

Dublin Rathdown Constituency

# Josepha MADIGAN TD

Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion

*Helping to Reduce Crime in Dublin-Rathdown***Dear Resident,**

Since 2014, I have attended and submitted numerous local policing questions to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) Joint Policing Committee Meetings on your behalf. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all seen a rise in the levels of anti-social behaviour in our locality – as well as a stark reminder that domestic, sexual and gender-based violence is prevalent within wider society.

Anti-Social behaviour occurs when a person acts in a way that causes (or is likely to cause someone) harassment, significant or persistent alarm, distress and/or fear. Examples of anti-social behaviour are intimidation, abusive or threatening behaviour and vandalism.

**I remain committed to the prevention and elimination of anti-social behaviour in Dublin Rathdown – and have put together this leaflet in the hope that it might highlight some local and national initiatives that are currently in place to tackle these types of crimes. I hope you find it to be of interest.**

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Stay safe. *Josepha Madigan*

## Justice Plan 2021: Making an Impact Locally

One of the main pillars of the recently announced Justice Plan 2021 is to build a safer Ireland by reducing and preventing crime by continually working to enhance national security and by transforming and strengthening An Garda Síochána.

- The **Policing, Security & Community Safety Bill** will be a landmark piece of legislation that provides for the most wide ranging and coherent reform of policing in a generation – and will allow for increased visibility of An Garda Síochána in our communities to prevent crime and harm. Most importantly, it recognises that local communities themselves know what the best responses will be to improve safety in their own areas
- The recently published **Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027** will enhance criminal justice processes for young offenders – as well as detention and post-detention measures to encourage desistance from crime.
- Many residents have contacted my office about local instances of **drug dealing, under-age drinking, violence and vandalism**. The Department of Justice has set up a new **Anti-Social Behaviour Forum** with the aim of tackling anti-social behaviour in our communities. I have no doubt that all of the above measures will go a long way to making Dublin-Rathdown a safer place to live.

## Policing by Numbers as of July 2021

The vast majority of Dublin Rathdown is covered by the Blackrock Garda District. The Tallaght Garda District takes in a very small part of the Ballinteer and Churchtown areas.

### GARDA STATIONS THAT COVER AREAS IN DUBLIN-RATHDOWN

GARDA STATION	INSPECTORS	SERGEANTS	GARDAÍ	TOTAL GARDAÍ
Stepaside		2	26	28
Dundrum	1	10	68	79
Rathfarnham		4	44	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>155</b>

*Most stations also have dedicated Garda personnel committed to policing the sale and supply of drugs.*

## Local Policing in Dublin Rathdown

Local Policing Forums (LPFs) can be established within specific neighbourhoods by the DLR Joint Policing Committee in consultation a local Garda Superintendent. LPFs are useful to monitor levels and patterns of crime in certain areas – and can also be used to advise DLR Council and An Garda Síochána on how best to take action against local crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

There are currently two LPFs in Dublin Rathdown:

- 1) **Sandyford/Stepaside**
- 2) **Dundrum/Stillorgan** (which was established in June 2021)

I believe the Council and An Garda Síochána need to act swiftly to ensure that a further LPF is created to cover the **Ballinteer and Churchtown areas**.

Additional Garda patrols have been deployed across the constituency to crack down on local instances of anti-social behaviour.



**WhatsApp your query to Minister Madigan for a rapid response: 085 2255886**

If you have question you would like asked at your next local Joint Policing Committee, please get in touch!





In an emergency,  
**ALWAYS**  
call **999**  
or **112**.

**Dundrum** C  
01-666-5600  
**Blackrock** (C  
**Gardaí** 01-6

*Don't keep large cash amounts at home.*



**Alarm/  
Roof:**

Alarm your house with a quality alarm system, and ensure it is serviced regularly.

**Front Door:**

Lock all doors. 34% of burglars enter through the front door. 25% enter through a back door.

**Lights:**

Do not leave a light on all night; invest in a timer switch if going out.

**Security Light:**

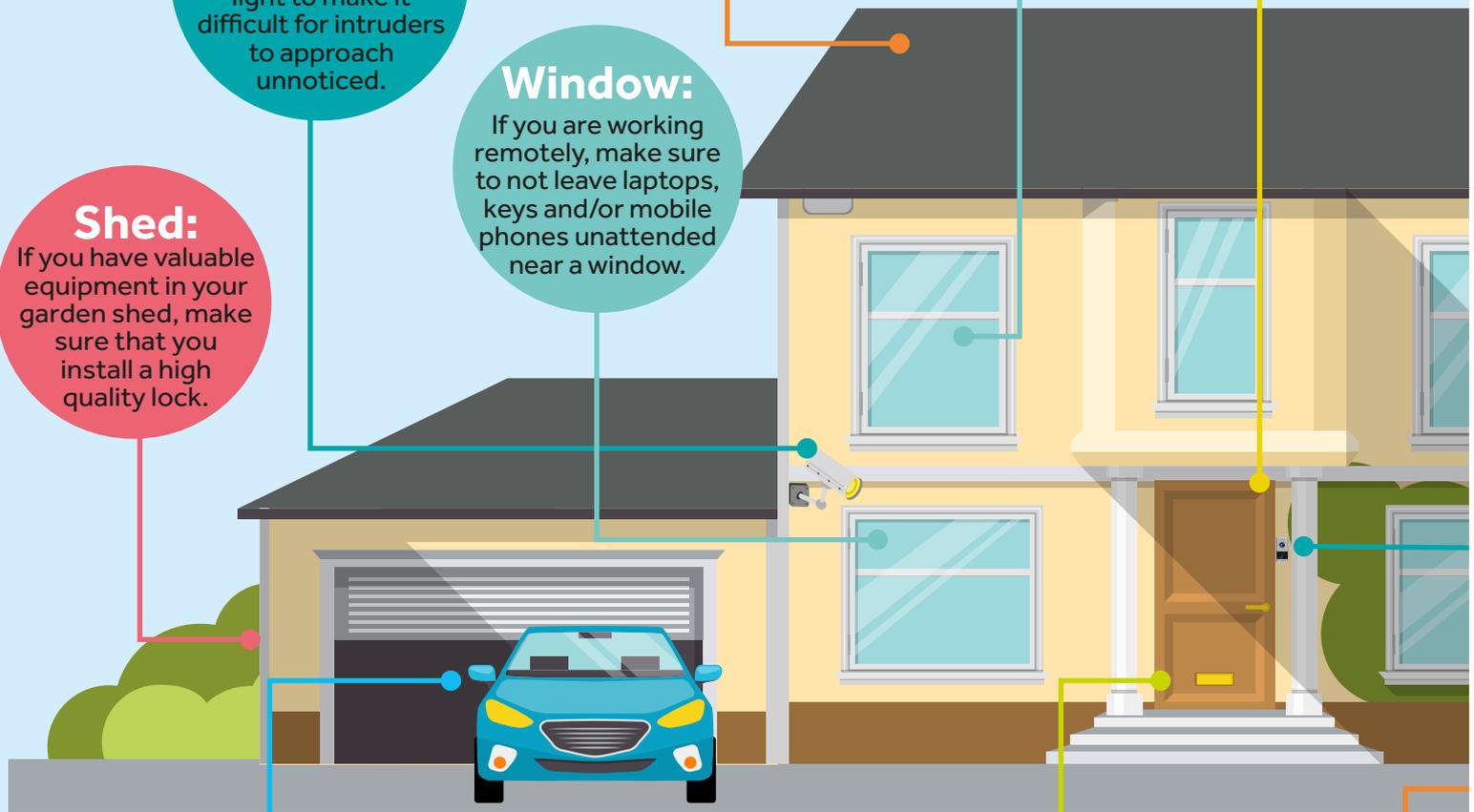
Install a security light to make it difficult for intruders to approach unnoticed.

**Window:**

If you are working remotely, make sure to not leave laptops, keys and/or mobile phones unattended near a window.

**Shed:**

If you have valuable equipment in your garden shed, make sure that you install a high quality lock.



**Car:**

Lock your car! 33% of vehicles broken into are unlocked.

**Car:**

Park car in a secure and well-lit location. Take all property with you when parking.

*Tip:*

There have been some instances of burglars 'fishing' valuables out through letterboxes and open windows. Be mindful about where you leave your valuables.

**Deliveries:**

Large packages do not fit in standard letterboxes and are often left by a front door if nobody is at home. Try and arrange a delivery time for when you are at home.

**Side Gate:**

Always keep side gates locked to prevent easy access to your property.

## Gardaí

00

## (District HQ)

-666-5200

## Stepaside Gardaí

01-666-5701

## DLR Drug & Alcohol

Task Force 01-706-0125

## Rathfarnham Gardaí

01-666-6500

## Garda Confidential Line

1800-666-111

### Window:

Lock all windows. 20% of burglars gain access through an unsecured window.

### Mobile Phone:

Keep your phone close to you at all times. Take note of your mobile phone's unique IMEI number (dialling \*#06#) If your mobile is stolen, you can provide this number to your phone operator, who can then disable the phone.

### CCTV:

Consider installing CCTV near access points to your home. Smart Doorbells are particularly useful.

I have written to the Council to ask that its current Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (2016-2022) is updated and renewed as soon as possible to ensure that a multi-agency approach to tackling crime continues within our community.

## Have You Received Scam Phone-calls/ Emails Lately?

Many residents have been in touch with my office about a large increase in phone-calls and emails from people purporting to be from the HSE, Department of Social Protection, Attorney General's Office, Revenue and many other official State bodies and agencies. A number of these communications are automated and can easily be identified if you are **informed, alert and secure**. Never ever provide any security details, passwords, pin-codes, or card-details to anyone.



## Be on the lookout for unauthorised/ bogus traders!

Rogue traders defraud people by offering services such as building work, gardening and other repairs. **If somebody comes to your door offering to carry out work on your property:**

1. Ask for ID, proof of insurance and a valid quotation.
2. Ask the caller to leave their contact details and make an appointment.
3. Keep any leaflets received from these type of traders as it can assist An Garda Síochána to identify them.
4. If you are part of a neighbourhood watch group or WhatsApp group let them know that there are rogue traders in the area.
5. Never be embarrassed or ashamed to contact the Gardaí!

## Own a Bicycle? Lock it or Lose it!

66% of bicycles are stolen from public places – such as public streets and parks. An Garda Síochána has informed me that the peak months for bicycle thefts are July, August, September, and October.

**If you have a bicycle, the best tips that you should do to ensure that it is not stolen are:**

1. Purchase a top of the range bicycle/cable lock
2. Lock your bicycle to an immovable object with the lock off the ground
3. Try and secure your bike indoors or close to an area monitored by CCTV
4. Take a photo of you with your bike and your bike's frame and serial number
5. If your bicycle is stolen, report all details to An Garda Síochána.



## Seniors Alert Scheme

Pobal's Seniors Alert Scheme provides funding for a **free personal monitored alarm for people over 65** to support older people to live securely and independently in their homes. If you would like more information, please get in touch with my office!

# Tackling Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV)



Contributing to a recent Dáil debate on combatting DSGBV

The local Gardai have informed me that there has been a **23% increase in domestic violence in DLR County** alone in since 2019. And while all victims and survivors (men and women) of DSGBV need to be protected and assisted in every way possible, there can be no denying that women this is an issue that predominantly affects women.

In 2019, while at Cabinet, I ensured that escaping survivors/victims of DSGBV were not subjected to travel limits throughout the pandemic. I also assisted SAFE Ireland, Women's Aid and Airbnb in their partnership to provide temporary accommodation to those seeking refuge. I was pleased to see this scheme further extended earlier this year.

Stories are the most powerful tools to change minds and to bring about a shift in culture within society – both of which are greatly needed when it comes to DSGBV. Further to my June 2021 speech in Dáil Éireann, I want to let you know what is currently happening to rid society of this pernicious evil:

- The Department of Justice are currently working on Ireland's **Third National Strategy against Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence**, which will go a long way towards placing a priority on prevention and reduction of these horrific and violent crimes. I also expect it to include a **national preventative strategy**.
- The Central Statistics Office will **conduct a nationwide survey on the prevalence of sexual violence in Ireland** as part of the upcoming Census.
- Following Ireland's ratification of the Istanbul Convention, I believe that we need to **increase the provision of emergency shelter** to victims of DSGBV. TUSLA is currently carrying out a review of current shelters and in particular their levels of demand, suitability, and demand.
- Government will implement **Supporting a Victim's Journey: A plan to help victims and vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases** which will include:
  - o a new Sexual Offences Bill;
  - o expanding legal aid and counselling;
  - o a nationwide campaign on consent – and increased awareness in the higher education sector; and
  - o increased Garda training in areas like trauma awareness.

## Support is available for YOU

There are many local and national supports out there for women, men and children who are victims of these horrific crimes. Please don't be afraid to reach out – it is very important that you do so. Visit [www.safeireland.ie](http://www.safeireland.ie) for more information:

In an emergency, **ALWAYS** call **999** or **112**.

### Women

Women's Aid 24/7 Freephone Helpline: 1800 341 900  
 Aoibhneas (Women & Children Refuge): 01 867 0701  
 Dublin Rape Crisis Centre 24/7 Freephone Helpline: 1800 778 888.

### Men

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre 24/7 Freephone Helpline: 1800 778 888  
 Men's Aid Ireland: 01 5543811  
 Men's Development Network Male Advice Line: 1800 816 588

### Children

Childline 24/7 Helpline: 1800 66 66 66  
 Children at Risk Ireland (CARI): 1890 924 567 (Monday-Friday 9:30 – 5:30)

## Minister Josepha Madigan is working locally with:



Josepha MADIGAN TD Neale RICHMOND TD



Frances FITZGERALD MEP



Cllr Kazi AHMED



Cllr Emma BLAIN



Cllr Anna GRAINGER



Cllr Jim O'LEARY



Cllr John KENNEDY



Cllr Maeve O'CONNELL



Cllr Barry SAUL

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