMS Translator App translates internally stored questions and phrases from English to Catalan, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. The trial version will only translate from English to Russian.

The Windows Phone 7 Mango version is offered for sale by Microsoft on its windows phone website in 191 countries.

AMBULANCE SECURITY TIGHTENED AFTER POTENTIAL DRUG TAMPERING

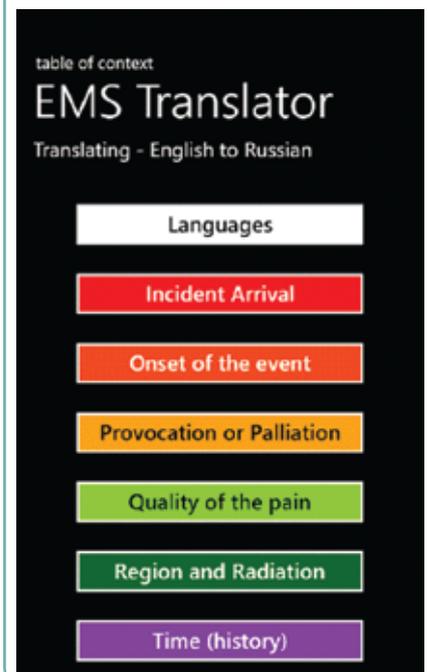
Boston health officials have said that security measures have been tightened aboard the city's ambulances following the discovery of drug tampering, allegedly by a Boston Emergency Medical Services paramedic.

The tampering with vials of pain medications and sedatives may have exposed as many as 64 patients to blood-borne infections when they were treated during summer 2011, officials said.

Boston EMS chief James Hooley said that since the alleged incident,

the agency has started a "very strict" inspection schedule of the ambulance medications and has improved packaging of the drugs. "We feel pretty confident we have put additional safeguards in place to prevent something like this from happening again," Hooley said.

He added that EMS already had "robust" security, which required double signatures on the painkillers and other controlled medications used and periodic inspections by supervisors, as well as an annual inspection by state officials.





INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA CRASH STATISTICS RELEASED

Western Australia Police recently released the state's latest car crash statistics, revealing that a total of 133 people have died on the state's roads so far this year.

In 2011, two males were killed for every one female on Western Australian roads, with the largest number of fatalities occurring in the youngest and the oldest age demographics.

Motorcyclists featured heavily amongst those killed, comprising 20 per cent of fatalities in metropolitan areas and 17 per cent across the state as a whole.

Over 34 per cent of road fatalities occurred during the weekends. Serious injuries, however, have declined substantially in recent years, from 277 in 2009 to 131 in 2012, a fall of nearly 53 per cent. Across the last four years, both fatalities and serious injuries have been more common in rural areas of the state than in metropolitan areas.

The report highlighted non-usage of seat belts and helmets (in the case of motorcyclists) as a critical factor continuing to cause road fatalities across Australia's largest state.

ONTARIO POLICE ENCOURAGE VIGILANCE AGAINST CRIMINALS

Police in Ontario warned customers and shopkeepers alike in Canada's most populous province to be extra vigilant in the face of two ever-increasing criminal trends – distraction theft and jewellery fraud.

Distraction thefts have occurred in numerous retail outlets across the province in recent times. These crimes typically require two or more conspirators.

The first lurks behind customers in an attempt to steal their PIN number. Another will then attempt to distract the unsuspecting victim outside the shop long enough for an accomplice to secure their wallet or purse. In other reported

cases, thieves will hide items within pockets concealed in long flowing skirts while store staff are distracted by her partner.

Jewellery fraud involves a victim being approached on the street by a criminal offering them gold jewellery. Once cash changes hands, the victim discovers that said jewellery is fake, and might even have lose some of their own genuine jewellery in the exchange with the fraudster.

This black market, street-level exchanges are highly vulnerable to this form of fraud and Ontario Police are encouraging extra caution on the part of customers in the wake of a rash of recent instances around the province.

AUCKLAND BURGLARIES NOSE DIVE IN WORLD CUP YEAR

The fiscal year to June 2012 saw a dramatic drop in the number of burglaries and sexual assaults within New Zealand's largest city, Auckland.

Sexual assaults saw the biggest drop off from 2011, down 15.5 per cent, while abduction, harassment and related offences fell by 9.8 per cent and burglaries across the metropolitan area decreased by 3.3 per cent.

Such findings make for good reading following a year in which New Zealand hosted the Rugby World Cup, the final of which was held in the city's Eden Park stadium. Fraud fell

during the period as a result of a reduction in cheque book usage and continuously improved banking processes.

Worryingly, public order offences increased by nearly a half (46 per cent) over the same time frame, although this has been attributed to police presence during the world cup which incurred greater detection of such crimes.

Illicit drug use also increased, with police in the city cracking down on vehicles being driven to and from known drug dens augmented by large scale detective operations attempting to clampdown on drug dealing in the city.

ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

Cyber security, critical infrastructure security and emergency preparedness and management are on the agenda at an international security conference in Tel Aviv in November.

The second Israel HLS international security conference, taking place on 11-14 November 2012 at Tel Aviv's Trade Fairs Center, is targeting government authorities, law enforcement agencies, national emergency authorities, private security companies, airport and sea port directors.

The main goals are to exchange knowledge with the worldwide security industry and professionals; enhance co-operation and the exchange of ideas among authorities from around the globe; showcase Israel's advanced and cutting-edge technologies in the field of homeland security, and finally to generate meetings and business networking.

For further information contact Colin Sheena, Commercial Officer, Embassy of Israel, Dublin @ 01-2309415; email: trade@dublin.mfa.gov.il

WATERFORD CENTRES ON HELP FOR ABUSE VICTIMS

Waterford Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre (WRSAC) – formerly the Waterford Rape Crisis Centre – was established in 1984 against the backdrop of great resistance by society at large to accept that the problem of child sexual abuse, rape and sexual assault was a reality in our 'Island of Saints and Scholars'.

However, as the years went on, more and more survivors came forward and demand for our services increased dramatically.

Today, the WRSAC operates as a limited company with charitable status. Volunteer support work is a vital part of the accompaniment service we offer,

and our crisis and ongoing counselling/therapy service is provided by a team of professionally trained counsellors. The centre provides the following range of counselling support services:

Counselling/Support

- Crisis intervention/support;
- Long and short-term counselling;
- Support for families and friends;
- Counselling service in Dungarvan every Thursday;
- Information on and accompaniment throughout the legal process - entirely a client's choice whether or not to report to the Gardaí, and the centre will support the client whatever their decision;

- Support provided by trained volunteers in the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit;
- Information and referral for other needs.
- Presentations in second and third level colleges, and interested groups
- Training with nurses, Gardaí, etc.
- Media work

Our approach to counselling is based on an equal and respectful relationship between survivor and counsellor. It is non-medical and is based on the empowerment of the victim/survivor. While all our counsellors are professionally qualified with additional training in rape and sexual abuse, we see survivors as being the experts in their own recovery.



WATERFORD
RAPE & SEXUAL ABUSE
CENTRE

**Freephone
1800 296 296**

**Counselling/Support for all
who have been
raped or sexually abused.**

Outreach to Dungarvan on Thursdays

BOOKING A VISIT TO ROTUNDA PRIVATE CLINICS

Pregnancy is a special time in any woman's life. Here in the Rotunda Private Clinics we have a multi-disciplinary team of experienced doctors and midwives specially trained to make women feel as comfortable and relaxed as possible during the course of their pregnancies," according to business manager Jill Sommerville.

The ethos of the entire team at the Rotunda Private Clinics is to work in partnership with the expectant mothers and their partners, offering holistic care, support and advice at what can be an uncertain time for any woman.

The first visit to the Rotunda Private

Clinic, also known as the 'booking visit', begins the process of ensuring that every mother is as well prepared as she can be when expecting and beyond. Everything, from health promotion and diet to the booking of ante-natal classes will be discussed, as well as any concerns and questions that might be on the mother's mind.

"Expectant mothers can choose from three maternity options – Private Care, Semi-Private Care and a new initiative called Semi-Private Consultant-led Care. Depending on which option you choose from an outline of visits, tests and scans will be detailed to you so that you can plan your pregnancy with care," Sommerville

explained.

The Rotunda Private Clinic, part of the Rotunda Hospital, Ireland's oldest maternity hospital delivering babies and caring for women for over 270 years, employs a team of 12 obstetricians/ gynaecologists and three neonatologists to provide care to mothers and babies.

"Our team of experienced midwives will help guide you through your pregnancy along with your chosen doctor. One key advantage of choosing the Rotunda Private Clinic is the availability of scanning facilities at every visit but most important is that there is no additional cost for scans that are requested by your medical team," she concluded.

*We give all our care
so you can give them all your love.*



New Maternity Packages available

Private Maternity option from €2,500
Semi-Private option from €1,200
Semi-Private Consultant-Led option from €1,800

Day time antenatal classes
free with all packages.

All prescribed scans **FREE**

Daytime & Evening appointments
to suit your busy lifestyle.



Visit www.rotundaprivate.ie or call **01-8742115** for advice and information