

Candidate Information Booklet



TRAINEE 2026

An Garda Síochána
4540



Closing Date: 3pm on Wednesday 3rd June 2026



WHY JOIN AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA?

When considering if a career in An Garda Síochána is for you, it is worth being informed about the remuneration and benefits that come with the role:



ENTRY AGE LIMIT
INCREASED TO
50 YEARS

TRAINING, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- As a trainee you will undergo the Foundation Training Programme, the initial training and development programme that incorporates the training required to perform the role and functions of a Garda in an efficient and effective manner.
- The programme incorporates a Level 7 Bachelor of Arts Degree in Applied Policing, accredited by the University of Limerick, containing three phases of training.
- Upon successful completion of phase one, Probationer Gardaí become sworn members of An Garda Síochána (this is called attestation) and commence their probationary period (normally two-years from attestation) in accordance with the provisions of the Admissions and Appointments Regulations.
- You will receive further training, tailored to the requirements of your specific role throughout your career.

PAY

- **Trainee Garda** will receive an allowance of €354 per week for the 36 weeks of training.
- Accommodation and food is provided while resident in the Garda College from Sunday to Friday.
- On attestation after 36 weeks Garda Trainees become Probationer Gardaí and move to the first point of the pay scale which is **€39,194** (As of 1st February 2026, rising incrementally to **€60,333**, per annum after 8 years).
- Additional increments may be applied based on educational qualifications (Degree) following probation.
- Probationer Gardaí will be assigned to work the core shift roster (12-hour), which attracts additional allowances.
- Gardaí will have the opportunity to work on overtime, which is paid at a rate of time and a half, unless worked on a Sunday/public holiday, which is paid at double time.

ANNUAL LEAVE/ SICK LEAVE

- Upon moving to phase II (after attestation), Probationer Gardaí get 29.5 days paid annual leave per year inclusive of public holidays and Good Friday, with a pro-rata entitlement for periods of service less than one year.
- For Gardaí on operational duties, public holidays and Good Friday are to be regarded as normal working days except where they happen to be rostered as rest days.
- There are flexible working options available throughout your career (approval of management required).
- After three months training, sick leave provides full payment of your weekly training allowance for a period of up to four weeks may be allowed. The amount of any benefits payable under the Social Welfare Acts is deducted from the payment during illness.

OTHER BENEFITS

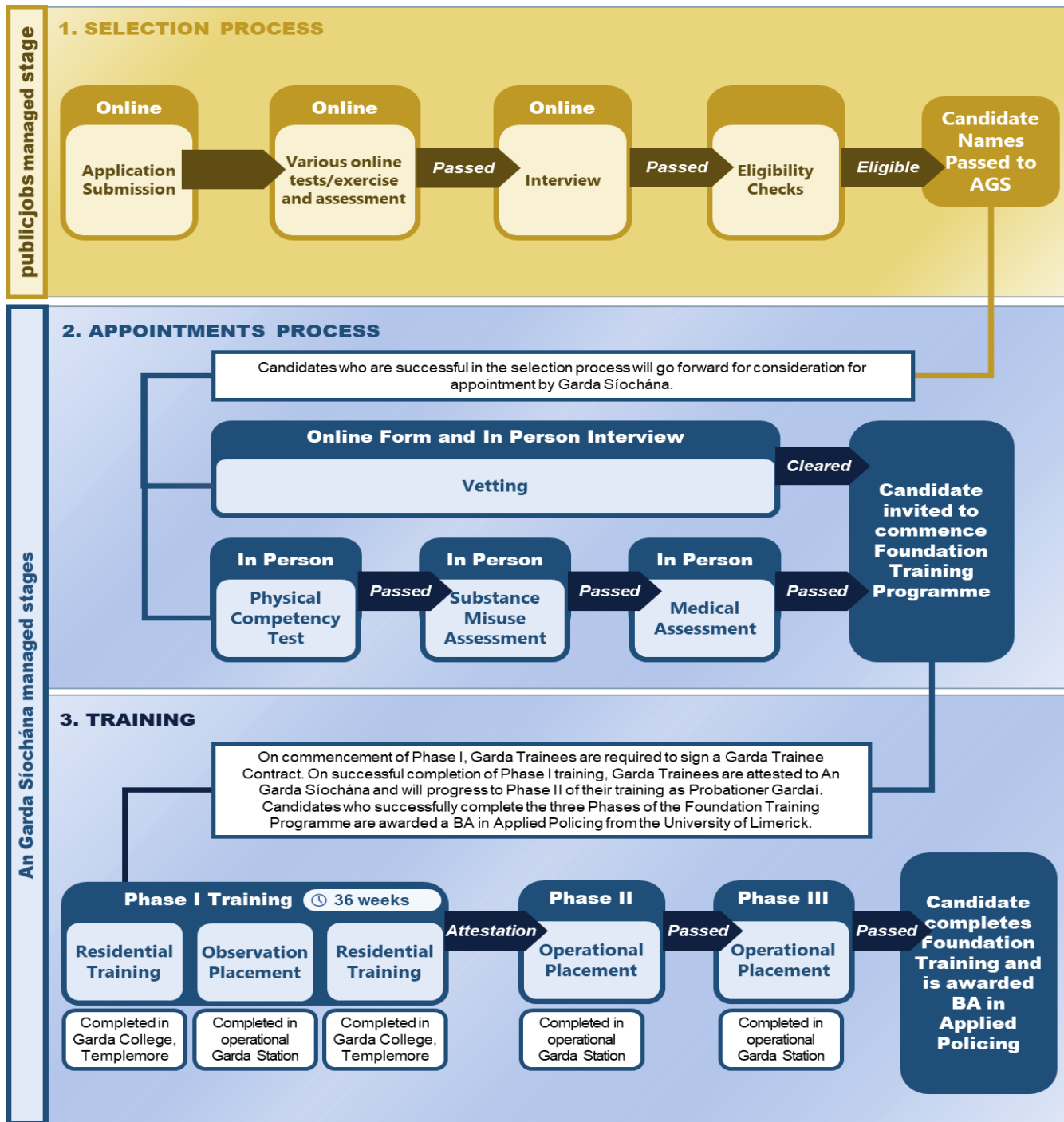
- Fast Accrual (Uniformed) members pension scheme – allows you to build up pension benefits at a higher rate each year.
- There are numerous Garda societies and club which facilitate the pursuit of healthy leisure activities, including sports clubs facilitated by a network of sports representatives.
- Comprehensive wellbeing supports and access to the Doctors of Choice GP scheme (GP consultation fee is covered by An Garda Síochána).
- Access to Garda Credit Unions.
- Medical Aid scheme.
- Paid maternity leave.
- On attestation, Gardaí are assigned to a regular unit working the Core Roster comprising of 4 days on/4 days off. The hours of duty are made up of two tours commencing at 7am to 7pm, followed by two tours of 7pm to 7am.

Competition Overview

The recruitment process for An Garda Síochána is made up of multiple stages:

1. Application Process – carried out by publicjobs;
2. Selection Process – carried out by publicjobs;
3. Appointments Process – carried out by An Garda Síochána; and
4. Foundation Training Programme – delivered by An Garda Síochána.

An overview of the stages that you will go through is illustrated in the following graphic:



Click the [link here](#) to watch a video showcasing a day in the life of a Trainee.

Introduction

We appreciate that applying for this role is a significant decision, and we want to ensure that the process is as smooth and informative as possible. We understand that you might have some questions before you start your application, **so please take some time to read through the information below.**

After reviewing this booklet, if you have any further questions in relation to the selection process, please contact publicjobs at gardatraineer2026@publicjobs.ie or if your query relates to the appointments process, please refer to the careers section of the www.garda.ie website or contact the An Garda Síochána Appointments Office at Trainee2026@garda.ie. Relevant contact details are included on page 27 of this information booklet.

At publicjobs and An Garda Síochána, we are deeply committed to fostering an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated and all individuals are treated with respect and fairness. Our policy of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion ensures that every candidate has an equal opportunity for success.

publicjobs and An Garda Síochána will run this process in compliance with the relevant Code of Practice prepared and published by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA) and are available on www.cpsa.ie.

We are committed to fostering an inclusive, diverse and equitable workplace, and therefore, we encourage candidates from a variety of backgrounds to apply.

Why Join An Garda Síochána?

An Garda Síochána is the national police and security service of Ireland with a mission of “**Keeping People Safe**”.

Joining An Garda Síochána offers an exciting opportunity to be part of a dynamic and innovative team. This role and the personal impact you will have on people and the community will give you a sense of achievement like nothing else.

You will be part of something meaningful and have the opportunity to make a change. You will work in a supportive, digitally enabled environment that is unique.

Determining Eligibility Requirements

Entry as a Trainee to An Garda Síochána is governed by the following legislation:

[The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024, the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act, 2024 \(Admissions and Appointments\) Regulations 2025 \(S.I. No. 112 of 2025\).](#)

Before you apply for this competition, please ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria set out below. If you do not meet these eligibility criteria, your application will not be processed. Eligibility may be assessed at multiple stages of the process. An invitation to tests, interview or complete any element of the selection/appointments process is not acceptance of eligibility by publicjobs and/or An Garda Síochána. Candidates' qualifications/eligibility may not be confirmed until the latter stages of the selection/appointments process.

Candidates who do not possess the essential requirements by the closing date for receipt of applications and who proceed with their application are putting themselves to unnecessary effort/expense and will not be eligible to be selected from this competition.

The onus is on candidates to provide documentary evidence that they continue to meet the eligibility requirements throughout the process and to update publicjobs and An Garda Síochána of any changes that might impact their eligibility.

publicjobs reserves the right to deem an applicant ineligible at any stage if it is apparent that the candidate does not hold the required eligibility/qualifications e.g. from the submitted application form. Candidates who are unable to demonstrate that they hold the required qualifications/eligibility by the closing date for receipt of applications may be withdrawn from the competition at any stage.

An overview of the eligibility criteria that candidates must meet to apply for admission as a Trainee, and for entry to the competitive selection process organised by the publicjobs, is outlined below. However, for the detailed admissions and eligibility requirements, candidates should refer to those requirements as set out in the [Regulations](#) referenced above.

By the closing date for application to this competition, 3pm, Wednesday 3rd June 2026 you must:

Age

You must have attained the age of 18 and be no more than the age of 49 **by the closing date for receipt of applications to this competition.**

Character

You must be of good character.

As a modern and progressive policing service, An Garda Síochána seeks candidates who display the highest standards of behaviour and maintain a network of influence of equally good character.

Nationality

You must, **by the closing date for application to this competition** be:

- A. A national of a European Union Member State; or
- B. A national of a European Economic Area State, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or the Swiss Confederation; or
- C. Under the International Protection Act, 2015 and in compliance with the Admissions and Appointments Regulations 2013, as amended, be:
 - i. A refugee or a family member of such a person in relation to whom a refugee declaration is in force and continues to be in force for the entire duration of the Garda Recruit selection and admissions process; or
 - ii. A person granted subsidiary protection or a family member of such a person in relation to whom a subsidiary protection declaration is in force and continues to be in force for the entire duration of the Garda Recruit selection and admissions process; or
 - iii. By the closing date for application to this competition, have had a period of one year's continuous residence in the State, and during the eight years immediately preceding that period, have had a total residence in the State amounting to four years.

Education

You must have obtained the following, **by the closing date for application to this competition**:

1. An Irish Leaving Certificate with a grade ***D3 or O6 minimum in five subjects*** at Ordinary Level*;
or
2. A minimum of a Level 5 Major award (***120 Credits***) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ); or
3. A recognised qualification (***at Level 5 or greater***) deemed comparable to the above in terms of both level and volume of learning as determines by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

AND

4. A proven proficiency in **either or both** of the following:
 - i. The Irish language
 - ii. The English language

Please note:

- Successful applicants are required to study **and pass** Irish as part of a module in the Garda College.
- Subjects taken at Foundation Level Leaving Certificate are **not** considered equivalent for entry to this competition. In certain cases, a Pass in the Applied Leaving Certificate may be deemed equivalent to an Ordinary Leaving Certificate. A H7 grade is also deemed equivalent to an O6 grade.

publicjobs may verify the validity of qualifications other than the Leaving Certificate with Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). Candidates may refer to the [National Academic Recognition Information Centre](#) which offers advice on the academic recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland

Employment Status

You must have relinquished all previous employment prior to entry to the Garda College and may not be on a career break from any such employment upon entry.

Medical Standards

You must be certified by a Registered Medical Practitioner (nominated by the Commissioner after consultation with the Minister) to be in good health, of sound constitution and suited physically and mentally to performing the duties of a member of the service.

Physical Competence Test

You must have passed a Physical Competence Test before entering the Garda College to start training.

Substance Misuse Assessment

You must have passed all Substance Misuse (Controlled Drug and Psychoactive Substances) Assessments to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána.

The competition for the selection of Trainees into An Garda Síochána attracts a very high number of applicants. As such, the selection process to become a Trainee is comprehensive, with candidates required to undertake a range of relevant assessment tests and exercises over a number of stages. The numbers called forward to each stage of selection will be determined from time to time, having regard to the number of places to be filled in the Garda College.

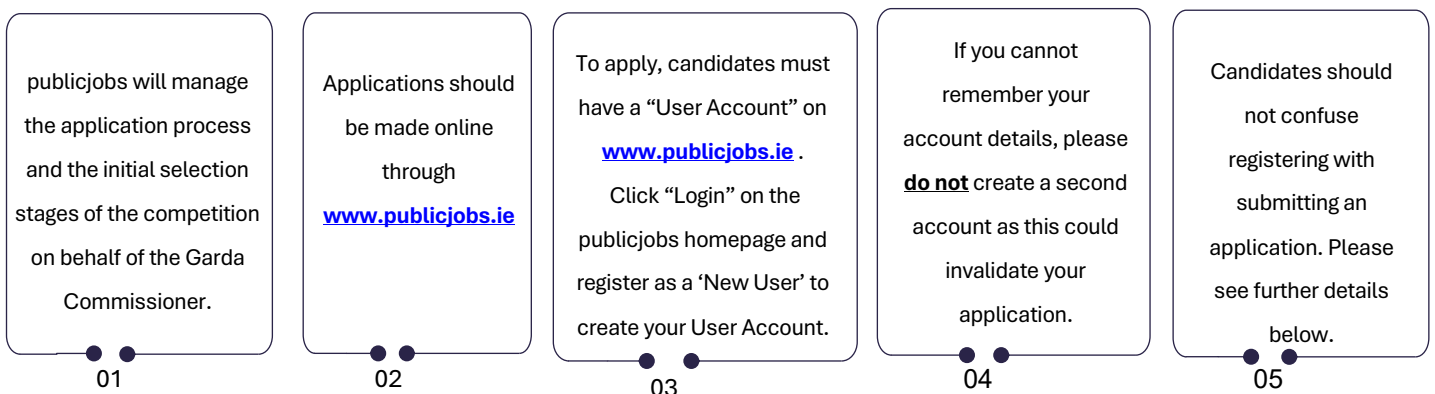
publicjobs will conduct the initial selection stages on behalf of the Garda Commissioner. Names and details of candidates who are successful following the selection stages conducted by publicjobs, will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána for consideration for appointment.

Neither An Garda Síochána nor publicjobs will be responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates in relation to the recruitment process.

The Application Process

Policing is a unique and challenging vocation, and the selection process is comprehensive. Therefore, we encourage you to complete the [job preview self-assessment](#) (included at Appendix A) to make sure that this career is the right fit for you before you apply. The questionnaire is an invaluable tool and offers insights into the reality of the role.

Applying for the role:



How to Apply

Applications should be made online through www.publicjobs.ie

At publicjobs, we have transitioned to a new recruitment platform with the aim of enhancing our services and the candidate experience. The new service will give you more visibility and control of your application.

When accessing our new recruitment platform for the first time, candidates must register as a New User to create an account (“Register”). To do so, please access the vacancy you wish to apply for on our Jobs Board by clicking on the title of the position. You will be brought to the vacancy where you can click on “Apply” in the right-hand section of our website, or at the bottom of the advertisement. Candidates who have not previously registered on our new recruitment platform will be required to enter some personal details to continue with their application. Account verification will be required, and you must check your email inbox and follow the instructions to verify your account. Please do not confuse registering (creating an account) with submitting an application. Candidates who have already registered will have an account and should select ‘Login’ from the top right-hand section of the registration page or through the link at the bottom of the page.

Once registered and after your email address has been verified, you must then access the application form, ensure all sections of the application form are fully completed and submit it.

To do this, you will be required to return to the vacancy you wish to apply for, in this instance, **Garda Trainee 2026**, on the jobs board on www.publicjobs.ie and click on “Apply”. This time, you should select the “Login” option in the top right-hand section of the Login Page. Your username is the e-mail address associated with your account. Please note that your username and password are case sensitive.

Please carefully note the following instructions. As you progress through the application, at the bottom of every page, there will be an option to “Save and Continue”. The information that you enter is only saved once you click on the 'Save and Continue' button. If you close the browser before clicking 'Save and Continue' or are inactive on the system for 30 minutes or more, you may be logged out of the application form, and your information could be lost.

It is imperative that all sections of this application form are completed in full. The mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk*. These fields must be completed before you can submit the application form. **You may save the form and come back to it later, however, please note that, you must submit the form in order to be considered for this competition as unsubmitted applications will not progress to the next stage.**

All sections on the application form Progress Tracker must show a green checkmark before you can apply. Return to any section on the Progress Tracker missing a green checkmark where guidance on the missing information will be displayed. Please ensure all information is correct before submitting your application as no changes can be made after submission. Once you have submitted your application form, you will be

brought to a page confirming the status of your application as “Application received”. You can view the status of your application at any time by logging in, selecting your name in the top right-hand section of the page and selecting “View all applications”. At this point you should consider adding @publicjobs.tal.net to your safe senders or contact list within your email account to avoid not receiving emails because a publicjobs email has been blocked.

Only fully completed and submitted applications will be accepted into the competition. The admission of a person to the competition, or invitation to undertake any element of the selection process is not to be taken as implying that publicjobs or any other body is satisfied that such a person fulfils the requirements.

Visit the [Help Centre](#) if you have questions or encounter technical difficulties navigating the site

Communication with publicjobs

You should check your **publicjobs.ie Application Centre** on a regular basis as email notifications about updates/tests/Interviews etc. published in the “**Review Communications**” area can sometimes be filtered into your Junk/Spam email folders. You are also advised to check all these folders regularly.

Competition updates will be available on the Garda Trainee Information page on publicjobs.ie.

Please Note:

This competition is being run in conjunction with a [Comórtas d'Iarrthóirí a bhfuil Cumas sa Ghaeilge acu](#) and an [Eligible Serving Garda Reserve Members competition](#). Candidates are permitted to sit the selection tests etc. only once even if applying for multiple competitions.

Irrespective of which competition you have applied for, you may only sit the Stage 1 tests of the selection process for Trainee once. The scores you achieve will carry across the competitions for which you applied.

The onus is on the candidate to apply for the correct competition(s). Only one application per person per competition is permitted.

Garda Band – Expression of Interest

There is an opportunity for candidates with a musical background who wish to be considered for a future opportunity to audition for the Garda Síochána Band, following successful completion of Garda training and the probationary period. Candidates will have the opportunity to indicate on the application form their expression of interest. Further information will be sought at a later date regarding the instrument and standard.

Candidates who express an interest, may, following successful completion of training and probation, be invited to audition. The audition will typically involve the performance of two contrasting pieces of music. Expression of interest is separate from the selection process for appointment as a Garda and does not guarantee an audition or appointment to the Garda Band.

Closing Date

The closing date and time for receipt of completed applications is **3pm on Wednesday 3rd June 2026**. The onus is on you to ensure that you have correctly submitted a completed application form **as any requests to submit an application after the closing time/date will not be considered**.

Selection Process

publicjobs will conduct the initial stages of recruitment on behalf of An Garda Síochána. Names and details of candidates who are successful following the selection stages will be forwarded on to An Garda Síochána for consideration for appointment.

The Selection Process is broken down into three stages as detailed below. Detailed information on each stage will be made available at the appropriate time to candidates being invited to that particular stage of the process.

All eligible candidates who have successfully applied for this competition will be invited to complete a number of **online assessments**, that will be remotely proctored via webcam. The assessments can be taken at any time during the testing window within a secure IT network.

A pre-test information booklet will be provided to you before you take the assessments, and you will complete practice questions on the assessment site in advance of taking the tests.

Elements of the selection process may be undertaken by third parties. In such circumstances it will be necessary for your information to be shared between publicjobs and these parties for your application to be processed.

Candidates must successfully compete each stage of the recruitment process to be considered for advancement to the next stage.

We advise candidates to take note of the following considerations in advance of completing the online assessments:

Online Test-Taking Environment	Links to Online Stage 1 Assessments	Preparing yourself for the Selection Process
<p>Initial online assessments (a verbal reasoning test, a numerical reasoning test, an assessment questionnaire and an online written exercise) may be taken in a venue of your choice, wherever you have access to a computer with a webcam and a reliable internet connection.</p> <p>Please be aware that taking these tests within a secure IT network e.g. a network such as your work or college that may have firewalls or other security technology in place may cause you technical difficulties. You should consider taking the tests in your home environment, where access to the internet is not restricted.</p> <p>Candidates should ensure that they can complete the tests in a quiet environment where they can concentrate without being disturbed for the duration of the tests.</p>	<p>Following the closing date and before Stage 1 commences, a Pre-Test Information Booklet will be sent to your Application Centre.</p> <p>A link to the assessment site (which will include example questions) will be sent to candidates' Application Centre on the day the test window opens,</p> <p>It is anticipated that this link will be sent during July 2026.</p> <p><i>The onus is on you to ensure that you have full internet access to complete the tests.</i></p>	<p>Familiarisation material will be made available in advance of each assessment stage. Please note that the assessment tests require no other special preparation and that past papers are not available.</p> <p><i>The Garda Commissioner wishes to make it clear that neither publicjobs nor An Garda Síochána have a function or involvement in the provision of, and do not endorse, any preparation courses relating to the selection process for the role of Trainee.</i></p>

Candidates who are successful at Stage 1 will be invited to complete an interview and roleplay, carried out remotely via Zoom. Interviews are expected to commence in August 2026. Further information will issue to candidates during the process. The methods of assessment to be used may need to be reviewed during the course of this competition and may include any other assessment tests/exercises as deemed appropriate. As such it is strongly advised that each candidate reviews any communication or familiarisation sent to your publicjobs registered email address prior to the commencement of each stage.

More detailed information in relation to the selection methods and confirmed dates will be made available to candidates as they progress through the process.

Timeline of the Trainee Selection Process



Note

As outlined, Stages 1 and 2 of the selection process will be conducted by publicjobs with Stage 3 being conducted by An Garda Síochána. Candidates who qualify and meet the eligibility requirements following interview will go forward for consideration for appointment by An Garda Síochána. Please note that candidates may be afforded the opportunity to book their PCT and Medical Assessment in advance of Stage 3.

As candidates progress through the various stages/elements of the selection and appointment process, they should make themselves available for any dates communicated to them. If you do not attend on the specified date/time you will be deemed withdrawn from the competition unless you have notified An Garda Síochána of a specific reason why you cannot attend and are requesting an alternative date/time. Documentary evidence may be requested before an alternative date/time is considered.

Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn

Candidates who do not complete and submit the Online Assessments before the specified date; submit an application form when requested; attend for interview or other test when and where required; attend/undertake any subsequent stage of the selection process as requested or who do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as required in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature, will have no further claim to consideration. Candidates are expected to provide all requested documentation to publicjobs, including all forms issued by us for completion, within seven calendar days of request. Failure to do so will result in the candidate being deemed to have withdrawn from the competition and their candidature will receive no further consideration.

Qualifications/eligibility may not be confirmed until the final stage of the process, therefore, those candidates who do not possess the essential requirements, by the closing date for receipt of applications, and proceed with their application are putting themselves to unnecessary effort/expense and will not be offered a position from this competition.

Given the volume of applications, publicjobs cannot consider or offer advice on the qualifications/eligibility of individuals unless they come under consideration. The onus is on the candidate to ensure they fulfil the eligibility requirements as set out. publicjobs reserves the right to deem an applicant ineligible at any stage if it is apparent that the candidate does not hold the required eligibility/qualifications e.g. from the submitted application form. Candidates who are unable to demonstrate that they hold the required eligibility criteria by the closing date for receipt of applications may be withdrawn from the competition at any stage. An invitation to tests, interview or any element of the selection process is not acceptance of eligibility.

Candidates will be required to provide documentary evidence of their eligibility, including qualifications. Please be aware a transcript of results and translations may be required; therefore, the onus is on candidates to have this information available if requested by publicjobs.

Reschedule Requests

Requests for a reschedule or change to a candidate's allocated date/time for assessment, interview, etc. may only be considered in exceptional circumstances (i.e. bereavement/illness). Reschedules cannot be guaranteed as there are often strict time frames around the running of competitions and we may request supporting documentation as evidence. Candidates who are rescheduled will be scored with their rescheduled batch where applicable and may not be reinserted into their original batch. Please note that candidates who are permitted to reschedule will be given only one opportunity to do so.

publicjobs and An Garda Síochána accept no responsibility for communication not accessed by an applicant. All candidates must ensure that they regularly check their designated email and access all communications from publicjobs and An Garda Síochána.

It is envisaged that successful applicants from this campaign may be considered for intakes into the Garda College during 2026. If successful, An Garda Síochána will offer you a place in the next available intake. Deferrals will only be accommodated in exceptional circumstances.

Selection Process (carried out by publicjobs)

Candidates with Disabilities – Reasonable Accommodations for the Selection Process

publicjobs and An Garda Síochána are committed to equality of opportunity for all candidates. publicjobs has a key role to play in attracting candidates from all sectors of society, ensuring that routes to career opportunities are accessible to all who are interested. We are committed to equality of opportunity for all candidates.

If you have a disability or need reasonable accommodations made during the selection process, we strongly encourage you to share this with us so that we can ensure you get the support you need.

Reasonable accommodation in the selection process refers to adjustments and practical changes which would enable a disabled candidate to have an equal opportunity for this competition. Please note, this relates only to the selection process (e.g. online tests, interviews, etc.) and not workplace accommodations. Examples of adjustments we provide include the use of assistive technology, extra time, scribes and/or readers or a range of other accommodations.

Please be assured that having a disability or requiring adjustments will not impact on your progress in the selection process carried out by publicjobs; you will not be at a disadvantage if you disclose your disability or requirements to us. Any information you disclose will only be used to establish whether reasonable accommodations can be provided to assist you to progress in the competition. Your disability and/or adjustments will be kept entirely confidential.

Should you be successful, the disclosure of a disability for this stage of the process will not be passed onto An Garda Síochána unless you request that we do so.

If you have indicated on your application/account that you require reasonable accommodations, you should upload a copy of your psychologist/medical report directly to your online application before submitting your application. You are required to include a copy of your medical/psychologist report before the closing date of the competition (**5pm on Wednesday 3rd of June 2026**). Please do not email a copy of your report to the recruitment unit mailbox.

The purpose of the report is to provide publicjobs with information to act as a basis for determining reasonable accommodations, where appropriate. The information within these reports that is useful for us to see includes the outcome of any diagnostic tests conducted by your psychologist/doctor, and their summary of recommendations in relation to your requirements. You may redact (block out) parts of medical reports/psychologist's reports that you feel are sensitive or unnecessary for the decision to make reasonable adjustments.

If you have previously applied for a competition with publicjobs and submitted a report (within the past 3 years), there will be an area on the online application where you can provide details of the previous competition and/or your previous candidate/application ID number. A member of the Assessment Services unit will check if your report is still on file (if you consented to this information being retained).

If you have any queries about the reasonable accommodations process or the accommodations you have received, or if you have any difficulty with sourcing your medical/psychologist report by the closing date, please contact ASU@publicjobs.ie.

If you would like to talk about your application or any accommodations that may be of benefit during the recruitment process, please contact our Disability Champion, Amanda Kavanagh, at edi@publicjobs.ie

For further information on the accessibility of our service please visit our [Accessibility page](#).

Appointments Process (carried out by An Garda Síochána)

Any requests for reasonable accommodations prior to the commencement in the Garda College must be made in writing by the candidate to the Appointments Office, Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8 or by email to Appointments@Garda.ie. All supporting medical or relevant psychological reports should be sent to Garda Occupational Health Service, Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8 or by email to GOHSRecruit@garda.ie. The purpose of the report is to provide An Garda Síochána with information to act as a basis for determining reasonable accommodations where appropriate.

Please note that in addition to the above, candidates that are successful in the selection process are required to fully disclose their medical circumstances at the pre-employment medical stage.

Appointments Process

Candidates who are successful in the Selection Process will go forward for consideration for appointment by An Garda Síochána. The Appointments Process is broken down into the below four elements and more detailed information will be provided as the process progresses:



Physical Competence Test

All successful applicants at selection stage will undergo a Physical Competence Test (PCT) as part of the recruitment process. Applicants are required to be aerobically fit upon application to safely undergo training, and to subsequently carry out the duties assigned to them as a Trainee.

Applicants will be assigned a date and time when they will be required to attend at a designated PCT. Failure to attend for the PCT at the assigned date and time may result in removal from the competition. Outside of a very limited set of circumstances applicants will not be permitted to defer or postpone a PCT test for more than seven (7) calendar days. Any such deferral of a PCT test for up to seven (7) calendar days will only be considered in very limited circumstances and upon receipt of supporting documentation. Deferral of a PCT test for a period longer than seven (7) calendar days will only be considered in exceptional circumstance and upon receipt of supporting documentation.

Substance Misuse (Controlled Drugs and Psychoactive Substances) Assessment

You will be required to provide a hair specimen (minimum length 3cm) for Substance Misuse (Controlled Drug and Psychoactive Substances) assessment on the same day as your PCT. You must attend these assessments with a minimum hair length of 3cm. Failure to attend with a minimum hair length of 3cm may result in you failing the substance misuse assessment element of the appointment process. In exceptional circumstances An Garda Síochána may require you to provide a urine sample for the purpose of substance misuse assessment.

It is mandatory for all candidates to participate in the substance misuse assessment process to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána. Any adverse findings resulting from an applicant's substance misuse assessment will result in the applicant failing the substance misuse assessment element of the appointment process.

Applicants are required to wholly and truthfully provide all relevant and requested information during the substance misuse assessment process. Where an applicant has suffered from a recent, previous health condition or has any current or pre-existing health condition(s) which require medication, they are required to declare this medication at the time of assessment. If an applicant is declaring the consumption of a control drug or psychoactive substance the provision of a prescription/medical certification in the applicant's name for the controlled will be required. Applicants who omit or fail to declare or provide all relevant and requested information may be considered to have failed the substance misuse assessment element of the appointment process.

The information provided by applicants as part of, or generated from, the substance misuse assessment process may also be considered during an applicant's medical and vetting assessments.

If an applicant has previously failed a substance misuse assessment they may re-apply for consideration of appointment in a subsequent recruitment competition after the passage of a reasonable period of time.

For any subsequent application to be considered an applicant will be required to show evidence (including documentation) of a substantial change in their circumstances through measures such as treatment, counselling and or changes in lifestyle (including your network of influence).

An Garda Síochána will only consider such applications after the substantial change in the applicant's circumstances have had the opportunity to become permanent. It is envisaged that it will take in or around two (2) years from the date of an applicant's failed pre-employment substance misuse assessment for this permanency to occur.

Substance Misuse (Controlled Drugs and Psychoactive Substances) Assessment appeal.

If an applicant has a Substance Misuse Assessment which results in the detection of 'illegal' controlled drugs, this will give rise to no further advancement in the competition and there will be no avenue of appeal afforded to these applicants. Illegal controlled drugs are considered to be substances described within the schedules of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977/84, the Psychoactive Substances Act, 2010 and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations, 2017 which cannot be legitimately administered or provided by a medical practitioner.

If the adverse Substance Misuse Assessment result is due to the presence of a controlled drug which can be legitimately obtained from/administered by a registered medical practitioner, then the applicant can appeal the adverse result on one (1) of the following grounds:

- a) providing a legitimate explanation for the presence of the drug (legitimate explanation challenge)

OR

- b) challenging the analytical results (sample B challenge)

There is no provision for multiple, concurrent or consecutive, mechanisms of appeal.

Medical Assessment

You will also be required to undergo a detailed medical assessment by a Registered Medical Practitioner, nominated by the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána. General medical requirements are as follows:



A good standard of general mental and physical health (full disclosure of medical history is necessary and shall be reviewed as part of the medical assessment).



Weight within normal (non-underweight and non-obese) limits (ideal BMI is 18.5 to less than 25). Persons whose BMI is outside these parameters shall be assessed with additional validated indicators in order to inform a decision on whether they satisfy medical fitness requirements.

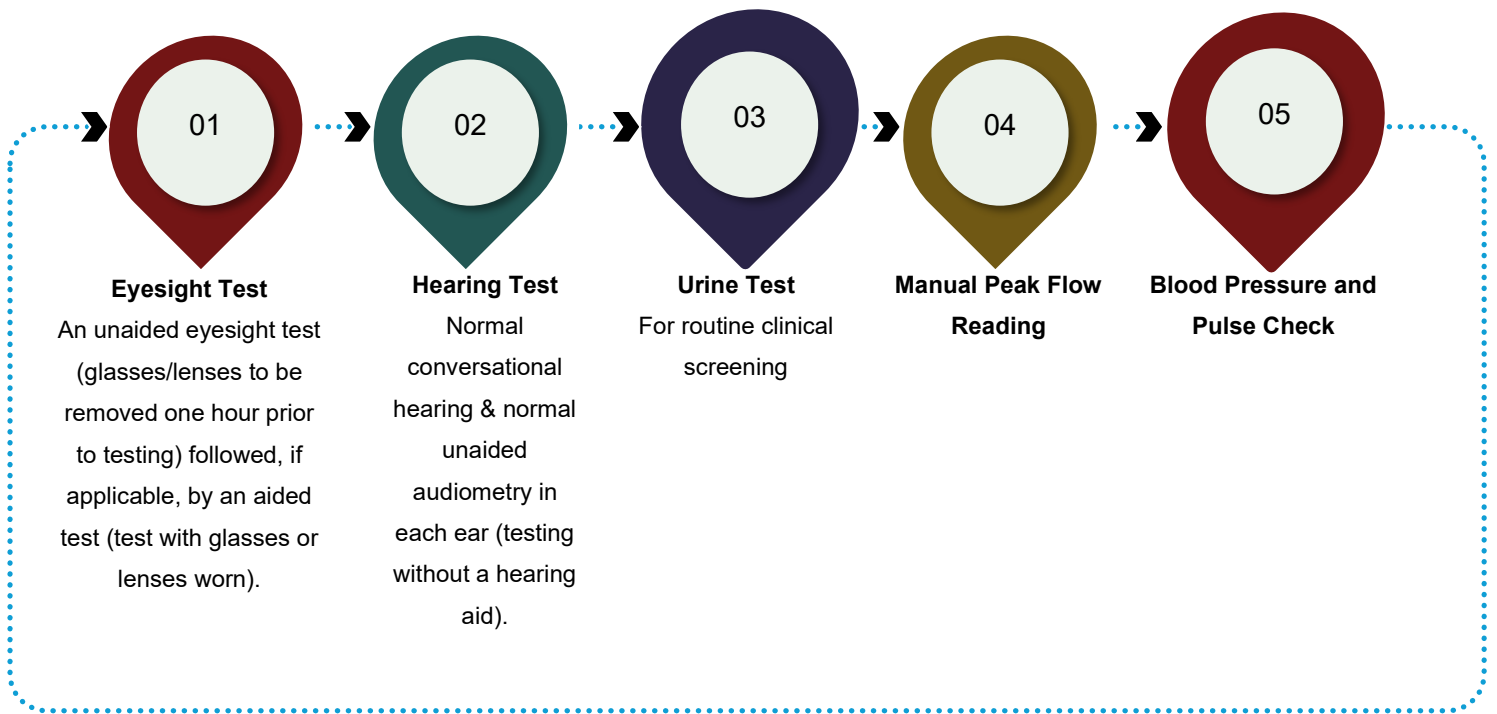


Eyesight – good levels of vision (minimum unaided distance visual acuity of 6/18 in each eye correctable to 6/9 or better in worse eye). The binocular visual acuity must be 6/7.5 or better whether unaided or aided.



Hearing – good levels of conversational hearing without a hearing aid and normal hearing thresholds in each ear on audiometry testing without a hearing aid.

As part of your medical assessment, the following tests shall also be carried out:



Those that do not meet the general medical requirements as set out above may be removed from the competition. The onus is on the candidates to ensure they meet these requirements prior to application.

Pre-Existing Conditions

Where a candidate has suffered from a previous health condition or has any personal current or pre-existing health condition(s), they are required to declare it at the examination. **Those who either omit, or fail to declare, a full history may be removed from the competition.**

The reviewing doctor will review current, pre-existing and previous medical and mental health conditions and history on a case-by-case basis, which may require provision of additional reports or clarifications from the candidate's treating doctor(s) or clinical professionals. **It is necessary that candidates make available any relevant clinical reports from their treating doctor(s) or clinical professionals on the day of the examination.** This will expedite the medical assessment process and hence the progress of your application.

Medical Unfit Decision Appeal

If a candidate is deemed medically unfit by the Medical Practitioner, the candidate is required to confirm if they wish to appeal **within a 2-week timeframe.**

Process of Establishing Character and Suitability

An Garda Síochána is unique among policing services internationally as a single body responsible for the security of the State and the provision of policing services. The pre-employment vetting process provides a means of ensuring that persons performing the functions of An Garda Síochána and having access to An Garda Síochána premises, information, intelligence, financial or operational assets have been assessed as to their reliability, honesty, integrity and suitability for the position and future potential positions as a career is built with An Garda Síochána.

Throughout the entirety of the process, failure to disclose any information that could be relevant to your application can result in automatic disqualification.

The onus is on the candidate to provide relevant and accurate information within the required timeframe and candidates who fail to do so will be deemed to have withdrawn their candidature.

You can expect that your suitability to join An Garda Síochána will be subject to rigorous and extensive vetting checks which may include:

- Criminal record checks on you, your extended family and your network of influence,
- Security and Intelligence checks on you, your extended family and your network of influence,
- Checks for fines, fixed penalty notices, juvenile cautions and adult cautions,
- Checks on your social media profiles,
- Checks with the Irish Defence Forces and/or Foreign Defence Forces,

- Checks with Foreign Police Forces,
- Online publications, user generated content and social media checks,
- Credit checks,
- Local vetting check interviews,
- Police Clearance Certificate or Police Certificate from foreign jurisdictions where you lived for 6 months or more,
- Consideration of any past recruitment/vetting processes/suitability decisions,
- Consideration of past employment and reference checks,
- Consideration of results of substance misuse assessments of all current and any previous substance misuse (controlled drugs and psychoactive substances) assessments.

An Garda Síochána will conduct robust criminal record and security checks against persons in your network of influence. The processing of such personal data is necessary for the safeguarding against, and the prevention of threats to national security and public security. Please note that for GDPR reasons, we will not disclose the results of same to you.

Candidates may receive a “conditional offer” pending the completion of full vetting prior to attestation, on the basis that their full good character suitability assessment will be conducted during their training period.
You will not proceed to formal attestation into the organisation until full vetting is complete.

The Garda Commissioner may issue an early unsuitability decision at any time during the clearance process if sufficient evidence or information exists to suggest that a candidate/trainee is not suitable for admission/continue to serve as a trainee. However, where such a decision is reversed after a review, the Garda Commissioner will resume and conclude the process in its entirety.

More Information

Please note there is a requirement for each candidate to provide a copy of their birth certificate.

More information will be provided on each of the above four elements of the appointments processes as you progress through them.

Foundation Training Process

The Foundation Training programme commences on the Trainees arrival at the Garda College for Phase I training (36 Weeks), on successful completion of Phase I they are attested as members of An Garda Síochána. They will then be assigned to a Training Station where they will complete Phases 2 (36 Weeks) and Phase 3 (34 Weeks) of their training programme. Having completed and passed all Three Phases of training they will have completed the B.A in Applied Policing. Ordinarily, on finishing Phase III of training they will remain on Probation for a further 34 weeks. On the successful conclusion of the Probationary period they will be confirmed in their appointment by the Garda Commissioner.

The Foundation Training Programme commences when a successful applicant is accepted by the Commissioner as a Trainee and concludes following the successful completion of the probationary period when the Garda Commissioner confirms the applicant in their appointment as a member of An Garda Síochána.

The Foundation Training Programme encapsulates three important areas of learning and development, which are monitored and assessed over the duration of the Programme. These three areas are:



Entering the College

Please note that candidates should be in a position to commence in the Garda College upon receiving an offer. Deferrals will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

General Information

Unforeseen Circumstances

Should the Candidate's application be interrupted by unforeseen circumstances, An Garda Síochána reserves the right, upon the Candidate's return or any subsequent recruitment or re-engagement process, to apply the recruitment provisions, terms, conditions prevailing at that time.

Review Mechanisms - CPSA – Code of Practice

publicjobs will conduct the selection process for the Trainee competition in compliance with the Commission for Public Service Appointments' (Commission) Code of Practice for Appointment to Positions in the Civil and Public Service.

The Code of Practice sets out the procedures to address candidates' requests for review and candidates' complaints in relation to the selection process. Issues relating to Stages 1 and 2 of the process should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of publicjobs. Issues relating to the appointments process should be addressed to the Garda Commissioner.

The code reflects the following core principles:

- Probity
- Merit
- Best Practice
- Consistency
- Transparency
- Appointments promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Review Procedures

There is no obligation on publicjobs or An Garda Síochána to suspend the selection or appointment process while it considers a request for a review. Please note that where a review of a recruitment and selection process has taken place under Section 7 of this Code of Practice, a complainant may not seek a further review of the same process under Section 8, other than in the most exceptional circumstances that will be determined by the Commission at its sole discretion.

The Code of Practice is available on the website of the Commission for Public Service Appointments, www.cpsa.ie.

Section 7

A request for review may be taken by a candidate should they be dissatisfied with an action or decision taken by publicjobs or An Garda Síochána. The relevant officeholder will consider requests for review in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the Code of Practice. When making a request for a review, the candidate must support their request by outlining the facts they believe show that the action taken, or decision reached was wrong. A request for review may be refused if the candidate cannot support their request.

The Commission recommends that, subject to the agreement of the candidate, where the office holder considers the matter could be resolved they should first seek to engage on an informal basis, before making use of the formal review procedure.

Procedure for Informal Review

- A request for Informal Review must be made within 5 working days of notification of the decision and should normally take place between the candidate and a representative of publicjobs who had played a key role in the selection process.
- Where a candidate remains dissatisfied following any such informal discussion, they may adopt the formal procedures set out below.
- If the candidate wishes the matter to be dealt with by way of a formal review, they must do so within 5 working days of the notification of the outcome of the informal review.

Procedure for Formal Review of Selection Process

- The candidate must address their concerns in relation to the process in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of publicjobs or the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána as appropriate, outlining the facts that they believe show an action taken or decision reached was wrong.
- A request for review must be made within 5 working days of the notification of the selection decision.
- Any extension of these time limits will only be granted in the most exceptional of circumstances.
- The outcome must generally be notified to the candidate within 25 working days of receipt of the request for review.

Section 8 - Complaints

Where a candidate may believe there was a breach of the Code of Practice by the relevant licence holder (the Chief Executive Officer of publicjobs or the Garda Commissioner) which compromised the integrity of the decision reached in the selection or appointment process they can have it investigated under Section 8 of the Code. The complaints process enables candidates (or potential candidates) to make a complaint to the licence holder in the first instance, and to the Commission subsequently on appeal if they remain dissatisfied.

The complainant must outline the facts that they believe show that the process followed was wrong. The complainant must also identify the aspect of the Code they believe has been infringed and enclose any relevant documentation that may support the allegation. A complaint may be dismissed if they cannot support their allegations by setting out how publicjobs or An Garda Síochána has fallen short of the principles of this Code.

- A request for Informal complaint must be made within 5 working days of notification of the decision and should normally take place between the candidate and a representative of publicjobs who had played a key role in the selection process.
- Where a candidate remains dissatisfied following any such informal discussion, they may adopt the formal procedures set out below.

- If the candidate wishes the matter to be dealt with by way of a formal review, they must do so within 5 working days of the notification of the notification of the decision or within 5 working days of the outcome of the informal complaint.

Requests for Feedback/Test Rechecks

Feedback in relation to the selection process is available on written request. There are no specific timeframes set for the provision of feedback or for carrying out rechecks.

Please note that the Review Process as set out in the Code of Practice is a separate process with specified timeframes that must be observed. Receipt of feedback is not required to invoke a review. It is not necessary for a candidate to compile a detailed case prior to invoking the appeals mechanism. The timeframe set out in the CPSA Code cannot be extended for any reason including the provision of feedback and/or the outcome of rechecks.

Candidates' Obligations

In applying for this competition, candidates must accept a number of obligations.

Candidates must:

- Have the knowledge and ability to discharge the duties of the post concerned,
- Be of suitable character for the post,
- Be suitable in all other relevant respects for appointment to the post concerned.

and, if successful, they will not be appointed to the post unless they

- agree to undertake the duties attached to the post and accept the conditions under which the duties are, or may be required to be, performed.
- are fully competent, available to and capable of undertaking those duties.

Candidates must not:

- Knowingly or recklessly provide false information.
- Canvass any person with or without inducements.
- Interfere with or compromise the process in any way

A third party must not impersonate a candidate at any stage of the process. Any attempt, direct or indirect by an applicant to use influence by way of canvassing in connection with their application will cause them to be disqualified from the competition.

Any person who contravenes the above provisions or who assists another person in contravening the above provisions is committing an offence. **A person who is found guilty of an offence is liable to prosecution that may result in a fine and/or imprisonment.** In addition, where a person found guilty of an offence was or is a candidate at a recruitment process, then:

- where a person has not been appointed to a post, they will be disqualified as a candidate; and
- where a person has been appointed subsequently to the recruitment process in question, they shall forfeit that appointment.

Deeming of a Candidate to be Withdrawn

Withdrawal from the Selection Process

Candidates who do not attend for interview or other test when and where required by publicjobs, or who do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as publicjobs require to any matter relevant to their candidature, will have no further claim to consideration.

Candidates are expected to provide all requested documentation to publicjobs, including all forms issued by publicjobs for completion, within seven calendar days. Failure to do so will result in the candidate being deemed to have withdrawn from the competition and their candidature will receive no further consideration.

Withdrawal from the Appointment Process

There are a number of reasons that would result in a candidate being withdrawn from the competition by An Garda Síochána, including but not limited to the following:

- If a candidate is medically deferred for a period exceeding 6 months.
- If a candidate is unable to provide the Appointments Office with a satisfactory Vetting Form.
- If a candidate fails to successfully complete an element of the overall process within the time constraints provided.

Conditions of Service

Tattoos and Body Art

Tattoos and body art on the face, visible above the collar or below the cuff of your uniform are not permitted. To retain a professional image, all other tattoos and body art must be covered while on duty. You must make An Garda Síochána aware if you have visible tattoos as early as possible as they may prevent you from being permitted to commence training.

Outside Employment

The assignment is full-time, and the Trainee may not engage in, or be connected with, any outside business or activity which would interfere with the performance of the assignment. If Trainees are engaged in any outside business or activity they must inform the Trainee Office, Garda College in writing.

This should include the nature of the outside business or activity, their role, hours/days engaged and all relevant information. Permission to continue engagement in any outside business or activity is a matter for the Superintendent of Foundation Training.

The decision of Superintendent Foundation Training can be appealed to the Director of Training and Development and their decision is final. The ***onus is on the Trainee to report any outside business or activity*** and failure to report any outside business or activity may be a disciplinary matter and may include a sanction up to and including termination of contract. Any engagement in any outside business or activity must be fully in compliance with the European Working Time Directive.

DNA Testing

Candidates should note that An Garda Síochána is bound by the provisions of the Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence & DNA Database System) Act 2014.

Section 41 of that Act states that DNA Samples shall be taken from Trainees who started their training at the Garda College following the commencement of the Act on 20th November 2015.

Section 41 4 (c) of the Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence & DNA Database System) Act 2014 outlines that 'the sample will be used to generate a DNA profile in respect of the person to be entered in the elimination (Garda Síochána) index of the DNA Database System and the effect of such an entry'. The taking of such samples is for the purpose, in relation to the investigation of offences and of ascertaining whether that person has contaminated a crime scene sample.

Code of Ethics

In a democratic society, the role of the police is to protect and serve society, keep the peace, enforce the law and ensure the safety of the community. To achieve this, An Garda Síochána must enjoy the trust and confidence of the society which it serves. It will gain and maintain this trust by acting, and being seen to act, within the law and by applying the law fairly towards others. For anyone working in An Garda Síochána, this is the starting point for all other commitments.

The Code of Ethics is a statement of the ethical requirements for everyone working in An Garda Síochána and a clear indication to the public of the norms of behaviour that they are entitled to expect. Policing is an honourable profession of which the public expect the highest standards of conduct and practice. Absolute commitment to the Code of Ethics is a requirement for all members of An Garda Síochána, to ensure the trust and support of the public. You will be required to sign a formal commitment to the Code of Ethics when you join the Organisation. For more information, [click here](#).

Conduct

All lawful orders, given either in writing or verbally, by those in authority, must be obeyed. A Trainee must at all times conform to the standard of conduct and discipline required and is obliged to study the Trainee and Probationer Garda Handbook and abide by its provisions. Penalties for breaches of any of the provisions of that Code may range from a caution to a termination of programme.

Uniform and Equipment

The uniform and equipment supplied to the Trainee will remain at all times the property of An Garda Síochána. The Trainee will be responsible for its care and must return it in good condition when required to do so. It must not be used except for authorised purposes and the Trainee will be liable to pay any charge imposed for articles lost or damaged.

Confidentiality of Information and Materials

It is important to remember that this is a competitive process for a role where integrity is paramount. Sharing information on the selection process e.g. through social media or any other means, may result in you being disqualified from the competition.

Please note that all assessment and test materials are subject to copyright and all rights are reserved. No part of the test material (including passages of information, questions or answer options), associated materials or interview related information may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means including electronic, mechanical, photocopying, photographing, recording, written or otherwise, at any stage. To do so is an offence and may result in exclusion from the selection process. Any person who contravenes this provision, or who assists another person(s) in contravening this provision, is liable to prosecution and/or civil suit for loss of copyright and intellectual property.

Use of Recording Equipment

publicjobs does not allow the unsanctioned use of any type of recording equipment on its premises or any location where assessments/tests/interviews, etc. take place, e.g. video interviews, teleconference. This applies to any form of sound recording and any type of still picture or video recording, whether including sound recording or not, and covers any type of device used for these purposes.

Any person wishing to use such equipment for any of these purposes must seek written permission in advance. This policy is in place to protect the privacy of staff and candidates/clients and the integrity of the assessment material and assessment processes.

Unsanctioned use of recording equipment by any person is a breach of this policy. Any candidate involved in such a breach could be disqualified from the competition and could be subject to prosecution under section 55 of the Public Service Management (Recruitment & Appointments) Act, 2004.

In addition, where a person found guilty of such an offence was or is a candidate, then;

- Where they have not been appointed to the post they will be disqualified as a candidate; and
- Where they have been appointed subsequently to the recruitment process in question, they shall forfeit that appointment.

Quality Customer Service

We aim to provide an excellent quality service to all our customers. If, for whatever reason, you are unhappy with any aspect of the service you receive from us, we urge you to bring this to the attention of the unit or staff member concerned. This is important as it ensures that we are aware of the problem and can take the appropriate steps to resolve it.

Please note, if publicjobs is not notified of any issues you experience in advance of or on the day of your assessment/interview, we will not be in a position to address these after the fact. Feedback will be provided on written request. A request for feedback does not impact on the timeframe set out for seeking a review.

General Data Protection Regulation

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th May 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive.

When you register with www.publicjobs.ie or submit an application for a competition, we create a computer record in your name. Information submitted with a job application is used in processing your application. Where the services of a third party are used in processing your application, it may be required to provide them with information, however you will be advised of this in advance of the assessment and all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure the security of your data. If you are successful following Stage 2 of the selection process, the information provided on your application form (excluding any equality monitoring information), will be provided to AGS to facilitate further stages of the selection process.

Equality Monitoring Data will be collected by publicjobs on the Application Form. This information is collected for statistical purposes and will be anonymised. Where appropriate, this anonymised statistical information will be shared with AGS.

The personal data supplied by you will be managed confidentially, securely and in accordance with the (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Acts 1988-2018 (2018 Act).

The processing of personal data is necessary for the safeguarding against, and the prevention of, threats to National Security and Public Security elements of the definition of scope for EU Directive 2016/680 (the Law Enforcement Directive, or LED) processing detailed under [Section 70\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the 2018 Act, and therefore subject to [Part 5](#) of the 2018 Act.

General information on An Garda Síochána's processing of personal data, and how data subjects can exercise their rights (including accessing data) is available on the Garda website; www.garda.ie

To make a request to access your personal data, in the case of publicjobs, please submit your request by email to: dpo@publicjobs.ie

In the case of An Garda Síochána, please submit your request in writing to:

The Data Protection Co-Ordinator,
Garda Data Protection Office,
Capel Street,
Dublin 1.
Email: DataProtection@Garda.ie

Ensure that you describe the records you seek in the greatest possible detail to enable identification of the relevant record(s). Information in relation to a candidate's personal data held by publicjobs are set out on the Data Protection page of www.publicjobs.ie

Protected Disclosures

publicjobs Protected Disclosures Policy (including Reporting Options for all those covered by the Policy) is available at: [Protected Disclosures Policy](#)

publicjobs is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and encourage applications under all nine grounds of the Employment Equality Act.

publicjobs on behalf of An Garda Síochána (AGS) will run the selection aspects of this competition in compliance with the relevant Code of Practice prepared and published by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA) and available on www.cpsa.ie.

publicjobs refers to publicjobs established under the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Acts 2004-2013.

Contact: Justice Recruitment Unit, publicjobs

Email: gardatraine2026@publicjobs.ie

URL: www.publicjobs.ie

Appendix A - Self-Assessment Questionnaire

This short questionnaire encourages you to review how your qualifications, interests, skills and experiences match the challenging requirements of a Trainee.

Please work through the statements below and decide on the response that best reflects your level of agreement with each statement. This questionnaire will not form any part of the selection process you are encouraged to consider all statements in advance of proceeding with your application.

Could You:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Work in a role with incredible variety				
Confidently use IT packages & software				
Develop a range of new skills that you can apply in your role				
Tell a parent that their child has been killed				
Understand the complexities of relevant legislation and apply it in your role				
Perform CPR on a critically injured person				
Maintain a good level of fitness				
Enforce legislation that you personally disagree with				
Arrest someone who you know to be a fundamentally honest and decent person, but who has broken the law				
Do tasks that you have been assigned that you don't particularly want to do				
Cope with large amounts of blood and other severe injuries				
Understand that in the role you will have to deal with a huge amount of negativity, crime & suffering but need to maintain a positive perspective				
Physically tackle someone resisting arrest				
Work for one organisation for your whole career				
Build close working relationships with your colleagues				
Obey a lawful order that may put you in danger				

Build strong links with a community				
Go through the possessions of a body to try to find ID				
Maintain your composure, even when severely provoked				
Be the first port of call for someone who has been sexually assaulted				
Adopt the shift work pattern used in An Garda Síochána, which means having to work throughout the night where, unlike some roles, sleeping is not permitted on duty				
Maintain your resilience in the face of negative coverage and unfair criticism				
Appreciate that even in social situations, you are likely to be introduced to others as Garda and some people will instantly make up their mind about you				
Always carry your Garda ID, even when off duty				
Build strong links with the community where you work				
Work holidays including Christmas, Easter and Weekends				
Appreciate that not everyone who joins will be promoted through the ranks				
Deal with life and death situations, sometimes on a daily basis				
Carry out an arrest in a public place where you may be filmed on mobile phones				
Remain dispassionate and carry out your duties, even in very difficult circumstances				
Appreciate that your friends/family may worry about you and your career choice				
Go on the beat alone				
Provide help and assistance to people who need it				
Make a huge difference to the lives of others				



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You can also keep up to date
on publicjobs.ie and follow us
on our social platforms:

