

**The Department of Justice allocation is €3.27 billion in 2024, which includes funding for:**

- Up to 1,000 new Garda, 250 additional Garda staff, and a Garda reserve recruitment campaign
- Increasing the Garda overtime budget by 25% and the Garda trainee allowance to €305 per week (up from €184)
- Community safety initiatives, including establishing Community Safety Partnerships nationwide
- The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission to support its transition to a new body once pending legislation passes
- Additional staff project support for the Probation Service and the Legal Aid Board
- The International Protection Office and the continued response to the Ukrainian crisis
- Supports for victims of crime and implementing the Human Trafficking Action Plan
- Modernising the Courts Service to make it more accessible
- Restructuring the Data Protection Commission to a new three-Commissioner model
- Establishing the new Policing and Community Safety Authority, which will replace both the Policing Authority and the Garda Síochána Inspectorate
- The Irish Prison Service, who are allocated €27 million to fund staff pay and increase staff numbers

### **Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency**

- Additional funding of €12 million has been allocated for combating domestic, sexual and gender based violence, and to implement the Zero Tolerance Strategy in this area. This funding will also help establish the new Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency. The new Agency will have a core budget of €43 million.

### **Criminal legal aid**

- Funding of €9 million will go towards the criminal legal aid scheme, including a fee increase of 10% for legal professionals working on the scheme in early 2024. This comes ahead of reforms being introduced by the Criminal Justice (Legal Aid) Bill 2023.

**If you are concerned about money matters then contact MABS for free, independent and confidential advice on 081807200 or visit [www.mabs.ie](http://www.mabs.ie)**