

Parliamentary Question & Response

For **Written Answer** on : **04/03/2025**
Question Number(s): **541** Question Reference(s): **9815/25**
Department: **Justice**
Asked by: **Matt Carthy T.D.**

QUESTION

To ask the Minister for Justice the number of crimes that were recorded where the suspected offenders were on bail in each of the last three years, by county and category of offence, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

REPLY

It is important to note that restricting a person's liberty is a serious issue, given the Constitutional presumption that a person is deemed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Bail Act contains robust provisions on both dealing with and pre-empting breaches of bail. Where an individual fails to comply with any bail conditions, the judge may issue a bench warrant, mandating An Garda Síochána to arrest and bring the person before the court.

Furthermore, a Garda member may immediately arrest a person without a warrant where the member has reasonable cause to suspect that that person has breached, or is about to breach, a bail condition and the member considers the arrest necessary to prevent harm to, interference with, or intimidation of a victim or witness.

Finally, it is worth noting that, under section 11 of the Criminal Justice Act 1984 as amended, any sentence of imprisonment for an offence committed while on bail shall run consecutive to any sentence for a previous offence. Furthermore, the fact that the offence was committed while on bail must be treated as an aggravating factor in sentencing and result in a higher sentence than would otherwise have been given.

In relation to the specific data requested by the Deputy, the table below, as provided by An Garda Síochána, outlines the number of crime incidents reported in each year where the incident record indicated at least one of the persons associated with the incident as a "Suspected Offender" were flagged as having been suspected of committing the offence while on bail.

Region	Division	2022*	2023*	2024*
Dublin Region	D.M.R. Eastern	1,322	1,283	1,252
Dublin Region	D.M.R. North Central	7,385	8,229	9,340

Dublin Region	D.M.R. Northern	2,363	2,773	2,764
Dublin Region	D.M.R. South Central	4,138	4,002	4,514
Dublin Region	D.M.R. Southern	1,950	2,169	2,010
Dublin Region	D.M.R. Western	2,938	2,871	2,711
Eastern Region	Kildare	1,012	1,167	1,255
Eastern Region	Laois/Offaly	751	779	814
Eastern Region	Meath/Westmeath	1,117	1,619	1,792
Eastern Region	Waterford/Kilkenny/Carlow	1,639	1,905	1,706
Eastern Region	Wexford/Wicklow	1,096	1,291	1,404
North Western Region	Donegal	442	542	507
North Western Region	Galway	919	1,107	1,068
North Western Region	Louth/Cavan/Monaghan	1,684	1,854	1,951
North Western Region	Mayo/Roscommon/Longford	614	584	576
North Western Region	Sligo/Leitrim	277	352	434
Southern Region	Clare/Tipperary	1,077	1,103	1,037
Southern Region	Cork City	1,690	1,856	2,082
Southern Region	Cork County	667	820	687
Southern Region	Kerry	565	806	694
Southern Region	Limerick	1,748	1,801	1,750
Total		35,394	38,913	40,348

*Figures collated based on PULSE data as of 28 February, 2025 and are operational and may be liable to change.

In terms of offence type, data available for 2024 indicates that the most common offence types committed by offenders on bail were:

- Public Order / Drunkenness (25%)
- Theft from Shop (23%)
- Simple Possession (6%) - relates to a person who is in possession of a controlled drug for their own personal use.
- Criminal Damage (5%)

ENDS