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FSC.EMI/46/25
14 April 2025

ENGLISH only

Buantoscaireacht na hÉireann
don Eagraíocht um Shlándáil agus Comhar san Eoraip
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



SH/MILAD/02/2025

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) presents its compliments to the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre and the Delegations of all Participating States and has the honour to submit Ireland's Information Exchange on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as of 15 April 2024.

The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Missions/Delegations of the Participating States to the OSCE and to the CPC the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 14 April 2025



To: The Permanent Missions of all OSCE States,
Director, Conflict Prevention Centre, Vienna

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IRELAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO
Information Exchange on the Code of Conduct On
Politico - Military Aspects of Security

Section I: Inter-State elements

1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

1.1 To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, sub regional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

Ireland is party to the following international agreements/conventions related to terrorism:

- Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts committed on board Aircraft, done at Tokyo on 14 September 1963.
- Convention for the Suppression of the Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, done at The Hague on 16 December 1970.
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, done at Montreal on 23 September 1971.
- International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, done at New York on 14 December 1973.
- European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, done at Strasbourg on 27 January 1977.
- International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, done at New York on 17 December 1979.
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, done at Vienna on 3 March 1980, and [its Amendment](#), ratified by Ireland in 2014.
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, done at Montreal on 24 February 1988.
- Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, done at Rome on 10 March 1988.
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located against the Continental Shelf, done at Rome on 10 March 1988.
- Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, done at Montreal on 1 March 1991.
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, done at New York on 15 December 1997.
- Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, organised crime, trafficking in persons, terrorism and other serious crimes, done at Budapest on 03 November 1999.

- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, done at New York on 9 December 1999.
- Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, organised crime, trafficking in persons, terrorism and other serious crimes, done at Dublin on 31 January 2002.
- Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, organised crime, trafficking in persons, terrorism and other serious crimes, done at Dublin on 08 March 2002.
- Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Romania on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, organised crime, trafficking in persons, terrorism and other serious crimes, done at Dublin on 17 January 2013.

Ireland has signed, but not yet ratified the following:

- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, done on 13 April 2005 and signed by Ireland in New York on 19 September 2005.
- Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, done on 16 May 2005 and signed by Ireland on 03 October 2008 at the Council of Europe.
- Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, done on 15 May 2003 and signed by Ireland on 15 May 2003 at the Council of Europe.
- Agreement between Ireland and Malta on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking, money laundering, organised crime, trafficking in persons, terrorism and other serious crimes, signed by Ireland on 26 February 2009.

1.2 What national legislation has been adopted in your State to implement the above-mentioned agreements and arrangements?

National legislation of relevance includes:

- Offences against the State Acts 1939-1998
- Criminal Law Act 1976
- Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Acts 2005 and 2015
- Interception of Postal Packets and Telecommunications Messages (Regulation) Act 1993
- Criminal Justice (Surveillance) Act 2009
- Communications (Retention of Data) (Amendment) Act 2022
- Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010
- Air Navigation and Transport Act 1973
- Air Navigation and Transport Act 1975 (as amended)

1.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

Ireland has a national police service and security service, An Garda Síochána, and the Defence Forces. There is no paramilitary or other intelligence services in existence within the State outside these two bodies.

It is the role of An Garda Síochána to provide policing and security services in the State. An Garda Síochána's counter terrorism unit is the National Crime & Security Intelligence Service. The role of this section is to identify and analyse the threat to the State from terrorists and organised crime gangs.

Military Intelligence and Specialist Defence Forces units support ongoing policies in the prevention and combating of terrorism. Military Intelligence also provides regular assessments, reports and briefings to the Minister for Defence, the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces and the Department of Defence on any threats to the security of the State and the national interest from internal or external sources.

The Defence Forces are also tasked by the Government with providing Aid to the Civil Power (ATCP) that, in practice, means to assist An Garda Síochána when requested to do so. On a day-to-day basis, the Defence Forces typically provide a range of ATCP supports. The Defence Forces also have a number of specialist explosive ordnance disposal teams on standby on a 24/7 basis to respond to An Garda Síochána requests to make safe and dispose of suspected improvised explosive devices, and to deal with other finds such as conventional munitions. The Defence Forces may also be called upon by An Garda Síochána in relation to criminal activity in the maritime domain. Military Intelligence and Specialist Defence Forces units support ongoing policies in the prevention and combating of terrorism.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) is the authority responsible for cyber security in the State, including incident response, cyber resilience and information provision. The NCSC maintains a significant threat intelligence capability and this is a key tool in the work of the NCSC in mitigating risks to the State and its people from cyber security threats.

The National Security Analysis Centre (NSAC) was established during 2019 by the Department of the Taoiseach. The purpose of the NSAC is to provide comprehensive strategic analysis for the Government on threats to security of the state through co-ordination between the various State bodies with security functions. Personnel from various government departments and agencies are assigned to the Centre.

The National Security Committee meets on a regular basis to ensure that the Taoiseach and Government are kept informed of high-level security and crisis issues and the State's response to them. The National Security Committee is chaired by the Secretary General to the Government and it comprises representatives at the highest level from the Departments of Justice, Defence, Foreign Affairs, the Environment, Climate and Communications and from An Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces

The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) is an office in the Department of Defence. The function of the OEP is to provide guidance and support to government departments and agencies and to coordinate emergency planning arrangements across government. This coordination of strategic emergency management is delivered through the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning, which is chaired by the Minister for Defence. Responsibility for the development of specific emergency plans and response

capabilities remains with the relevant lead Government Departments and agencies. The Strategic Emergency Management (SEM) National Structures and Framework document identifies 50 different emergency/incident types and allocates Lead Government Department responsibilities for each. It provides the basis for the National-level strategic emergency management and the supports required should such emergencies occur where a national-level response is warranted, including security related emergencies. Emergencies should be dealt with locally wherever possible.

The separate Major Emergency Management (MEM) Framework developed in 2006 and currently under review by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, guides the local and regional responses and inputs into the National-level responses, which the SEM addresses through the convening of a National Emergency Coordination Group chaired by the Lead Government Department (LGD) as identified in Annex A of the SEM.

In addition, Ireland has brought in regulations governing critical entities resilience last year to transpose the EU Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive. These regulations aim to increase the resilience of entities that provide essential services to our society and economy against hybrid attacks, natural disasters, terrorist threats and public health emergencies. A key element of the new regulations is the development by the relevant stakeholders of a Critical Entities Resilience strategy which is coordinated by OEP as the National Single Point of Contact for the CER Directive. An objective in this strategy will be the creation of sector specific networks where information and knowledge can be exchanged in a secure manner that would be beneficial for Government, Critical Entities and Regulators. This will assist in the development of further collaborative public and private engagement.

Additionally, the Office of Emergency Planning is responsible for assessing the state of national resilience and civil preparedness under Ireland's new Individually Tailored Partnership Programme with NATO and is the Special Point of Contact for the EU's Critical Entities Resilience Directive.

1.4 Provide any additional relevant information on national efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, e.g., those pertaining *inter alia* to:

Financing of terrorism:

Legislation

The Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) (Amendment) Act 2015 was enacted in June 2015. It further strengthens Ireland's laws to address the international terrorist phenomenon by creating new offences of Public Provocation to commit Terrorist Offences, Recruitment for Terrorism and Training for Terrorism. The *Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010* (the 2010 Act), as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2013, establishes the Minister for Justice as a State Competent Authority for the purposes of securing compliance by certain categories of 'designated persons' with statutory requirements to prevent money laundering or terrorist financing.

The 2010 Act transposed the Third EU Money Laundering Directive (2005/60/EC) and the associated Implementing Directive (2006/70/EC) into Irish law. The 2010 Act contains requirements to identify

customers/beneficial owners, to report suspicious transactions to An Garda Síochána and the Revenue Commissioners, and to have policies and procedures in place to provide to the fullest extent possible for the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Fourth EU Money Laundering Directive (2015/849) was largely transposed by the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Act 2018. The Fourth EU Money Laundering Directive, and its transposing enactment, strengthened EU rules and aligned them with current FATF recommendations. The Directive contains stricter requirements for identifying customers, having business risk assessments, policies and procedures in writing, and requirements concerning transactions with politically exposed persons. The Directive requires designated persons – such as banks – to take a risk-based approach to identifying and monitoring customers and business relationships. This further tightens the laws in place to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.

Two regulations introduced by the Minister for Finance in 2019 are also of note: SI Number 16 of 2019 (European Union (Anti-Money Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Trusts) Regulations 2019) and SI Number 110 of 2019 (European Union (Anti-money Laundering: beneficial Ownership of Corporate Entities) Regulations 2019). These gave effect to Article 30 and Article 31 of the Fourth EU Money Laundering Directive regarding requirements on the beneficial ownership information of companies and trusts, to assist in the prevention of the abuse of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing.

Provision of the Fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive have been transposed through several instruments, including the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Act 2021 and the European Union (Anti-Money Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Trusts) Regulations 2021.

The Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Act 2021 extends Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) obligations to entities that provide certain services relating to virtual assets. The 2021 Act extends the 2010 Act to Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs). For the purposes of the legislation, VASPs are firms that provide any of the following services relating to virtual assets:

- exchange between virtual assets and fiat currencies;
- exchange between one or more forms of virtual assets;
- transfer of virtual assets, that is to say, to conduct a transaction on behalf of another person that moves a virtual asset from one virtual asset address or account to another;
- custodian wallet provider; and
- participation in, and provision of, financial services related to an issuer's offer or sale of a virtual asset or both.

Furthermore, the S.I. 608/2017 transposed the Funds Transfer Regulation (FTR) which introduced a requirement for payment service providers to collect, transmit and review information on senders and recipients when facilitating wire transfers.

The recast of this Regulation was published in June 2023 and extends this requirement to certain crypto-asset service providers¹. These regulations designate a new category of CASPs as obliged entities for AML purposes and the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI) as the competent authority for the State for crypto-asset service providers.

Department of Finance officials are currently working on completing the transposition of the Recast FTR, which is expected to be finalised in the near term primarily through secondary legislation, with elements also enacted through primary legislation.

Elements relating to beneficial ownership have been transposed by way of statutory instrument (SI). SI 233 of 2020 (European Union (Modifications of Statutory Instrument No. 110 of 2019) (Registration of Beneficial Ownership of Certain Financial Vehicles) Regulations 2020) and SI 194 of 2021 (European Union (Anti-Money Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Trusts) Regulations 2021, signed by the Minister for Finance, give effect to the amendments of Article 30 and Article 31 of the Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive which were made by the Fifth Directive regarding requirements on the beneficial ownership information of corporate entities and trusts, to assist in the prevention of the abuse of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing. Access to the corporate registers was subsequently amended by [S.I. No. 308/2023 – the European Union \(Anti - Money Laundering: Beneficial Ownership of Corporate Entities\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2023](#), in order to comply with the Court of Justice of the European Union’s ruling in Joined Cases C-37/20 and C-601/20.

In addition, the Investment Limited Partnerships (Amendment) Act 2020 imposes similar obligations regarding beneficial ownership information on investment limited partnerships and common contractual funds, two vehicles which do not come within the scope of Articles 30 and 31 of the 4th AML Directive.

S.I. No. 46 of 2022 - European Union (Anti-Money Laundering: Central Mechanism for Information on Safe-Deposit Boxes and Bank and Payment Accounts) Regulations 2022 - was signed by the Minister for Finance on 3 February 2022. This transposed Article 32a of the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive (as inserted by Article 1(19) of the 5th Anti-Money Laundering Directive) which requires Member States to put in place centralised automated mechanisms at national level to allow for the identification, within a timely manner, of any individual or legal person holding or controlling a payment account and bank account (identified by IBAN) or safe-deposit box held by a credit institution within a Member State’s jurisdiction. The Regulations place a statutory obligation on the Central Bank of Ireland to establish and maintain the Central Mechanism, with corresponding obligations on institutions within scope to submit data to the Central Bank. Access is then provided to the Financial Intelligence Unit, a part of An Garda Síochána, to search the Central Mechanism. SI 22 of 2023, the European Union (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Use of Financial and Other Information) Regulations 2023 subsequently gave effect to EU Directive 2019/1153 and widened the access to this information to other law enforcement bodies.

A further Criminal Justice Amendment Act is planned and currently under development by officials in the Department of Justice, in consultation with the Department of Finance. This Act will transpose measures

¹ The CASPs introduced by the regulation has incorporated into the AML National Framework through the Criminal Justice (money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010 (Sections 25 and 60) (Prescribed Class and Competent Authority) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No. 724 of 2024).

contained in the EU's Sixth Anti-Money Laundering Directive, most elements of which must be transposed by July 2026 / July 2027, and possibly some elements of the new EU AML Regulation, most of which will apply from July 2027.

FATF (Financial Action Task Force)

Ireland is a member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Ireland's AML/CFT systems were first assessed by the FATF through the mutual evaluation process in 2006. As part of the Fourth Round of Mutual Evaluations, Ireland's AML/CFT systems were again assessed with an on-site assessment in November 2016, a plenary discussion in June 2017 and the publication of the Mutual Evaluation Report in September 2017. (Reports can be found at: <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/mutualevaluations>).

Ireland's first follow up report (FUR) was submitted in October 2018. It detailed the positive progress made by Ireland on all of the Immediate Outcomes and on the Technical Compliance objectives. The report was noted at plenary by FATF. Ireland received a number of upgrades to the Technical Compliance ratings contained in its 2017 MER in June 2019, when its second follow report was approved by the FATF Plenary. These upgrades resulted in Ireland moving from FATF's enhanced follow up reporting group to the regular follow up reporting group, which reflected the positive progress made by Ireland since the 2017 MER. Since then, Ireland has undergone two further FURs. Our third FUR in 2020 detailed further positive progress made by Ireland on both the Immediate Outcomes and on Technical Compliance, and was noted by the FATF Plenary. Our fourth FUR was approved by Plenary in February 2022 which upgraded Ireland on a further Technical Compliance rating. Further to this, a Technical Compliance rating was reassessed in the latter report due to its obligations being amended. In a mark of Ireland's continued progress, our original rating was upheld.

At the October 2022 FATF Plenary it was agreed that Ireland's follow up process was deemed to be concluded. Ireland's framework will next be assessed between 2027-2028, during the FATF's 5th round of mutual evaluations.

Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Steering Committee

The Department of Finance chairs the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Steering Committee (AMLSC). The objective of the AMLSC is to assist its membership of government departments, agencies and, competent authorities in fulfilling their mandates with respect to measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing as provided for by Irish and European legislation and the Recommendations of the FATF.

It includes representatives of the Department of Justice, An Garda Síochána, the Revenue Commissioners, the Central Bank of Ireland, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, the Criminal Assets Bureau, the Companies Registration Office, the Charities Regulatory Authority, and the Director of Public Prosecutions and other government departments. In addition, AMLSC members include the Designated Accountancy Bodies and the Law Society, who act as Self-Regulatory Bodies, and the Legal Services Regulatory Authority. The Private Sector Consultative Forum is also a member of the AMLSC.

Risk assessments

The Department of Finance published its first Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing National Risk Assessment (NRA) in October 2016, in conjunction with the Department of Justice. Sector-specific updates to the NRA have been published in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022. The risk assessments seek to enhance understanding and aid in the development of effective strategies to address identified risks. Our most recent sectorial risk assessment examined the AML/CFT risks, threats, and vulnerabilities of the Trust or Company Service Provider sector, while identifying a number of recommended actions to improve the transparency and effectiveness of supervision of same. The results help to inform policy and operational decisions including the allocation of resources to the areas of highest risk. Since the conclusion of the FATF MER of Ireland in 2017, the AMLSC approved a multi-year implementation plan to address the findings of the MER, which included measures to improve the combatting of Terrorist Financing. The Department of Justice completed a terrorist financing risk assessment in 2024 designed to identify, assess and understand threats from domestic and international terrorism to Ireland's CFT regime.

In preparation for the next Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) in 2027-28, Ireland is conducting its second NRA. This comprehensive assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing risk is focusing on high risk areas of both financial and non-financial sectors of the economy. The NRA will assess potential risks to ensure Ireland's anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism regimes are in place and producing effective outcomes. The Department of Justice published a Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment in March 2025.

Central Bank of Ireland

The Central Bank of Ireland (the "Central Bank") has been the competent authority for the monitoring of credit and financial institutions' compliance with AML/CFT obligations in Ireland since 2010. There are extensive AML/CFT preventive measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing contained in Part 4 of the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010, as amended ("CJA 2010"). Where there are instances of non-compliance with AML/CFT obligations identified by the Central Bank, is empowered to take measures to ensure corrective actions are put in place to ensure compliance. In addition to corrective actions being carried out, the Central Bank may apply administrative sanctions to credit and financial institutions that breach the provisions of the CJA 2010. The Central Bank monitors credit and financial institutions' compliance with regulatory obligations by conducting onsite inspections and conducting desk-based reviews including analyzing information from compliance questionnaire responses received from credit and financial institutions. The Central Bank maintains its own money laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment of the financial sector that informs its supervisory strategy.

The Central Bank has undertaken a number of outreach and awareness building activities in relation to countering the financing of terrorism terrorism and targeted financial sanctions relating to terrorism. At speaking events and training seminars, the Central Bank stresses the distinction between money laundering and terrorist financing to ensure that credit and financial institutions are aware of the different approaches that are needed to be taken to identify terrorist financing when applying preventive measures. The Central Bank has enhanced its communications around terrorist financing by publishing FAQs and additional

information on terrorist financing and targeted financial sanctions relating to terrorism on the Central Bank website. Additionally, the Central Bank's website is updated with all relevant EU restrictive measures and UN Security Council resolutions on the Financial Sanctions updates page as they are adopted. Please see link below:

<https://www.centralbank.ie/regulation/how-we-regulate/international-financial-sanctions/financial-sanctions-updates>

A terrorist financing explained webpage has been published by the Central Bank that provides information as to what constitutes terrorist financing and sets out measures to combat it. Please see link below:

<https://www.centralbank.ie/regulation/anti-money-laundering-and-countering-the-financing-of-terrorism/countering-the-financing-of-terrorism>

In addition, the Central Bank issued AML/CFT Guidance for the financial sector in September 2019, which contained a chapter on Financial Sanctions. This Guidance was updated in June 2021, to take account of the transposition of 5AMLD into national law and the corresponding regulatory developments in respect of Virtual Asset Service Providers ("VASPs"). Please see link below:

[Central Bank of Ireland AML/CFT Guidelines for the Financial Sector \(revised 23 June 2021\)](#)

The Central Bank is also actively engaged in national and international policy discussions concerning terrorist financing and targeted financial sanctions relating to terrorism. The Central Bank participates as a member of the national AML and Sanctions steering committees. It is a member of the Cross Departmental International Sanctions Committee ("CDISC") and a member of the CDISC Circumvention Taskforce. The Central Bank is a member of the European Banking Authority's ("EBA's") AML Standing Committee responsible for money laundering and terrorist financing supervisory and preventive measures across the EU. The Central Bank has previously provided representatives to a number of EBA working groups, including the working group on the Joint Opinion on the Risks of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Affecting the Unions Financial Sector, the working group on the draft Regulatory Technical Standards on Central Contact Points, the Risk Factor Guidelines working group, and the Risk Based approach to Supervision working group. It has also provided technical assistance to the working group on the EU's supranational risk assessment. On 12 March 2024, the European Commission issued a Call for Advice to the EBA requesting the EBA to provide assistance in preparing various priority RTSs and Guidelines referred to in the EU's AML/CFT Package. The deadline for responding to the Call for Advice is 31 October 2025. The Call for Advice identifies a number of priority mandates under the EU AML/CFT Package. Central Bank of Ireland staff are actively involved in each of the EBA Working Groups set-up to draft the response to the Call for Advice. The Central Bank is an active participant as part of the Irish delegation at the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF") and has inputted into terrorist financing- related policy developments. The Central Bank also continues to provide technical input into EU and FATF questionnaires on CFT preventive measures carried out in Ireland.

[Department of Justice](#)

The Department of Justice is the State Competent Authority for AML/CTF measures in the non-financial sector. The Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Unit in the Department of Justice is charged with monitoring AML/CTF compliance in a range of entities including Trust or Company Service Providers (TCSPs); High Value Goods Dealers (HVGDs) e.g. motor industry, jewellers, etc.; Private Members' Clubs (PMCs); Tax Advisers and external Accountants. Compliance is monitored in these sectors by way of both desktop examinations and on-site inspections. Inspections also serve as a useful mechanism to raise awareness among entities of their obligations under the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010 (as amended). The AMLCU has its own dedicated website which sets out in a user-friendly manner the obligations of the different sectors; their authorization/registration requirements, where relevant; guides on the obligations of the various entities under legislation; information on risk; etc.

The Department of Justice through the Anti-Money Laundering/Counter Terrorist Financing (AML/CTF) Policy Co-ordination Unit is actively engaged along with representatives from Law Enforcement (FIU, CAB and An Garda Síochána) in the Anti-Money Laundering Steering Group chaired by the Department of Finance. All these organisations make significant contributions to the development of policy in this area and are actively involved in the on-going evaluation of Ireland by the FATF. An Garda Síochána are also involved at a European level in various groups e.g. EGMONT on issues relating to both money laundering and terrorist financing.

Other competent authorities designated under the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010 are the Law Society of Ireland in respect of solicitors; designated Accountancy Bodies in respect of accountants, auditors and tax advisors, the Legal Services Regulatory Authority and the Property Service Regulatory Authority (PRSA) in respect of the real estate sector.

Border controls:

Immigration Officers appointed under section 3 of the Immigration Act 2003 may be civilian staff of the Department of Justice or members of An Garda Síochána. A person may be refused permission to enter the State in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Act 2004, which includes a provision for circumstances where an immigration officer is satisfied that the non-national's entry into, or presence in, the State could pose a threat to national security or be contrary to public policy.

The exchange of adverse immigration data between Ireland and the UK supports the administration and enforcement of the respective immigration systems, in the context of the protection of the Common Travel Area.

In April 2016, the Council and European Parliament adopted a Directive on the use of Passenger Name Record (PNR) for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime. Under it, each Member State is required to set up a Passenger Information Unit (PIU) with the resources necessary for it to fulfil its functions. The Irish PIU was transposed into Irish law on 25 May 2018 by the Department of Justice, and the Irish Passenger Information Unit (IPIU) formally established from that date to process both PNR and API data from air carriers. Currently legislation only allows for this information to be collected on extra EU flights.

The IPIU is a unit of the Department of Justice Criminal Governance Division which processes Passenger Name Record (PNR) data transmitted by carriers to the IPIU to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences and serious crime. Advance Passenger Information (API) data, which is primarily for border management purposes and for countering illegal immigration, is transmitted by IPIU to border management functions.

Travel document security:

Container and supply chain security:

The Department of Transport represents Ireland as a Contracting State (ICAO) and as a Member State (EC) at ICAO and European level for the purposes of civil aviation security matters. The Department implements the Contracting/Member State functions specified in ICAO Annex 17 and European regulation as set out in EC Regulation 300/2008 as follows:

- Director General of Civil Aviation;
- Chair of the National Civil Aviation Security Committee (NCASC); and
- Approval of the National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP).

The role of the NCASC is to advise the Government and the civil aviation industry on security policy for civil aviation, to recommend and review the effectiveness of security measures and to provide for co-ordination of the various interests involved.

The NCASP specifies responsibilities for threat and risk assessment. Threat assessment is the responsibility of An Garda Síochána as the national competent authority. The body responsible for conducting a national risk assessment for civil aviation is the National Civil Aviation Security Committee Threats Risks and Vulnerabilities Working Group (TRVWG). The Department regularly attends European Commission meetings in respect of the Integrated Risk Assessment Group with fellow Member States. The meetings discuss conflict zones with key inputs from intelligence services and EASA.

The Department, through the Director General for Civil Aviation is also active in ECAC which is a grouping of 44 states and is an intergovernmental organization to harmonise civil aviation policies and practices amongst its Member States and to promote understanding on policy matters between its Member States and other parts of the world. Ireland through its appropriate authority, the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) chairs the Security Forum between 2024-2026.

ICAO Annex 17, Article 3.1.2 states that *"Each Contracting State shall designate and specify to ICAO an appropriate authority within its administration to be responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of the national civil aviation security programme."* EC Regulation 300/2008, Article 9 states that *"Where, within a single Member State, two or more bodies are involved in civil aviation security, that Member State shall designate a single authority (hereinafter referred to as the appropriate authority) to be responsible for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the common basic standards referred to in Article 4."*

In compliance with these legal requirements, the Department of Transport has designated the IAA as the Appropriate Authority for the purposes of ICAO Annex 17 by means of the Air Navigation and Transport

Act 2022 (Schedule 1) and, for the purposes of EC Regulation 300/2008 by means of S.I. 226 of 2003 (as amended). Aviation security is highly regulated at international, European and national levels and all regulated entities, including airport operators, are required to comply with rigorous standards and are subject to national and international oversight. The IAA oversee industry compliance and implement its responsibilities as Appropriate Authority as set out below:

- Airport, air carrier and entity security programme approvals;
- Certification of certain aviation security personnel;
- Compliance monitoring of NCASP implementation; and
- Development, industry consultation and recommendation of the NCASP for approval.

Air cargo is highly regulated internationally and compliance is overseen by the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) in Ireland. Airport operators, air carriers and their nominated handling agents, regulated agents, known consignors and approved hauliers have responsibility for ensuring that the appropriate controls are implemented for cargo before being loaded on aircraft. The IAA ensures that those organisations regulated have approved security programmes detailing the measures by which compliance with aviation security cargo regulation is achieved through the secure supply chain (from point of origin to aircraft loading). The security programmes also provide for measures to be implemented in the event an item of cargo is designated as high risk cargo and mail (HRCM) should there be any suspicion of tampering with the cargo and in which case it is subject to additional scrutiny before loading.

For cargo which is arriving from outside the union there is a process involving Customs and Excise and law enforcement agencies, 'Pre-Loading Advance Cargo Information' or 'PLACI', which is the process of first risk analysis for aviation security purposes of cargo to be brought into the customs territory of the Union. This process sets out the procedures to be followed by Customs and Excise and relevant law enforcement agencies following the initial risk assessment of all cargo. The European Union also utilises a database for cargo which originates from certain other countries to ensure a standard of security where there is no other evidence known as ACC3. This cargo which may be transferring, transiting or unloading at any airport operating into the Union from a third country airport is required to have this designation and is also subject to IAA approval.

In Ireland, Revenue authorities play a critical role in supply chain security by ensuring the safe and legal movement of goods across borders. Revenue monitor imports and exports for compliance with national and EU regulations and make use risk assessment systems, scanning technologies and data analytics to flag high-risk shipments that may involve smuggling, counterfeit goods, or other financial or security threats. As part of this process, Revenue carry out documentary examinations and also physical examinations where required and work closely with other law enforcement / regulatory agencies in Ireland and at EU level to coordinate risk mitigation and actions against organised criminal gangs and other threats to Ireland's security. Revenue continually monitors trends and developments with a view to enhancing our detection capabilities, strengthening Ireland's position in the global supply chain, and contributing to broader EU efforts to secure external borders. Revenue's ongoing commitment to innovation, training, and collaboration, ensures that Ireland remains resilient against threats to its economic integrity and national security.

Security of radioactive sources:

Ireland is a member of the recently established EU CBRN Security Advisory Group. The Advisory Group's work will include reviewing and analysing evolving threats and risks; identifying gaps in prevention, detection, preparedness and response measures; advising on policy development; and mapping existing areas of expertise.

It should be noted that the generation of electricity through nuclear power and the building of relevant infrastructure needed are prohibited in Irish law, therefore there are no nuclear reactors, no spent nuclear fuel, no fuel fabrication or fuel storage/reprocessing facilities and no uranium mining or milling. There is also no trans-boundary movement of spent nuclear fuel from other countries across Ireland's territory, nor through its territorial waters. Ireland also has no civilian research reactors (including those for production of isotope sources, any requirements for which are met by importing sources in a readymade form). Furthermore Ireland does not have any sources equivalent to Threat Categories I or II as defined for the purposes of IAEA Safety Requirements GS-R-7.

However, like all modern societies, Ireland uses radioactive materials in the form of sealed and unsealed sources in support of its high technology industries and its medical and other societal infrastructure.

Ireland has a well-developed infrastructure to control and monitor these materials and to provide the necessary protection of the public and workers health. This is exercised through Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is the national competent authority and regulatory body for regulating practices involving the use of radioactive sources or equipment such as X-ray, which produces ionising radiation.

Practices involving radioactive sources, save those which meet the criteria for exemption specified in the relevant regulations², require an authorisation from the EPA. Ireland follows a "cradle to grave" all sealed sources principle, which is underpinned by an authorisation system and take-back arrangements with the original overseas supplier of the sources, that provides for the repatriation of discussed sealed sources from authorised practices. The EPA was granted enhanced powers under the Ionising Radiation Regulations 2019 framework to enforce compliance with legislative and licensing requirements for the safe management of waste and disused sources.

From the source's first entry into the licensing system, its history is tracked from the authorisation to acquire the source, through information on any transfers between licensees to the return of the source to the supplier through the mandatory take-back agreement. The database includes information detailing the radionuclide type, activity, number of sources and location. Licensees are required to advise the EPA of any changes relating to any of the items for which they are licensed through the License and Enforcement Access Portal (LEAP). Information held on the EPA's database is routinely audited by EPA inspectors during inspections of these licensees.

² The regulation by the EPA of practices involving ionising radiation and radioactive materials in Ireland is provided for in Ireland's Radiological Protection Act, 1991 (Ionising Radiation) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 30 of 2019) which transposes EU Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013.

Using the licence records, the EPA is able to give a breakdown of the total number of sources that are disused and in safe storage (under the relevant licence conditions) and their locations.

Ireland's inventory of legacy disused sources comprises very low level, IAEA Category 5 sources (14 disused sources, April 2025), mainly containing Ra-226. These sources include lightning preventors in situ, compass and watch parts.

The EPA is also a competent authority under the European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange (ECURIE) platform along with the IAEA's Unified System for Information Exchange in Incidents and Emergencies (USIE) and the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database (ITB) and would report any lost or stolen sources through these mechanisms where necessary.

Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes:

The Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) (Amendment) Act 2015 specifically provides that a terrorist-linked activity (as defined in the 2005 Act, as amended) may be committed wholly or partially by electronic means, such as over the Internet. This provision, which was inserted following consultation with the Irish Director of Public Prosecutions, is essentially for the avoidance of any legal doubt in this regard and reflects the prevalent use of modern technology in the context of terrorist activity.

The Criminal Justice (Offences Relating to Information Systems) Act 2017 commenced in June 2017. This legislation gives effect to the Directive 2013/40/EU on attacks against information systems. It provides for five new cybercrime offenses:

- Accessing an information system without lawful authority;
- Interfering with an information system without lawful authority so as to intentionally hinder or interrupt its functioning;
- Interfering with data without lawful authority;
- Intercepting the transmission of data without lawful authority; and
- Use of a computer, password, code or data for the purpose of the commission of any of the above offenses.

Ireland's second National Cyber Security Strategy was published in December 2019. The aims of the strategy area as follows:

- The protection of the State, its people, and its critical national infrastructure from cybersecurity threats.
- Engagement with citizens and business to promote cybersecurity resilience
- Strategic engagement by the State, nationally and internationally, to support a free, open, peaceful and secure cyber space.

Work has begun on Ireland's third strategy, the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2025-2030. It will give rise to a series of measures to build cyber security capability in the State, including in research, development, skills and training. It will also set out the commitment in the Programme for Government 2025 to build a centre of excellence for cyber security in the State.

Ireland's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), encompasses the Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT-IE) which focuses on the protection of critical national information infrastructure in key sectors.

The EU Directive on the Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS Directive) was transposed into Irish Law in September 2018. This is the first EU wide cybersecurity law, designed to build resilience by improving national cybersecurity capabilities and fostering cooperation between Member States. Ireland is currently transposing the NIS2 Directive via the National Cyber Security Bill. It will include measures to ensure providers of critical services are protected against cyber security incident, and also provide the NCSC with additional powers and responsibilities to monitor, detect and respond to cyber security incidents in the State.

Ireland participates in the EU PREVENT Cooperation Mechanism/ EU Knowledge Hub for the prevention of radicalisation, both online and offline. This mechanism, comprised of policy officials from EU Member States and the European Commission oversees and guides the work of two EU-funded expert networks comprising 5000 expert/practitioner members from Ireland and across Europe.

Ireland supports the EU Internet Forum initiative and its focus on continued partnership with industry as an effective way to improve content management, detection and removal of terrorist content.

The Terrorist Content Online Regulation (TCOR) provides an EU wide mechanism for the speedy removal of terrorist content online. The Regulation establishes a framework that empowers designated authorities to issue removal orders obliging hosting service providers to remove online terrorist content. Ireland has transposed the majority of the Terrorist Content Online Regulation, full transposition is a priority.

With regard to restricting the availability of terrorist content online, An Garda Síochána co-operates with Europol's Internet Referral Unit and feeds into its processes as needed. Work is currently ongoing in An Garda Síochána to upscale their capacities in respect of this function, in conjunction with increased capacity in respect of the use of open source intelligence and other cyber resources.

An Garda Síochána can request that an online service provider hosting the terrorist content voluntarily remove it. This approach is carried out via a non-statutory internet referral mechanism, issued in cooperation with Europol's Internet Referral Unit. If circumstances demand it, such as when a voluntary referral has been ineffective or there is a need to maintain investigative secrecy, AGS can issue a legally binding Removal Order under the EU Terrorist Content Online Regulation, as the competent authority empowered to do so in Ireland. When in receipt of a Removal Order, hosting service providers are required to remove terrorist content within an hour of receiving that Removal Order.

Legal co-operation including extradition:

In Ireland, the Criminal Justice (Mutual Assistance) Act 2008 (the "2008 Act") gives effect to certain international instruments that provide the legal basis for the provision of mutual legal assistance between Ireland and other states in criminal matters. The assistance that may be provided under the 2008 Act includes the obtaining of evidence and the freezing, confiscation and forfeiture of property. The international instruments and bilateral agreements on foot of which such assistance may be provided are set

out in the Schedules to the 2008 Act. Notwithstanding that Ireland has not opted into Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (the "EPPO"), the 2008 Act also provides a mechanism to enable Ireland's unilateral cooperation with EPPO.

The procedures for extradition in Ireland are, for the most, part governed by the Extradition Act, 1965. This Act provides, *inter alia*, for Irish extradition arrangements on foot of obligations under the European Convention on Extradition 1957. Ireland also has a party to various international instruments providing for extradition and has also entered into a number of bilateral extradition agreements with Australia, the United States and Hong Kong.

Surrender between the Member States of the European Union is governed by Council Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA of 13 June 2002 on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States. The Framework Decision is implemented in Ireland by the European Arrest Warrant Act 2003, which came into effect on 1 January 2004. The 2003 Act also governs surrender arrangements with Iceland and Norway by virtue of the 2006 EU-Iceland Norway Agreement, and with the United Kingdom by virtue of the 2020 EU-EK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

In Ireland, the Criminal Justice (Joint Investigation Teams) Act 2004 provides for the measures necessary to give effect to the EU Council Decision on 13 June 2002 of the Council of the European Union on Joint Investigation Teams. JITs are now an established efficient and effective cooperation tool amongst national investigative agencies when tackling cross-border crime and facilitate the coordination of investigations and prosecutions conducted in parallel across several States. The Criminal Justice (International Cooperation) Act 2019, made further provision in this regard to better facilitate the participation of members of the Irish police force, An Garda Síochána, in joint investigation teams.

Safe havens and shelter to terrorists and terrorist organizations:

Ireland is a Member State of the European Union (EU). Following the terrorist attacks in Madrid on 11 March 2004, the EU accelerated its work on combating terrorism and adopted the European Council declaration on Combating Terrorism and a revised EU Plan of action on combating terrorism. Immediately following on the terrorist attacks in London in July 2005, the EU adopted a series of new measures to further accelerate its work on combating terrorism.

Directive 2013/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 August 2013 on attacks against information systems and replacing Council Framework Decision 2005/222/JHA, which is binding on Ireland, was adopted in August 2013.

The objectives of this Directive are to approximate the criminal law of the Member States in the area of attacks against information systems by establishing minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and the relevant sanctions and to improve cooperation between competent authorities, including the police and other specialised law enforcement services of the Member States, as well as the competent specialised Union agencies and bodies, such as Eurojust, Europol and its European Cyber Crime Centre, and the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). The national legislation to give effect to the directive in Irish law is in preparation.

Ireland participates closely in EU-led Counter-Terrorism work, including participation at relevant working parties. Ireland has also been closely engaged in work ongoing to prepare a new EU Internal Security Strategy.

2. Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory

2.1 Provide information on stationing of your State's armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law.

The Constitution of Ireland vests the right to raise and maintain military or armed forces exclusively in the Oireachtas and expressly prohibits the raising and maintenance of any other military or armed force for any purpose whatsoever. In the context of broadening and deepening international cooperation, Ireland regularly deploys contingents of the Defence Forces abroad to participate in the full range of UN and UN Mandated Peace Operations conducted by regional actors such as NATO and the EU. Ireland fully participates in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), including deployments to civilian and military CSDP missions and operations, participation in the EU Battle Groups and deployments to associated operational and mission headquarters. As a NATO partner, Ireland also participates in a range of activities under the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) umbrella and engages with other partners on an ad hoc bilateral basis in line with Government policy. Participation in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, the European Defence Agency (EDA), and NATO PfP (Partnership for Peace) is consistent with Ireland's core values and is considered essential to the continued development of Ireland's ability to participate in a full range of crisis management operations as well as to the Defence Forces and the wider defence capability development, modernisation, and transformation processes.

Defence legislation provides for such deployments. Any stationing of Defence Forces personnel on the territory of another participating State will continue to be in accordance with relevant legislation, which contains the requirement for Government, Dáil Éireann (Parliament), and UN approval, if the number of Defence Forces personnel to be deployed exceeds twelve (12). This process is known as the "triple lock". The current Programme for Government contains a commitment to reform the Triple Lock legislation whilst also ensuring that amendments to the legislation are in keeping with our values and policy of active military neutrality.

In addition to a Military Defence Force (Óglaigh na hÉireann), Ireland has a national police service and security service (An Garda Síochána). An Garda Síochána is established by legislation and its internal management is subject to regulations made by the Minister for Justice. The Garda Commissioner is financially accountable to the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament for the expenditure of State monies on An Garda Síochána. The powers of An Garda Síochána are set out in statute.

The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 came into operation on 2nd April 2025

The Act replaces and repeals the Garda Síochána Act, 2005. This Act was developed to underpin the important recommendations made by the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland in its 2018 Report. It provides an extensive new framework for policing and community safety aimed at improving

the performance and accountability of An Garda Síochána and ultimately supports their vital work to keep Ireland safe.

This report was a comprehensive examination of all aspects of policing including all functions carried out by An Garda Síochána and the totality of the policing oversight, governance and accountability arrangements.

The 2024 Act:

- makes community safety a whole of government and multi-agency responsibility;
- strengthens and consolidates independent, external oversight of An Garda Síochána;
- enhances the internal governance of An Garda Síochána; and
- strengthens independent review of security legislation and the delivery of security services.

The Act establishes the following new bodies:

- The Garda Board;
- The Policing and Community Safety Authority (replacing the existing Policing Authority and Garda Síochána Inspectorate);
- Fiosrú – the Office of the Police Ombudsman;
- The Office of the Independent Examiner of Security Legislation; and
- The National Office for Community Safety.

The authority to prosecute a person for a criminal offence rests with an independent officer, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Ireland has no paramilitary force.

The function of An Garda Síochána, as outlined in legislation is to provide policing services and security services, including vetting, for the State with the objective of—

- (a) preserving peace and public order,
- (b) protecting life and property,
- (c) protecting and vindicating the human rights of each individual,
- (d) protecting the security of the State,
- (e) preventing crime,
- (f) preventing harm to individuals, in particular individuals who are vulnerable or at risk,

- (g) bringing criminals to justice, including by detecting and investigating crime,
- (h) protecting and supporting victims of crime, and
- (i) regulating and controlling road traffic and improving road safety.

3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct

3.1 Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith.

Ireland is committed to working to achieve a more peaceful, secure and prosperous world. We recognise that the spread of weapons of all kinds, fuels conflict, contributes to human rights abuses, and hinders development. Ireland is party to all relevant international agreements that seek to eliminate certain categories of weapons, or ensure that their spread and use is controlled, and Ireland continues to play a leading role in efforts to promote disarmament, non-proliferation and the regulation of new weapons. Ireland actively participates in diplomatic meetings of States parties on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and submits annual reports to the relevant bodies. Ireland actively promotes and pursues disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, including as part of an integrated approach to conflict management, human rights and sustainable development; striving for synergies with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Women Peace and Security Agenda, and the United Nations Secretary-General's Agenda for disarmament and Pact for the Future, among other frameworks.

Disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons have historically been key foreign policy objectives for Ireland. Ireland has remained a steadfast and strong voice in support of the universalisation and full implementation of the NPT, including the implementation of commitments undertaken by NPT States Parties in Review Conferences. Ireland actively engaged in the second Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference in August 2024.

In 2016, Ireland was one of the lead sponsors of a Resolution at the United Nations, which led to the negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The adoption of the TPNW in 2017 was an important step towards the fulfilment of the nuclear disarmament commitments outlined in the NPT. Ireland ratified the Treaty in August 2020 and the Treaty entered into force in January 2021. The Treaty currently has 73 States Parties and 94 signatories. Ireland was actively engaged in the first Meeting of States Parties of the TPNW, in 2022, which concluded with the adoption of an Action Plan and the Vienna Declaration. Similarly, Ireland was actively engaged in the second Meeting of States Parties in UN Headquarters in New York in late 2023 which culminated in a joint declaration challenging long-held assumptions of nuclear deterrence theory and affirming the security risk it poses. The third Meeting of States Parties is due to take place in New York in March 2025.

At the United Nations General Assembly First Committee in October 2024, Ireland and New Zealand introduced a resolution on nuclear war effects and scientific research. The resolution establishes a panel of 21 scientific experts, to be appointed by the UN Secretary-General following nominations from Member

States and a public call for candidates, to conduct a new UN General Assembly mandated study on the potential effects of nuclear war. The panel will sit for the first time in the summer of 2025.

The harm arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA) has been an increasingly prominent issue in Humanitarian, Disarmament and Protection of Civilians discussions in recent years. In line with Ireland's longstanding commitment to multilateral disarmament, in 2019, Ireland announced that we would act as a Champion for the call by the UN Secretary-General in his Agenda for Disarmament, to move forward international efforts to develop a political declaration on EWIPA. Ireland subsequently chaired 2 years of consultations on a Political Declaration on the use of EWIPA, with the broad participation of UN Member States, International Organisations, and civil society. The purpose of the Political Declaration is to improve the protection of civilians during armed conflict, and lead to operational changes in policy and practice among states. In November 2022, we hosted a Ministerial Conference in Dublin at which 83 States endorsed the Political Declaration on Political Declaration on the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas – committing to improve the protection of civilians in urban warfare, save lives and reduce humanitarian need. A Norway-led Oslo 2024 international follow-up conference took place on 23 April 2024. The next EWIPA Conference is due to take place in San Jose, Costa Rica in November 2025.

We continue to support the EWIPA process through our participation in the EWIPA troika of previous, current and future lead states, and the issue of EWIPA has remained at the forefront for us with Ireland leading on Universalisation efforts to encourage further endorsements of the Political Declaration. This includes an Ireland-funded, UNODA administered EWIPA regional workshop took place in Togo in January 2024 and similar, future workshop plans. The Declaration now has endorsement from **88 states** with Thailand being the latest to join.

Ireland has been actively engaged in the area of legal and political, international diplomatic efforts that have emerged in recent years to counter the marked increase in the use of chemical weapons. Ireland actively contributed to the UN Security Council's standing agenda item on Syria Chemical Weapons throughout our term on the Security Council. We proactively advocated for the elimination of chemical weapons and to ensure accountability for those who would acquire or use these illegal and abhorrent weapons, through our role on the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) Executive Council (which concluded in May 2024) and through our engagement at the May 2023 Chemical Weapons Convention Review Conference. We have previously provided contributions to the OPCW's Trust Fund for Syria Missions, and in 2023 we contributed to OPCW assistance and protection activities to enhance chemical emergency response capabilities in Ukraine. The contribution enabled the OPCW to supply Ukrainian first responders with FirstDefender RM Chemical Identification System devices, which allow swift and precise identification of chemicals, explosives, and hazardous materials.

Ireland also remains strongly engaged with the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and continues to support civil society engagement in this space. In December 2024, Ireland was an active participant at the newly formed Working Group (established at the Ninth Review Review Conference in December 2022) and Meeting of States Parties, which had a renewed focus on the topics of compliance and verification and confidence-building measures, seeking to defend and strengthen the prohibition against biological and toxin weapons.

In the arms control space, Ireland is an active supporter of efforts towards the universalisation and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which promotes robust and legally binding, common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms, taking full account of human rights obligations and international humanitarian law. The ATT was the first international treaty to formally recognise the link between armed conflict and gender-based violence (GBV) through its GBV risk assessment provision. Ireland advocated strongly in favour of this provision during the ATT negotiations, and remains a champion towards realising its implementation, including by supporting civil society engagement on this issue on the ATT framework.

Ireland has also demonstrated its commitment to arms control through its continual work on instruments governing the use, stockpiling and trade of conventional arms. In recent years, we have taken efforts to improve recognition of the serious challenges posed by the illicit trade in both SALW and their ammunition. Ireland actively engaged in the Open Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition and subsequently co-sponsored a First Committee Resolution calling for the establishment of a Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management — a voluntary cooperative framework with political commitments to strengthen existing initiatives and address gaps on the issue. Ireland is also actively engaged with the United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (UNPoA) participated in the Fourth Review Conference on the UNPoA in June 2024. We also continue to call for greater alignment between the UNPoA, the ATT and other relevant initiatives.

Ireland plays an active role across the disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control framework, including on new and emerging issues and challenges to indivisible security. Ireland works with likeminded European and other partners on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) in the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), Irelandn, co-sponsored the first-ever resolution on autonomous weapons systems in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in October 2023 and the follow up resolution in 2024., Ireland endorsed US-led Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy in November 2023, and attended the first plenary meeting in March 2024.

Furthermore, Ireland strongly supports the multilateral export control framework and the vital role of export controls in mitigating proliferation risks. Ireland is actively engaged in multilateral export control regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), and the Zangger Committee.

Alongside our engagement in longstanding disarmament and arms controls processes, Ireland is also engaging proactively in emerging arms dialogues – including on space via our participation in the Open Ended Working Groups on Preventing an Arms Race in Outer Space.

3.2 Provide information on how your State pursues arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures with a view to enhancing security and stability in the OSCE area.

Ireland supports, and is an active participant in the development of the European Union's policies in this field. The Irish delegation to the OSCE is actively engaged in the various negotiating forums relating to arms control within the OSCE framework. Ireland continues to support destruction of anti-personnel

mines and other munitions of war in the OSCE area, and is working actively to promote universalisation and full implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, including in the area of clearance.

Section II: Intra-State elements

1. National planning and decision-making process

1.1 What is the national planning and decision-making process in determining/approving military posture and defence expenditures in your State?

As part of the recommendations of the Commission on the Defence Forces (CoDF), the government of Ireland has agreed to review the High-Level Command and Control of the Defence Forces. This process is currently on-going.

The Constitution of Ireland provides that the right to raise and maintain military or armed forces is vested exclusively in the Oireachtas (both upper and lower Houses of Parliament). It also specifically prohibits the raising of any military forces other than those raised by the Oireachtas.

The Defence Act 1954-2015 expressly gives authorisation to the Government to raise, train, equip, arm, pay and maintain defence Forces. The military command of, and all executive and administrative powers in relation, to the Defence Forces are exercisable by Government, through and by the Minister for Defence. The Defence Act also makes provision for the delegation of command and authority by the Minister for Defence to officers of the Defence Forces.

The Department of Defence was established by the Ministers and Secretaries act, 1924 and the Act assigns to the Department “the administration and business of the raising, training, organisation, maintenance, equipment, management, discipline, regulation and control according to law of the military defence forces”. The Act provides that the Minister is “Head” of the Department. The Minister is assisted in discharging his functions by the civil and military elements of the Department. The Secretary General is the “principal officer” of the Department and is also appointed by the Minister for Finance as the Accounting Officer for all defence expenditure in accordance with the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866. The authority, responsibility and accountability of the Secretary General are further elaborated in the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Public Service Management Act, 1997. The 1997 Act also requires the Secretary General to prepare a Strategy Statement for the Minister’s approval and an Annual Report on performance.

Public funds for defence purposes are provided through funds voted by the Dáil (Parliament) in the Defence Vote. Estimates for public service expenditure, which includes the Vote for Defence, are published annually by the Government Publications Office. In addition, the Secretary General of the Department of Defence is financially accountable to the Committee of Public Accounts of the Parliament for the expenditure from the Defence Vote of public monies on the Defence Forces.

The Defence Acts 1954-2015 provide for the regulation of the Defence Forces. It provides that “it shall be lawful for the Government to raise, train, equip, arm, pay and maintain ‘Defence Forces to be called and known as Óglaigh na hÉireann or (in English) the Defence Forces”. This Legislation further provides that “under the direction of the President, and subject to the provisions of this act, the military command of, and all executive and administrative powers in relation to, Defence Forces, including the power to delegate

command and authority, shall be exercisable by the Government, and, subject to such exceptions and limitations as the Government may from time to time determine, through and by the Minister” (the Minister referred to is the Minister for Defence).

The Act also provides for delegation by the Minister of military command to General Officers Commanding the Brigades, the Defence Forces Training Centre, the Air Corps and the Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service. In practice, matters relating to command are normally channeled through the Chief of Staff. In effect, this means that day-to-day operational control of the Defence Forces rests with the Chief of Staff for which he is directly responsible to the Minister. The Commission on the Defence Forces made a number of recommendations around high-level structures within the Defence Forces, including military command being delegated from the Minister to a Chief of Defence. A Memorandum for Government on Command and Control arrangements was approved in May 2023 approving further work, which continued throughout 2024. In June 2024, a further Memorandum for Government was approved in relation to drafting of a General Scheme of a Bill to make appropriate statutory amendments. This ongoing work is significant, complex and sensitive, involving a fundamental review of the current regulatory framework governing the relationship between the Minister for Defence, the Defence Forces and the Department of Defence. The work requires a radical re-design of structures to ensure that the Department of Defence can continue to carry out its role effectively in providing civilian oversight of the Defence Forces on behalf of the Minister for Defence and Government. The delegation of unitary military command will also give rise to a radical re-design of structures within the Defence Forces to underpin the new arrangements. This work is ongoing - with the intention to have heads of a bill presented to the Government by Q2 this year.

The Defence Forces is organised on conventional military lines providing a sufficiently flexible structure to carry out all the roles assigned by Government. As part of the on-going transformation of the Defence Forces, agreed by government following the CoDF, Ireland is currently examining the force structures and postures of its Land, Air and Maritime Components, as well as its Strategic Headquarters. This body of work will lead to a design of Ireland’s military forces by 2028. The Defence Forces consists of a Permanent Defence Force (PDF) and a Reserve Defence Force (RDF). The former is a standing force and provides the primary capabilities for military operations at home and military peace support operations abroad. The Permanent Defence Force consists of the Army, the Air Corps and the Naval Service. The approved Permanent Defence Forces establishment is approximately 9,600. The Irish Government has committed to increasing the strength of the Permanent Defence Force to 11,500 by 2028. The RDF consists of the First Line Reserve (FLR), Army Reserve (AR) and Naval Service Reserve (NSR). The FLR consists of former trained members of the PDF who are available at short notice to supplement the PDF in times of emergency. The approved establishment of the AR is 3,869 and the NSR is 200. There is no fixed establishment for the FLR.

Following the establishment of the Office of Reserve Affairs (ORA) in 2023, in line with a recommendation from the Report of the Commission on the Defence Forces (CODF) the Director of ORA, at the rank of Colonel, advised that a key priority was the development of a RDF Regeneration Plan, which was subsequently published in July 2024. The implementation of this Plan sets out 27 actions under 4 operational objectives to revitalise the RDF. These objectives are:

- Recruit and Retain Reservists
- Resource the RDF
- Train and Educate Reservists
- Integrate and Deploy the RDF

Within the first objective is the aim of maintaining a robust and dynamic induction process with the purpose of achieving an effective strength of 80% by 2028. A number of initiatives are already underway to achieve this and positive gains were achieved in 2024 with the induction of 268 members, an increase in excess of 300% over the 66 members inducted in 2023.

This operational objective lends itself to the CoDF recommendations relating to the structure and strength of the RDF, such as increasing the future RDF establishment strength to include at a minimum, an Air Force Reserve of 200, and a Navy Reserve of 400.

1.2 How does your State ensure that its military capabilities take into account the legitimate security concerns of other States as well as the need to contribute to international security and stability?

The Defence Policy Review 2024 – “Adjusting and affirming our Defence policy in an era of change” sets out Government policy on Defence and recognises that the maintenance and development of military capability requires a broad range of actions within the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces. These actions include, but are not limited to; investment in new equipment, education and training, maintenance and development of infrastructure, ongoing review of military doctrine, the development of appropriate HR policies and the development of regulatory frameworks. In broad terms, the Defence Policy Review provides that the Defence Forces will continue to retain a range of flexible conventional military capabilities, including Special Operations Forces (SOF), in order to meet the roles assigned and as a hedge to future uncertainty.

A key recommendation made by the Commission on the Defence Forces called for the establishment of a top-down capability development planning process through the creation of a new permanent civil-military structure. A Capability Development Unit was established in 2023 in response to that recommendation. This Unit has developed a Capability Development Planning Process (CDPP) which is in the early stages of implementation. This CDPP is a top-down policy driven process for the identification and development of capabilities. It considers the main national security, defence, foreign affairs and other relevant policies as well as international developments and policies in order to produce a 12 year Capability Development Programme which will inform rolling four year Capability Development Plans for the Defence Forces. These outputs will identify clear capability priorities, providing direction for future capability development projects.

The White Paper on Defence Update was published in 2019 and reaffirmed the defence policy as set out in the 2015 White Paper. The second of these reviews is the ‘Defence Policy Review – Adjusting and affirming our Defence Policy in an era of change’ published in July 2024. It is the latest in the fixed cycle of reviews and sets out the Government Defence policy to 2028. The first stage in the Defence Policy Review was the completion of the Security Environment Assessment undertaken by an interdepartmental and interagency

working group. The implications of this security environment assessment were then evaluated for policy requirements, associated tasks, capability development and resourcing of defence provision in Ireland into the future. The next stage in this cycle of defence reviews will be initiated in 2025.

The Department of Defence and Defence Forces Strategy Statement 2023-2026 encompasses the civil and military elements of the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces, and sets out a shared High Level Goal: “To provide for the military defence of the State, contribute to national and international peace and security and fulfil all other roles assigned by Government.” This High Level Goal comprises three broad Strategic Dimensions: Defence Policy; Ensuring the Capacity to Deliver; and Defence Forces Operational Outputs. Under each Strategic Dimension, a number of Strategic Goals are identified and flowing from these are the identified priority Objectives and Actions which will be pursued over the period 2023 to 2026. A specified Objective in the Strategy Statement is the “Development and maintenance of capabilities in fulfilment of assigned roles at home and overseas”. A new Strategy Statement for the period 2025-2028 will be presented to the Tánaiste by July 2025.

2. Existing structures and processes

2.1 What are the constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police?

Ireland has a national police service and security service, An Garda Síochána, and the Defence Forces. There is no other paramilitary, internal security, intelligence services in existence within the State outside these two bodies.

The Constitution of Ireland vests the right to raise and maintain military or armed forces exclusively in the Oireachtas and expressly prohibits the raising and maintenance of any other military or armed force for any purpose whatsoever.

The Defence Act 1954-2015 expressly gives authorisation to the Government to raise, train, equip, arm, pay and maintain defence forces. The military command of, and all executive and administrative powers in relation to, the Defence Forces are exercisable by Government, through and by the Minister for Defence. The Defence Act also make provision for the delegation of command and authority by the Minister for Defence to officers of the Defence Forces.

The Department of Defence was established by the Ministers and Secretaries Act, 1924 and the act assigns to the department “the administration and business of the raising, training, organisation, maintenance, equipment, management, discipline, regulation and control according to law of the military defence forces”. The Act provides that the Minister is “Head” of the Department.

The Minister is assisted in discharging his functions by the civil and military elements of the Department. The Secretary General is the “principal officer” of the Department and is also appointed by the Minister for Finance as the Accounting Officer for all defence expenditure in accordance with the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866.

The authority, responsibility and accountability of the Secretary General are further elaborated in the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Public Service Management Act, 1997. The 1997 Act also requires the Secretary General to prepare a Strategy Statement for the Minister's approval and an Annual Report on performance.

Military Intelligence provides regular assessments, reports and briefings to the Minister for Defence, the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces and the Department of Defence on any threats to the security of the State and the national interest from internal or external sources. The National Security Committee meets on a regular basis to ensure that the Taoiseach and Government are kept informed of high-level security and crisis issues and the State's response to them. The National Security Committee is chaired by the Secretary General to the Government and it comprises representatives at the highest level from the Departments of Justice, Defence, Foreign Affairs, the Environment, Climate and Communications and from An Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces.

An Garda Síochána is established by legislation and its internal management is subject to regulations made by the Minister for Justice. The Garda Commissioner is financially accountable to the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament for the expenditure of State monies on the Garda Síochána. The powers of the police are set out in statute and all their actions are subject to review by an active and constitutionally independent judiciary.

The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024, provides a new framework for policing and community safety aimed at improving the performance and accountability of An Garda Síochána (the Irish police service) to the benefit of the safety of communities, and new national security arrangements. The Act came into operation on 2 April 2025 and repeals and replaces the Garda Síochána Act 2005

The legislation strengthens, inter alia, Ireland's national security infrastructure through the establishment of a new body - the Independent Examiner of Security Legislation.

The primary function of the independent examiner is to keep under review the operation and effectiveness of security legislation to ensure such legislation remains necessary and fit for purpose and contains appropriate safeguards for protecting human rights.

The Independent Examiner also has a general examination function in relation to the delivery of security services. Those State offices and agencies that have a security remit are obliged to co-operate with the Examiner in the performance of his duties.

The Act also provides that the independent examiner reviews refusals of information to the policing oversight bodies on grounds of the security of the State and where those bodies wish to appeal that decision. Through his or her annual reports to the Taoiseach, which will be laid before the Oireachtas, the Independent Examiner will help promote public confidence in national security measures and enhance the national security response.

2.2 How is the fulfilment of these procedures ensured, and which constitutionally established authorities/institutions are responsible for exercising these procedures?

The Constitution of Ireland vests supreme command of the Defence Forces in the President and provides that the exercise of command shall be regulated by Law. The Defence Acts, 1954 - 2015, provides that military command of, and all executive and administrative powers in relation to the Defence Forces including the power to delegate command and authority, shall be exercisable by the Government through and by the Minister for Defence.

Ireland has no paramilitary force.

The function of An Garda Síochána is to provide policing and security services for the State with the objective of—, inter alia, protecting the security of the State.

2.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?

The White Paper on Defence published in 2015 set out the Government intention to put in place a new fixed cycle of Defence reviews, to be carried out on a three yearly cycle, with every second review being more comprehensive in nature and styled a Strategic Defence Review. These reviews, which are common internationally, are intended to ensure that Defence policy remains up to date and to bring certainty and regularity to the process of Defence planning and overall preparedness. The first of these reviews was the White Paper Update, published in December 2019. The second of these reviews is the 'Defence Policy Review – Adjusting and affirming our Defence Policy in an era of change' published in July 2024. It is the latest in the fixed cycle of reviews and sets out the Government Defence policy to 2028. Similar to the White Paper Update the first stage in the Defence Policy Review was the completion of the Security Environment Assessment undertaken by an interdepartmental and interagency working group. The implications of this security environment assessment were then evaluated for policy requirements, associated tasks, capability development and resourcing of defence provision in Ireland into the future. The next stage in this cycle of defence reviews will be initiated in 2025.

The Defence Policy Review highlights a number of key priorities for the period to 2028. These include:

- a focus on maritime security. The Department of Defence will lead on the development of the National Maritime Security Strategy (in cooperation with national and international stakeholders);
- an immediate focus on the development of an Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance System for Air, Land and Sea domains for Ireland;
- implementation of changes to command and control and required governance and accountability, all of which are vital to the necessary transformation of the Defence Forces;

Ireland will continue to play its part along with other Member States in supporting European defence and security, with cooperation framed in the context of our military neutrality;

- the maintenance of Defence funding increases, as a critical and crucial enabler for the transformation of the Defence Forces and the reinforcement of Ireland's role as trusted security partner and responsible neighbour.

The Defence Policy Review provides that the roles of the Defence Forces are as follows:

- To provide for the Military Defence of the State's sovereignty and territorial integrity
 - To provide for the military Defence of the State from armed aggression;
- To contribute to regional and international peace and security operations
 - To participate in multi-national peace support, crisis management and humanitarian relief operations in accordance with Government direction and legislative provision;
- To contribute to national resilience and whole-of-government security objectives
 - To aid the civil power – meaning in practice to assist, when requested, An Garda Síochána, who have primary responsibility for law and order, including the protection of the internal security of the State;
 - To contribute to maritime security encompassing the delivery of a fishery protection service and the operation of the State's Fishery Monitoring Centre, and in co-operation with other agencies with responsibilities in the maritime domain, to contribute to a shared common maritime operational picture;
 - To participate in the Joint Taskforce on Drugs interdiction;
 - To contribute to national resilience through the provision of specified defence aid to the civil authority (ATCA) supports to lead agencies in response to major emergencies, including cyber security emergencies, and in the maintenance of essential services, as set out in MOUs and SLAs agreed by the Department of Defence;
 - To provide a range of other supports to government departments and agencies in line with MOUs and SLAs agreed by the Department of Defence e.g. search and rescue and air ambulance services;
- To contribute to Ireland's economic well-being through engagement with industry, research and development and job initiatives, in support of government policy; To fulfil any other tasks that Government may assign from time to time
 - To provide a Ministerial air transport service (MATS);
 - To provide ceremonial services on behalf of Government;

The Commission on the Defence Forces was established on foot of a commitment in the programme for Government and Government decision in December 2020 which also agreed its terms of reference and membership. The Terms of Reference and the Commission's overall approach was guided and informed by both the White Paper on Defence 2015 and the White Paper Updated 2019, which sets out Ireland's extant Defence Policy, and includes a revised environment assessment, as set out in the White Paper Update 2019.

The Department of Defence and Defence Forces Strategy Statement (DDFSS) 2023-2026 sets out the high level goal "To provide for the military defence of the State, contribute to national and international peace and security and fulfil all other roles assigned by Government" and key strategies that will be pursued by the organisation over the period 2023-2026. A new Strategy Statement for the period 2025-2028 will be presented to the Tánaiste by July 2025.

3. Procedures related to different forces personnel

3.1 What kind of procedures for recruitment and call-up of personnel for service in your military, paramilitary and internal security forces does your State have?

The Irish Defence Forces consist of the Permanent Defence Force, the members of which are full-time professional personnel and the Reserve Defence Force, the members of which are part-time volunteers and former members of the Permanent Defence Force. Ireland has never had conscription. Recruitment to all elements of the Defence Forces is and always has been on a voluntary basis. No change in this policy is envisaged, recruitment is open to both men and women.

Under the Defence Act 1954 (updated 4 April 2022), members of the Permanent Defence Forces are subject to military law at all times. During a period of emergency, members of the Reserve Defence Force may be called out on permanent service by proclamation of the Government. Members of the Reserve Defence Forces may also be called out by Ministerial direction in aid of the civil power in the maintenance of restoration of the public peace.

Ireland Has No Paramilitary Force.

The function of An Garda Síochána is to provide policing and security services for the State with the objective of—, inter alia, protecting the security of the State.

3.2 What kind of exemptions or alternatives to military service does your State have?

Not Applicable. Ireland has never had conscription. Recruitment to all elements of the Defence Forces is and always has been on a voluntary basis. No change in this policy is envisaged, recruitment is open to both men and women.

3.3 What are the legal and administrative procedures to protect the rights of all forces personnel as well as conscripts?

Members of the Defence Forces have all the legal protections and entitlements afforded to citizens of the State except where they are expressly exempted by legislation.

Arising from the Report of the Independent Review Group (IRG) on Dignity and Equality issues in the Defence Forces, which was published in March 2023, a significant programme of reform and transformation, with a particular focus on cultural change has been prioritised to ensure that the Defence Forces is an equal opportunities employer, is reflective of contemporary Irish society and is providing a safe workplace.

One of the first actions taken following the publication of the IRG report was the establishment of an External Oversight Body of the Defence Forces (EOB), initially on a non-statutory basis, to oversee and monitor the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the IRG Report. The EOB is a critical element in driving the necessary changes to workplace culture and behaviour in the Defence Forces and increasing transparency and accountability. The EOB is external to and independent of the Defence Forces as made clear by the IRG report. Following the passing of the Defence (Amendment) Act 2024, the EOB was established on a statutory basis from 1 December 2024. That legislation establishes the

function of the statutory EOB is to oversee and monitor the management of human resources of the Defence Forces by the Defence Forces.

The Defence Forces is committed to promoting equality in all aspects of its work, both at home and while deployed in an overseas environment. Extensive work has been undertaken to ensure all materials and documentation for Defence Forces personnel, as well as the relevant Defence Force Regulations are fully aligned, and compatible with the provisions of the relevant equality and anti-discrimination legislation. This work is supported by training, including training on responsibilities under current equality and health and safety legislation and gender, diversity and unconscious bias training.

As part of the cultural change agenda a Senior Gender Advisor was appointed during 2024, whose responsibilities include the areas of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Separately, there are administrative procedures in place, which are captured in an Administrative Instruction (Chapter 1 A7 Administrative Instruction) which provide for both an informal and formal process for dealing with interpersonal issues, such as complaints of inappropriate behaviour, bullying, harassment and sexual harassment.

There is currently a significant body of work underway by the Defence Forces to reform this process within the Defence Forces, to ensure that it is fully aligned with national equality and other relevant legislation, best practice elsewhere, and is underpinned by the fundamental principles of dignity in the workplace and mutual respect.

Design an independent, external complaints service for serving members:

The IRG Report on Dignity and Equality Issues in the workplace published in March 2023 also recommended that serving members of the Defence Forces have ‘access to an independent, external complaints service delivered by a professional service provider for as long as it takes to put a trusted internal system in place.’ Externalising the complaints system on a statutory basis, as envisaged by the IRG, will require significant amendments to primary legislation and therefore will take some time. Accordingly, an interim process is required pending changes to the primary legislation.

In November 2024, following consultation and extensive engagement with the relevant stakeholders the Minister for Defence, approved an interim complaints process for interpersonal type grievances for serving members of the Defence Forces and appointed the former Chair of the Labour Court, as the Interim Grievance Manager of the Defence Forces on an interim basis for a period of 12 months. This new interim process will provide serving members of the Defence Forces with an external and independent process through which complaints of an interpersonal nature can be investigated. This process will be implemented initially on a non-statutory basis for a pilot of 12 months, with a view to implementing a more permanent statutory based complaints scheme in the long term.

Also on foot of an IRG recommendation a Working Group comprising of all the relevant stakeholders including Representative Associations and staff unions, was established to develop a complaints process for civilian employees and civil servants working with the Defence Forces. The minister accepted and approved the Working Group’s proposal and arrangements are being put in place for the new complaints system to be made available to personnel.

In addition, Defence legislation provides for a redress of wrongs system for every member of the Defence Forces. Section 114 of the Defence Acts 1954-2015 provides that any member of the Defence Forces, who consider themselves to have been wronged in any matter, may make a complaint and have it investigated and redressed. Where the wrong is proven, redress is offered to the complainant. In the event that the complainant is unhappy with the internal military investigations or with the proposed redress, they can submit their complaint to the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces, which is independent and operates under the provisions of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces Act, 2004. A serving member may also, in line with Section 6 of the Ombudsman (Defence Forces) Act 2004, submit a complaint directly to the Ombudsman, without having first initiated a complaint under the Redress of Wrongs process. Former members of the Defence Forces may also make their complaint directly to the ODF subject to timelines as set down in the 2004 Act.

The Ombudsman for the Defence Forces is excluded from investigating actions that concern:

- Security and military operations
- Organisation, structure and deployment of the Defence Forces
- Terms and conditions of employment
- Administration of military prisons

In addition, the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces is excluded from investigating actions if the person making the complaint has lodged legal proceedings in relation to the matter or if the action has been summarily dealt with according to Section 179 of the Defence Acts.

The Redress of Wrongs procedures for the Defence Forces are also currently the subject of a review.

The Defence (Amendment) Act 2007 introduced into the Defence Forces a revised system of military justice, which is fully compatible with Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Procedures have been put in place, which ensure that a person charged with an offence is fully aware of his/her rights in relation to summary investigations and is guaranteed trial by a fair and impartial tribunal for more serious offences or if the person charged so elects. A right of appeal is afforded in all cases.

Another significant legislation change arising from an IRG recommendation is that An Garda Síochána have been given sole jurisdiction within the State to investigate alleged sexual offences committed by persons subject to military law. Any subsequent cases will be dealt with by the civil courts.

Tribunal of Inquiry: The Report of the Independent Review Group also included a recommendation for the establishment of a statutory fact finding process to identify systemic failures, if any, in the Defence Forces complaints process. In 2024, a judge-led Tribunal of Inquiry was established.

The Tribunal of Inquiry will examine the effectiveness of the complaints processes in the Defence Forces concerning workplace issues relating to discrimination, bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct and will investigate the response to complaints made regarding the use of hazardous chemicals within Air Corps' headquarters at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell.

4, Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law

4.1 How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through military training programmes and regulations?

The Law of War (also International Humanitarian Law ‘IHL’ and the Law of Armed Conflict ‘LOAC’) is included as a comprehensive module in the syllabi of all career courses for officers and enlisted persons. Legal officers and officers responsible for the delivery of such training in the Law of Armed Conflict attend courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy as well as other Institutions, such as the NATO School at Oberammergau. The Irish Defence Forces provide on-going human rights training at United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI) in the Defence Forces Training Centre for members of the Defence Forces in preparation for overseas Peace Support Operations deployments. This includes the Law of Armed Conflict and relevant international human rights law. A selection of training courses at UNTSI which integrate human rights are also available to international armed forces, Gardaí, civil servants, humanitarian actors, students and academics. The overall training package is based on the programme provided by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

4.2 What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?

The courses mentioned at paragraph 4.1 routinely stress the nature of individual Criminal liability for acts and omissions in the context of criminal accountability and responsibility for ones (own) actions.

The Defence Forces ensures that personnel deploying on active service to missions throughout the world receive detailed instruction in the areas of human rights afforded to minorities and women, cultural awareness issues and codes of conduct and behaviour, both for the conduct of their (respective) missions and also their individual behaviour. The instruction is tailored in order to fit a mission specific profile and to further contribute to Ireland’s obligations pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the UN Sec Gen Bulletin on Zero Tolerance (2003).

Ireland’s third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, 2019-2024 was launched in June 2019 and seeks to build on the momentum and successes of Ireland’s first and second plans. The development of the third National Action Plan involved a comprehensive consultation process with governmental departments and agencies, including the Defence Forces, and also with relevant civil society and non-governmental organisations. An Oversight Group under an Independent Chair and supported by Department of Foreign Affairs oversees the implementation of Ireland’s National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

In tandem with the National Level Plan the Defence Forces have published the Defence Forces Third Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related Resolutions. The Defence Forces also employ a specific Staff Officer Gender Advisory appointment to mainstream gender in the Defence Forces, to co-ordinate professional development and training in this field, and to monitor the application of UNSCR 1325 across all of the Defence Forces activities at home and abroad. Gender Advisors have also been appointed into each Brigade/Formation and the training of Gender Focal Points at every level in the Defence Forces

is on-going. All career courses and overseas pre-deployment training have been updated to include a gender perspective and briefings on UNSCR 1325. Our reporting mechanisms in UNIFIL include a gender specific report which is compiled by the unit gender advisor responsible for advising the unit commander on the implementation of a gender perspective throughout their operations.

4.3 How does your State ensure that armed forces are not used to limit the peaceful and lawful exercise of human and civil rights by persons as individuals or as representatives of groups nor to deprive them of national, religious, cultural, linguistic or ethnic identity?

The 2015 ‘White Paper on Defence’, which sets out Government policy on Defence, outlines the roles of the Defence Forces. These roles include the provision of Aid to the Civil Power, which always requires a specific request from the Civil Authorities. Requests for Aid to the Civil Power could, inter alia, include policing tasks for members of the Defence Forces.

The employment of Defence Forces personnel in any policing role within the State is governed by Defence Force Regulations (DFRs), which are derived from the Defence Acts 1954–2015. DFR CS1, entitled “Employment of troops in aid of the Civil Power in the maintenance or restoration of the Public Peace”, governs such employment of Defence Forces personnel.

4.4 What has been done to provide for the individual service member’s exercise of his or her civil rights and how does your State ensure that the country’s armed forces are politically neutral?

Specific provision is made for the rights of Defence Forces personnel to vote in national and local elections. Part X of General Routine Order 43 of 1955 provides for the implementation of the relevant Electoral Acts. The Defence Acts provides for “Prohibition of membership of political and secret societies”, and for “Disqualification for membership of a local authority”.

4.5 How does your State ensure that its Defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law?

Defence Policy, which is articulated via the White Paper on Defence 2015 and the Defence Policy Review 2024, forms the basis for Defence Forces Doctrine.

Defence Forces Doctrine describes the fundamental principles by which our state forces guide their actions in support of National Objectives. In formulating its doctrine the Defence Forces seek, at all times, to ensure that it is consistent with international law, international norms and international standards.

Section III: Public access and contact information

1. Public access

1.1 How is the public informed about the provisions of the Code of Conduct?

The manner in which the Code of Conduct is implemented in Ireland is made public on the Defence Forces' official website www.military.ie.

1.2 What additional information related to the Code of Conduct, e.g., replies to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct, is made publicly available in your State?

Ireland's responses to the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct are made publicly available on the OSCE's website.

1.3 How does your State ensure public access to information related to your State's armed forces?

Information concerning the Defence Forces is available through the Defence Forces official website www.military.ie. Also, information concerning the Defence Forces is available to the public through the Department of Defence and Defence Forces Annual Reports and the Department of Defence and Defence Forces Strategy Statement 2021-2023.

Specific requests for information concerning the Defence Forces may be made under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003.

2. Contact information

2.1 Provide information on the national point of contact for the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

OSCE Section
European Neighbourhood Unit
Political Division
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
80 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
Ireland

ATTACHMENT – LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

Please indicate if your State is party to the following universal and regional legal instruments relevant to preventing and combating terrorism and related co-operation in criminal matters. If your State is not a party to a treaty, but considers becoming a party, kindly indicate at which stage is such consideration (e.g., undergoing inter-ministerial co-ordination, approved by government and sent to parliament, approved by parliament and awaiting enactment by president, etc.)

Name of the treaty	Party by: ratification P(R) , accession P(a) , succession P(s) , acceptance P(A) , approval P(AA) , or Not party	Law and date of ratification, accession, succession, acceptance, or approval
Universal legal instruments		
Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (1963)	P(R)	The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 11 of the Air Navigation and Transport Act 1973. Ratified 14 November 1975
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970)	P(a)	The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 11 of the Air Navigation and Transport Act 1973. Acceded 24 November 1975
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971)	P(a)	The criminal acts referred to in the Convention are established as offences by section 3 of the Air Navigation and Transport Act 1975. Acceded 12 October 1976
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons (1973)	P(R)	The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 11 of the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005. The Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005. The Criminal Justice (Terrorist

		Offences) Act, enacted on 8 March, 2005, enabled Ireland to ratify this Convention, which entered into force in Ireland on 30 June 2005. Ratified 1 July 2005
International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979)	P(R)	The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 9 of the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005. The Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005, enacted on 8 March, 2005, enabled Ireland to ratify this Convention, which entered into force in Ireland on 30 June 2005. Ratified 1 July 2005
Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (1979)	P(R)	The criminal acts referred to in the Convention are established as offences by section 38 of the Radiological Protection Act 1991. Ratified 6 September 1991
Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1988)	P(R)	The criminal acts referred to in the Convention are established as offences by section 3 of the Air Navigation and Transport Act 1975 and section 51 of the Air Navigation and Transport (Amendment) Act 1998. Ratified 26 July 1991
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988)	P(a)	The offences created in the Convention are established as offences in Irish domestic law in the Maritime Security Act 2004. Acceded 10 September 2004
Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (1988)	P(a)	The offences created in the Convention are established as offences in Irish domestic law in the Maritime Security Act 2004.

		Acceded 10 September 2004
Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (1991)	P(a)	The instrument of Accession was deposited with the International Civil Aviation Authority in Montreal on 15 July 2003, and the Convention entered into force for Ireland on 13 September 2003.
International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)	P(R)	The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 10 of the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005. The Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005, enacted on 8 March, 2005, enabled Ireland to ratify this Convention, which entered into force in Ireland on 30 June 2005.
International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)	P(R)	The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 13 of the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005. The Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005, enacted on 8 March, 2005, enabled Ireland to ratify this Convention, which entered into force in Ireland on 30 June 2005.
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)		The preparation of enabling national legislation to ratify the Convention has commenced.
Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (2005)	P(R)	Ratified 22 September 2014
Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005)		

Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (2005)		
Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation (2010)	Not party	
Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (2010)	Not party	
The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)	P(R)	Ireland ratified this Convention on 17 June 2010.
The Council of Europe legal instruments		
European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (1977) CETS No: 090	P(R)	Ireland ratified this Convention on 21 February 1989.
Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (2003) CETS No: 190	Not party	
Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (2005) CETS No: 196	Not party	Signed but not ratified.
Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (2005) CETS No: 198	Not party	The money laundering provisions of this Convention are already covered in Irish legislation, the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010. Legal advice is being sought in relation to some technical aspects of ratification. It is intended that arrangements for Ireland to become a party to this Convention will be made following resolution of these matters.
European Convention on Extradition (1957) CETS No: 024	P(R)	Ireland ratified the Convention on 02 May 1966 initially. This ratification was

		confirmed by way of deposit of a new instrument of ratification on 12 July 1988.
Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (1975) CETS No: 086	Not party	
Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (1978) CETS No: 098	P(R)	Ireland ratified the additional protocol on 22 March 2019
European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (1959) CETS No: 030	P(R)	Ireland ratified the Convention on 28 November 1996.
Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (1978) CETS No: 099	P(R)	Ireland ratified the Additional Protocol on 28 November 1996, reserving the right not to accept Chapters II and III.
Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (2001) CETS No: 182 European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (1972) CETS No: 073	P(R)	Ireland ratified the Second Additional Protocol on 26 July 2011.
Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime (1990) CETS No: 141	P(R)	Ireland ratified the Convention on 28 November 1996.
Convention on Cybercrime (2001) CETS No: 185	Not party	Ireland signed the Convention on 28 February 2002 but has not yet ratified it.

Please list below any **other regional, sub-regional or bi-lateral agreements or arrangements** relevant to preventing and combating terrorism and related co-operation in criminal matters, to which your country is a party.

Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the Russian Federation on co-operation in combating illicit trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, signed at Moscow on 15 September 1999 and entered into force on 22 July 2000
Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the Russian Federation on Co-operation in Fighting Crime signed at Moscow on 15 September 1999 and entered into force on 22 July 2000
Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on Co-operation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering, Organised Crime, Trafficking in Persons, Terrorism and other Serious Crime, signed at Budapest on 3 November 1999 and entered into force on 17 August 2000
Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Poland on Co-operation in Combating Organised Crime and other Serious Crime, signed at Warsaw on 12 May 2001 (not yet in force)
Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on Co-operation in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering, Organised Crime, Trafficking in Persons, Terrorism and Other Serious Crime, signed at Dublin on 8 March 2002 and entered into force on 23 March 2006.

ANNEX II

INDICATIVE LIST OF ISSUES PERTAINING TO

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY TO BE PROVIDED IN THE

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE OSCE CODE OF CONDUCT

I. Prevention

- 1. Measures to increase armed forces personnel understanding of the special needs and contributions of women in conflict.**
- **Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girl's rights in the basic education of armed forces.**

The Defence Forces (DF) addresses the 'special needs and contributions of women in Armed conflict' in a specific Gender training module employed by the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI). It is structured into the various courses run by the school namely, Human Rights, CIMIC and Overseas Pre-deployment training. Gender awareness and UNSCR 1325 lectures are also included at various levels of the organisation to include induction and career course levels as well as overseas pre-deployment training. This ensures that from the induction phase right through their Defence Forces career, a service member will receive gender training at each level of rank progression and on the occasion of each overseas deployment. These briefings are delivered by trained Gender Advisors.

- **Availability of specialised in-service training for armed forces personnel on the Protection of women's and girl's rights.**

The DF has a Gender Advisor (GENAD) at DFHQ level and a GENAD in each Brigade and Formation and every unit and branch employs gender focal points. Each Brigade conducts gender focal point training for their personnel on an on-going basis. The United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI) is the Irish Defence Forces Centre of Excellence for Human Rights Training and offers this course in conjunction with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR). The role of the UNTSI Staff is to facilitate and coordinate the delivery of instruction in conjunction with the Defence Forces Gender Advisor and to provide and maintain an administrative environment that will lead to an unencumbered learning environment. UNTSI have also promoted Gender to one of their pillars of training, recognising the importance of gender in military operations and reflecting the high priority that the Defence Forces places on Gender.

Training on women, peace and security is also incorporated into the DF Joint Command & Staff Course and our Land Command & Staff course. All other ranks receive gender briefings during their Three Star Training and training on the women, peace and security agenda is structured into the various courses run by UNTSI namely, Human Rights, CIMIC and Overseas Pre-deployment training.

In addition, the role of the Gender Advisor at Brigade/Formation level includes assisting the Defence Forces Gender Advisor in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in accordance with the DF Third Action

Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. A Gender Focal Point (GFP) course was also created and is being delivered across the Defence Forces. This will assist in the integration of a gender perspective at Brigade/Formation level.

In cooperation with the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI), The Hague, the DF has also initiated the development of specialised training for personnel who may have to investigate cases of sexual violence and abuse. The third iteration of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) was completed in 2022 in the DF Training Centre.

- **Inclusion of plans to address and gather information from local women populations in areas at risk of conflicts.**

Current pre-deployment training module for Irish units deploying on UN Operations require selected Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) from every overseas unit are selected to undergo a 'Train the Trainers' course on Human Rights in the United Nations Training School (UNTSI). The course is of two weeks duration and uses a syllabus supplied by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The syllabus places emphasis on treaties such as Genocide, Torture, and Slavery Conventions as they target violations that have often preceded the establishment of the peacekeeping operation. The second part of the syllabus informs students as to the key risk groups that peacekeepers must protect during their deployment, concentrating on conventions such as the Children's Convention (CRC), Refugee Convention, Migrant Worker's Convention (MWC) and UNSCR 1325. Following the completion of the course the Officers and NCOs then, in turn, run courses on the outlined conventions for the members of their sub-units using the syllabus provided by OHCHR. In this training package the Defence Forces have included a gender awareness module that must be completed by all personnel prior to deploying overseas. This covers areas such as UNSCR 1325, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and also Gender Based Violence (GBV). Also embedded within all troop deployments will be a number of specifically nominated and trained Gender Focal Points (GFP). Gender Focal Point (GFP) courses are also conducted for units deploying overseas in order to ensure they have qualified Gender Focal Points deployed ensuring the incorporation of a gender perspective in overseas planning and operations.

- **Availability of plans to address and gather information from local women populations in areas at risk of conflicts.**

All Defence Forces troop deployments now deploy with specifically gender trained personnel with the second in command of all troop rotations maintaining the overall responsibility for the incorporation of a gender perspective into planning and operations. UNIFIL has also both a military and civilian Mission Gender Advisor appointed at FHQ level. Together these are developing relationships and plans with a view to gathering information from local women populations. In addition, gender is a specific Annex integrated into the reporting structure back to DFHQ.

IRISHPOL BATT is cognisant of the sensitivity of all information activities pertaining to the female population in the IRISHPOL BATT Area of Operations. This population is predominantly Shia Muslim with limited external visibility. Participation in any information gathering activity will be in

consultation with the Military Gender Focal Point Team, Sector West (SW) and Mission Gender Advisor, FHQ, however the unit endeavours to incorporate female specific initiatives into CIMIC work for example thereby ensuring the consultation of local women's groups and women within the local communities.

- **Inclusion of systematic gender analysis of areas at risk of conflicts, including gender disaggregated socio-economic indicators and power over resources and decision making.**

Systematic Gender Analysis is being implemented at UNIFIL HQ level and feeds into regular reporting requirements by IRISHPOL BATT.

Measures to address the violation of the rights of women and girls, in line with international standards.

- **Number and percentage of military manuals, guidelines, national security policy frameworks, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures/protocols of national security forces that include measures to protect women's and girls' human rights.**

The Irish Defence Forces are heavily involved in the process of implementation of Ireland's National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. As such the DF became one of few militaries to produce a specific Defence Forces Action Plan (DFAP) on women, peace and security which includes measures 1325's protection pillar. The Irish Defence Forces is now currently on its third iteration of the implementation plan, awaiting the Fourth National Action Plan's publication, which it was involved in the creation of.

The Irish Defence Forces encourages and supports the right to dignity at work.

The Defence Forces also have an Equality policy as well as a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Statement and Action Plan outlines the Defence Forces commitments to equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of Defence Forces work both on island and overseas.

The Defence Forces Handbook on Human Rights in Peace Support Operations that includes sections on the protection of women and children's human rights was published in 2007.

The Defence Forces are also participating members of The Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence, (ICGBV) which comprises of Irish human rights, humanitarian and development organisations, Irish Aid and the Defence Forces, all working together to address gender based violence. Its overall aim is to promote the adoption of a coherent and coordinated response to gender based violence (GBV) through effective programming, learning, amplifying the issue of GBV at policy and public level and strengthening leadership and accountability.

- **Number and percentage of directives for peacekeepers issued by head of military components and standard operating procedures that include measures to protect women's and girl's human rights.**

All troop deployments with UNIFIL review all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on an ongoing basis to ensure they include a gender perspective with respect to the planning, organisation and execution of operations.

All Irish soldiers engaging in Peace Support Operations carry a card entitled "Soldiers Card: Human Rights in Peace Support Operations." This card details their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law and includes specific provisions relating to UNSCR 1325.

The Defence Forces workplace policy on human rights and a dignity charter carries through to overseas service. The Defence Forces ensures that personnel deploying on overseas missions receive detailed instruction in the areas of human rights afforded to minorities and women, cultural awareness issues, sexual exploitation, conflict related sexual violence (CRSV) and codes of conduct and behaviour.

II. Participation

1. Measures to increase the number of women in general and in decision-making positions in the armed forces and the ministry of defence.

– Number and percentage of women applying to be part of the military forces.

Female personnel represented 7.5% of the organisation's overall strength as at 31st December 2024 and 6% of personnel inducted into the Defence Forces in 2024.

There are a number of initiatives aimed at addressing the increase of women within the organisation contained within the DF Third Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions as well as the establishment of a Standing Committee on implementing recommendations from a previous Working Group report on increasing the strength of female personnel and a survey to identify any impediments to the advancement of women within the organisation.

– Establishment of policies to attract female candidates (Targeted campaigns, review of accession tests, etc.).

Female specific recruitment strategies continue to be employed by the Defence Forces that include female-focused advertising, creation of female-specific recruitment content, visits to schools and targeted social media advertising. Other such initiatives include the introduction of best practices in recruitment such as the maintenance of a balanced gender breakdown on selection boards.

In addition, Female personnel in the Defence Forces now have access to two informal fora, which sit outside the normal military chain of command. The first of these is the Defence Forces Women's Network and followed by a joint DoD and DF Women's Network which was established in 2022.

The staffing of the Gender Advisor's office has increased to one (1) Col (OF-5), one (1) Comdt (OF-3) one (1) Capt (OF-2) and one (1) CS (OR-7) with the establishment due to increase again.

3

In line with Civil Service policy, and as an equal opportunities employer, the Department of Defence is committed to ensuring that, irrespective of gender:

- Recruitment to all civil service posts in the Department is open to suitably qualified applicants. Candidates are assessed objectively on their merits in the light of the essential requirements of the grade or post; recruitment methods and publicity material reflect the commitment to equality of opportunity;
- Placement and mobility policies give civil servants the opportunity to obtain a wide variety of work experience; decisions on placement and mobility allocate civil servants to posts based on the

³ The Fourth National Action plan is due for release in 2025

essential requirements of the grade or post, the skills and competencies of the individual, individual development needs, and the needs of the organisation;

- All promotions are based on merit; civil servants are informed of and encouraged to compete in promotion competitions for which they are eligible; assessment of suitability for promotion is based on the ability to fulfil the criteria for the grade or post;
- Encouragement is given to civil servants to pursue career and personal development opportunities open to them; the Performance Management and Development System supports the career and personal aspirations of civil servants by providing a structured approach to identifying the individual skills and competencies required to advance these aspirations and by addressing these requirements through training and other appropriate means. These opportunities are available on an equal opportunities basis;
- Family-friendly working arrangements are provided to the maximum extent possible, consistent with the effective and efficient operation of the organisation.

The Department of Defence, as a matter of general policy, keeps its approach to HR management under continuous review with a view to ensuring its approach is directed towards achieving best practice.

Having regard to the foregoing, as of 31 December 2024 66% of civil servants serving in the Department of Defence were women. In terms of key management positions, at 31 December 2024 of serving Principal Officers 44% were women (16 of 36), while 61% of Assistant Principals serving on that date were women (43 of 71). The most senior leadership tier, the Management Board, is led by a female Secretary General and has 57% female membership.

Finally, it is important to note that the Irish Government has in place both a Civil Service Renewal plan and a People Strategy for the Civil Service covering all Departments of State placing a strong emphasis on enhanced HR strategies including addressing gender issues. The most recent employee engagement survey took place in September 2023. The survey was designed to capture the perspectives and experiences of staff in relation to their job, their organisation as an employer and other work-related matters. The results of the survey were positive overall. Civil Service employees continue to feel positive about the impact of their work and continue to identify with Civil Service values. The survey provides strong evidence to better inform future Civil Service policies and practices which will address challenges and build on the success already achieved.

– Establishment, promotion, maintenance and use of specialised rosters of female profiles in the military fields.

The Defence Forces do not engage in this practice, and all roles in the DF are open to female service members.

– Number and percentage of women in the military forces disaggregated by rank.

The strength of the Permanent Defence Force as at 28 February 2025 was 7,502. Of this, 565 were female. This represents 7.5% of the total strength. Of the 1,224 Officers, 166 or 13.6% were female. Within the

2,651 personnel at NCO rank, 167 or 6.3% were female. There were 3,627 additional enlisted ranks (including 125 Cadets), of which 232 or 6.4% were female.

– Number and percentage of discrimination and sexual harassment complaints that are referred, investigated and acted upon.

There was one Chapter 2 complaint relating to alleged discrimination reported to the Grievance Management Office in 2024, it was referred to ODF and was then investigated and concluded to the satisfaction of the Complainant. There was one chapter 1 complaint regarding sexual harassment reported to the Grievance Management Office in 2024, which was duly investigated and concluded to the satisfaction of the Complainant.

– Development of regular analysis of retention and promotion practices for men and women in the forces.

The Defence Forces has explored various initiatives with a view to addressing retention for all personnel. This includes the establishment of a DF Women's Network. The aim of the Defence Forces Women's Network is to increase participation at all levels of the organisation and to act as a support system for women in all aspects of their work. It also allows for the identification of actual or perceived barriers to progression within the organisation. It is envisaged that matters raised by the network will help identify family friendly considerations for both males and females that will then feed back into wider HR policies. Such an initiative involved the successful roll out of Family Friendly overseas appointments in 2015 that allows for shared/shorter overseas deployments as well as the introduction of remote access working.

The requirement to increase the number of female personnel serving in the Defence Forces organisation has been a policy priority for some time. Although many initiatives have been undertaken in an effort to achieve this objective, the percentage of the organisation, which is female, has remained stable at circa 7%. Against this backdrop, the General Staff have approved the report of Working Group, which was established to undertake a broad examination of the situation to provide a better understanding of the issues involved.

A Standing Working Group (SWG) has been established to monitor and advise on the implementation of the recommendations of this WG. The Defence Forces has a number of key recommendations across the sub heading of recruitment and selection, training and retention in order to increase the strength of females.

An independent Confidential Contact Person (CCP), Raise-A-Concern, was employed, and provided a mechanism, outside of the Chain of Command and DOD, for serving and former personnel to report incidents of unacceptable behaviour.

The Chief of Staff convened an Organisational Culture Standing Committee (OCSC) on 30 November 21, to provide an enduring structure to drive and coordinate the process of cultural change into the future. The work of the OCSC has set the Defence Forces on a path towards cultural change, a strategy that will take some time to implement.

As part of a sub-group of the OCSC, the Defence Forces have recently carried out a pilot workshop in the area of Sexual Ethics and Respectful Relationships, which the DF has consulted with the NZDF on their existing SERR program. This training is an interactive workshop consisting of modules on consent, military culture and environment, Sexual Ethics and Respectful Relationships and being an ethical bystander. The DF is currently working on the hire of personnel to execute this training in the DF.

The Commission on Defence Forces (CoDF) makes a number of recommendations in the area of greater female participation in the DF, namely that gender, diversity and unconscious bias training should become mandatory across all ranks in the DF, this has now been implemented

2. Measures to increase the number of women in peacekeeping forces.

– Number and percentage of women in peacekeeping forces disaggregated by rank.

The number of personnel participating in overseas peacekeeping missions as at 31 January 2025 was 412. Of these 17 or 4.1% were female.

Within the 105 Officers serving overseas, 8 or 7.6% were female. Of the 307 enlisted ranks overseas 9 were female which represents 2.9%.

– Number and percentage of international missions where gender advisors were appointed.

– Number and percentage of participating State's international missions that address specific issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports.

Specifics detailing Numbers and percentages are unknown; however, the Defence Forces are aware of its obligations to all international mission instructions pursuant to UNSCR 1325.

III. Protection

1. Increased access to justice for women whose rights are violated

- Specifics detailing Numbers and percentages are unknown as this is outside the remit of the Defence Forces; specifically, however the Defence Forces are aware of its obligations to all international mission instructions pursuant to UNSCR 1325.

IV. Other information