



**RESTORATIVE**  
JUSTICE SERVICES



**2022**  
Annual Report



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# Welcome

## Welcome to Restorative Justice Services report 2022.

Looking back at the year, it was a time when we moved out of the Covid pandemic and into having a more “normal” service.

Adjusting back to face-to-face work, working a hybrid model of office based and working from home brought its own challenges, yet there was a sense of relief that maintaining distance, wearing masks and use of hand sanitisers became things of the past.

We continue to work closely with The Probation Service, the Gardaí, our volunteers, Crime Victims Helpline, and other agencies that cooperate with us, from the beginning we developed a partnership model, and this continues to serve us well.

The statistics in this report show a gradual improvement in the number of cases. We believe this trend will continue.

Our staff continue to work with those benefiting from the service through difficult times, we acknowledge the support of the Probation Service, the Court services, and the voluntary organisations that cooperate with us.



RJS Chairperson  
Maria Flynn

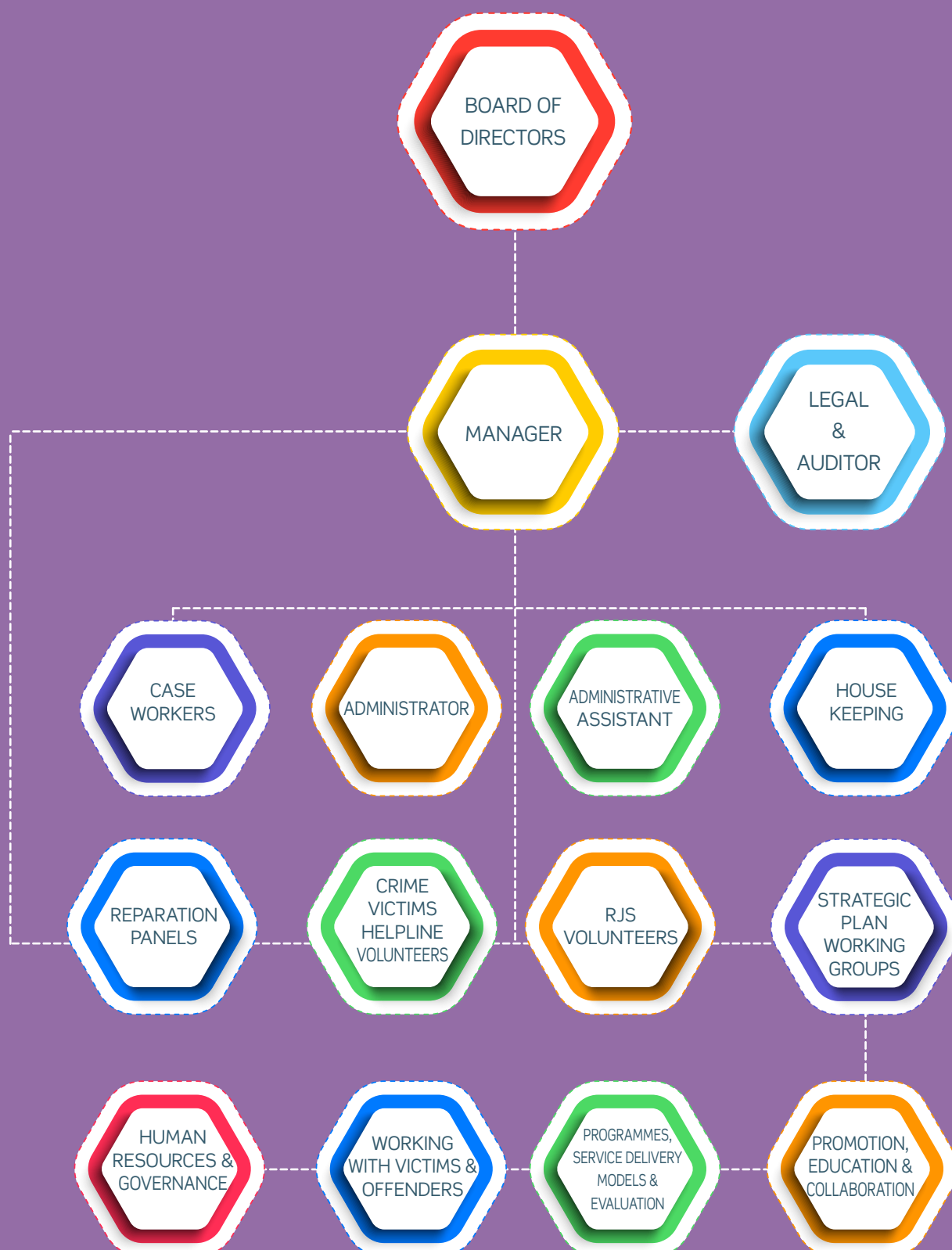
The biggest change during the year was Peter Keely's retirement from the Service. Peter has been the Manager from the beginning and has steered the organisation through its initial years. He has given time and dedication to RJS, coped with premises changes, personnel changes, and changes with members of the Board, with energy and good humour. His commitment to the principles of Restorative Justice has been his guiding light through all the work involved.

Towards the end of the year Emeline Le Prince was appointed as manager. She comes to us with a lot of training and experience in similar fields; she will bring new energy and understanding to the role.

We look forward to the future in the belief that the service will continue to develop, and Restorative Justice will become better known and used in wider society.

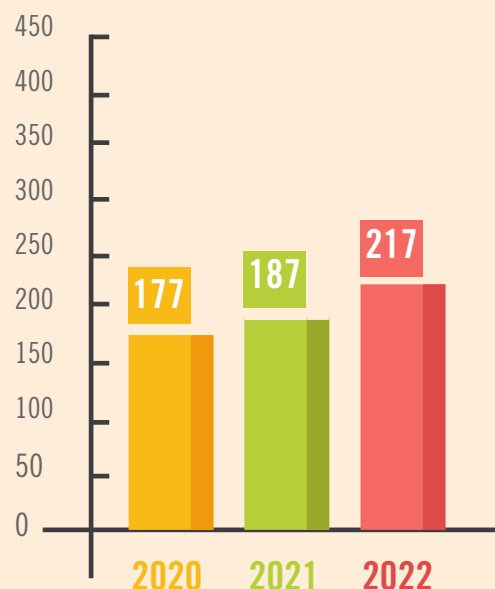
**Maria Flynn**  
*Chairperson*  
*Restorative Justice Services*

# Organisational Structure & People



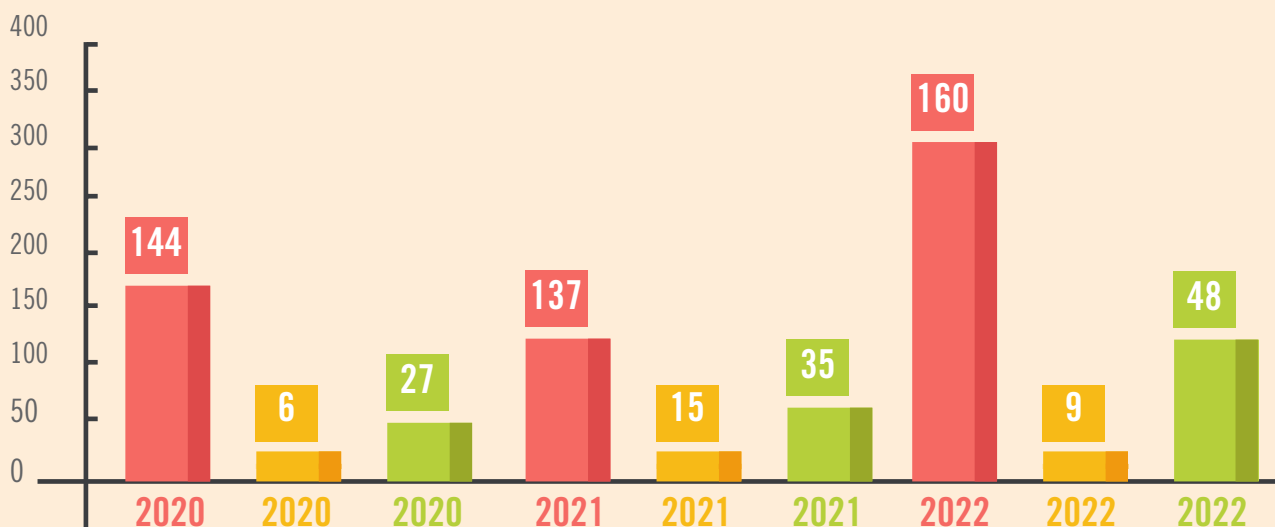
## Total Case Referrals Comparative 2020 – 2022

<b>2020 Case Referrals</b> .....	177
<b>2021 Case Referrals</b> .....	187
<b>2022 Case Referrals</b> .....	217

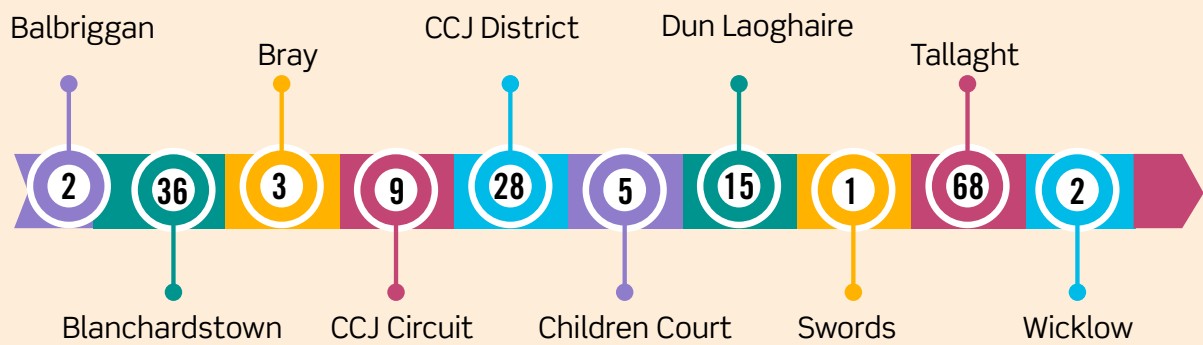


## Breakdown of the 2020 - 2022 Referrals

<b>2020 District Court Referrals</b> .....	144
<b>2020 Circuit Court Referrals</b> .....	6
<b>2020 Restorative Road Safety Programme</b> .....	27
<b>2021 District Court Referrals</b> .....	137
<b>2021 Circuit Court Referrals</b> .....	15
<b>2021 Restorative Road Safety Programme</b> .....	35
<b>2022 District Court Referrals</b> .....	160
<b>2022 Circuit Court Referrals</b> .....	9
<b>2022 Restorative Road Safety Programme</b> .....	48



## Source of 2022 Court Referrals



## Sanction – Court Outcomes



# Offences before the Court

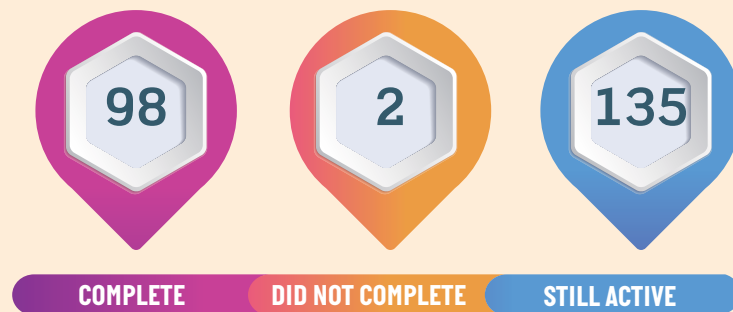


## Note:

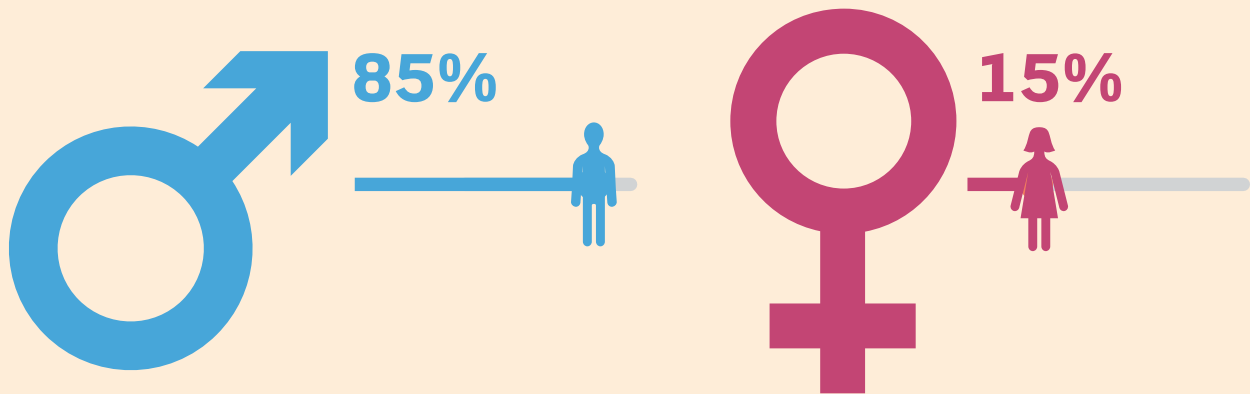
1. Referrals are often accompanied by more than just one offence / charge.
2. On review, certain Road Traffic referrals / offences are directed to the Reparation Programme.



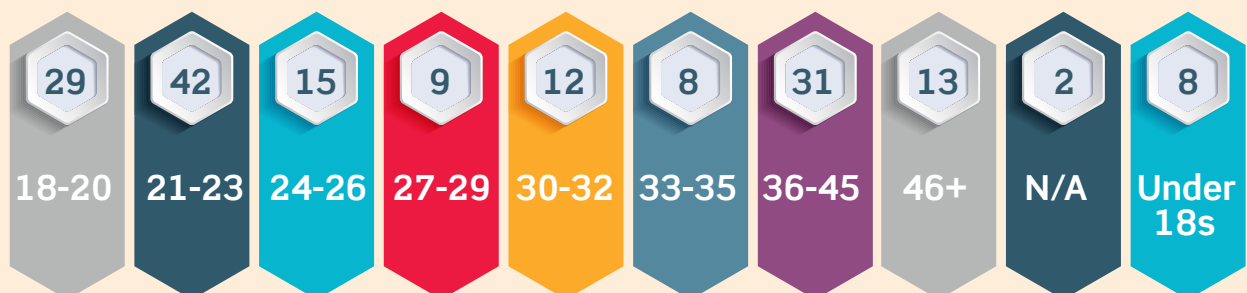
## Completions



## Gender



## Age Demographic



## Charitable Donations and Compensation

ARC Foundation	€250
Boxing club	€100
Compensation	€4,000
Genesis Counselling Service	€300
Homeless charity	€150
Irish Cancer Society	€250
Merchant Quay	€100
Not specified	€50
Pieta House	€20
St Vincent's	€20
St. Francis Hospice	€200
MS Ireland	€150
<b>Total</b>	<b>€5,590</b>

**Note:** A charitable donation is a common element within an Offender Reparation Contract

# Restorative Justice Services: 2022 Retrospective

## On the rise again

As shown in the numbers, 2022 saw a continued increase in referrals post pandemic. While we are still far from pre-pandemic numbers, it is reassuring to see that the numbers are going in the right direction.

Referrals to RJS Offender Reparation Programme made up 78 per cent of our referrals and Tallaght District Court remained RJS highest source of referrals, with 47 per cent. RJS welcomed referrals from new Courts, including Bray, Wicklow and Balbriggan. In terms of gender, 2022 saw a 50% increase in female participant offenders. It is not possible to draw any conclusion at this stage, but it is an interesting trend to continue monitoring. Discharge under Probation of Offenders Act and Strike Out continued to be the main two outcomes at Court for the participants.

## Saying goodbyes and welcoming new faces

In 2022, we said a few goodbyes and welcomed new faces among the Board and the RJS staff Team.

Dr Kieran O'Dwyer and Senior Probation Officer, Darren Broomfield, resigned from the Board. Rachel Lillis briefly replaced Darren Broomfield, before Emma Gunn, Senior Probation Officer, joined the Board. The Board also welcomed Brian Sheridan and Susan Kavanagh as new Directors.

There were also changes in the RJS Team. Katya Harrison and Callie Zinsmeyer left us to pursue new ventures, while Lovena Jugdewo, Tatiana Quaglio, Sadhbh McGarry and David O'Connor joined us.

Finally, 2022 was marked by the retirement of Service Manager, Peter Keeley, after 23 years with the Organisation. Peter's contribution was celebrated on December 15th, 2022.



## Staying connected

Restorative Justice conference 2022 – Sassari

After being postponed for 2 years due to Covid -19, the European Forum Restorative Justice (EFRJ) held its 11th international conference in June 2022 in Sassari, Italy. The theme of the conference was “Justice Beyond Borders – Restorative connections through space and language”.

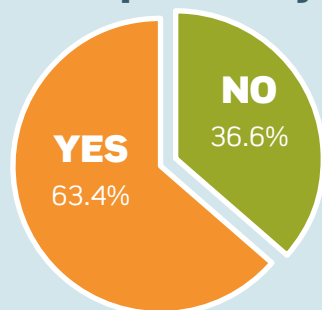
Case Worker, Karen Daly, attended the event as a representative of RJS. The Italian Minister of Justice, Marta Cartabia, gave a special address on her discovery journey of restorative justice and explained that she saw restorative justice as the practice of justice we are looking for and as a peaceful justice made of a just peace.



## Restorative Justice Week 2022 - RJS

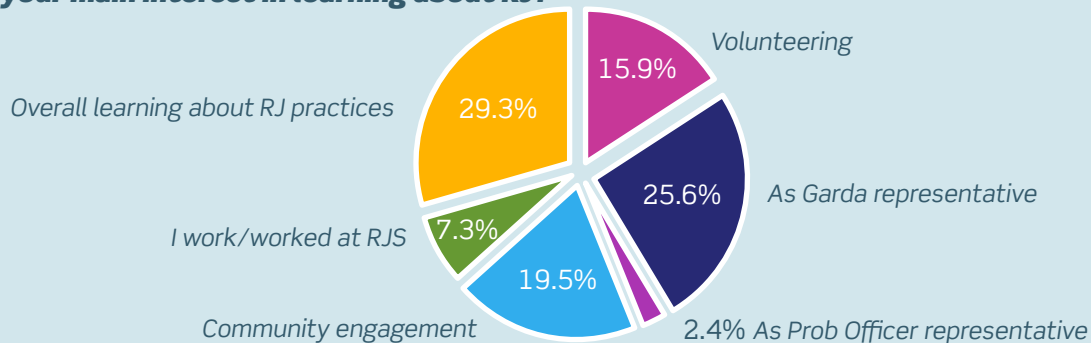
On November 23, 2022, RJS hosted an informative, innovative and extremely well attended, online event for RJ Week. The event was put together by the whole team of RJS and moderated by Dr Kieran O'Dwyer, Chairperson of Restorative Practices Ireland. It was a great success with a record attendance of over 80 participants.

### Participants analytics



**Did you have any contact with Restorative Justice before?**

### What's your main interest in learning about RJ?



The event can be viewed on [youtube.com/watch?v=O9pCcZVJ0cl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9pCcZVJ0cl)

## Visit of Restorative Justice services in Northern Ireland - September 2022

In March 2022, the Northern Ireland Minister for Justice, Naomi Long, launched the first ever Adult Restorative Justice strategy for Northern Ireland. The strategy was been developed with statutory, voluntary and community sector partners. Its aim is to better meet the needs of, and provide redress for the harm caused to victims of crime, and to provide a positive alternative to traditional justice responses when offending occurs. Coupled with connections made during the EFRJ Conference in Sassari, the RJS Team believed that 2022 was the opportune time to visit some restorative services in Northern Ireland. The four RJS case workers were accompanied by volunteer RJ Panel Chair, Claude Delaney. During their visit the Team met with, the Resurgam Trust, Resolve NI and Community Restorative Justice Northern Ireland.

The three projects operate at the heart of their communities, with a strong focus on resolving community disputes using restorative practices, with the view to reducing the need for the involvement of the PSNI.

The groups use Conferencing as their main model of practice as it allow for a greater representation of the community and involvement of the “community of care” for the parties involved in the conflict.

# Thank you

**As the Incoming Manager of RJS, I would like to thank the Board Directors, Team, the Probation Service, Restorative Justice colleagues, RJS participants and RJS supporters for their work and commitment to the Organisation's Mission in 2022.**





**Case Studies** - The different styles, language, presentation and level of detail provided for the respective studies has been determined by a range of factors including the issue of anonymity, deidentification and the opportunity to facilitate their wider publication and circulation.

## Case Study 1 – Section 3 Assault – Circuit Court

**Peter, a young male in his early twenties, was charged before the Circuit Court for a section 3 assault towards another young male at a house party. Peter pleaded guilty in court and was provided the opportunity to be referred to the Restorative Justice Services, before the Judge made a final decision on sanction.**

Peter met with his caseworker where his offence and the harm caused by same was explored using Restorative Questions.

### **What Happened?**

Peter explained that as he was finishing work, he received a text from his friend inviting him to a house party. Peter reported that he hadn't eaten much that day as he had been busy and decided to travel on the bus to meet his friend straight after work. He recalled buying drinks in the local shop near his friend's house (12\*pack of beer) and starting to drink around 7:30pm. He explained that the party was busier than he thought it would be and did not know many people. Peter remembered feeling anxious because of it, as he is not comfortable in large social settings. He informed the Case Worker that he just kept drinking as well as smoking cannabis. While Peter explained that his memory got blurry from this stage on, he could remember that there were bottles of vodka and whiskey being passed around and he drank from them.

Peter informed his Case Worker that he could remember being arrested and put into a cell. He also remembered waking up the next day in the Garda Station and being violently ill. He explained that he was unable to answer any of the questions asked by the Gardaí

as he had no recollection of the events. He remembered being quiet and feeling he was being set up. However, he could see that there were scratches and bruises on his hands and knuckles as well as feeling sore all over. He shared that he was shaking and being unable to process what was going on. He explained that "it was like the Gardaí was speaking a different language". Peter also remembered feeling that he was in a different world, "like watching a movie of myself". His sister collected him from the Garda station, and she was crying. There was no conversation between them, and Peter remembered going straight up to bed once he returned to his house.

As he woke up the next morning, Peter saw that his phone was full of messages. He explained that it was through reading these messages that he gained some understanding of what had happened. He found out that he had broken a glass bottle and attacked another young man. The various messages were like pieces of the puzzle. At the time of the incident the victim had walked past Peter to go to the bathroom and it was alleged that Peter just went after the victim, shouting and pulling him. Despite Peter's friends trying to reason with him, Peter had been adamant that the victim had done something to him. Peter waited outside the bathroom and when the victim came out he broke the bottle on the landing of the stairs and hit the victim over the head with it. The victim disengaged and went downstairs. However, Peter followed him demanding an apology. Shortly after the Gardaí arrived and arrested Peter. Peter explained that he did not know the victim.

### ***What were you thinking at the time?***

Peter explained that he could not remember what he was thinking, as his memory of the events were blurry and impacted by the effects of alcohol and cannabis.

### ***What have you thought about the offence since?***

Peter told his Case Worker that he was incredibly embarrassed about and ashamed of what he had done. He explained that he had never been in trouble before and that this was something he could never have imagined himself doing.

### ***Who has been affected and in what way?***

Peter answered that the victim and his family had been affected, recognising that it must have been terrifying to be randomly attacked. He also acknowledged that the victim's family must have been very worried about their son.

Peter also explained that his own family was affected as they brought him up to be respectful and hardworking. He believed that they must have been very disappointed in him.

Peter believed that his friends and others at the party had been impacted by the events as they witnessed the assault. He also referred to the impact on the friend, whose house the party was in.

Peter also considered the impact on the neighbours as they had to witness the Gardaí and ambulances arriving to the house. Peter understood that they must have been worried and wondering what was going next door.

Finally, Peter considered the impact on Emergency Services, i.e., the Gardaí and the Paramedics, as they had to divert resources to deal with an event that was unnecessary taking up valuable time and manpower.

Peter stated that he hadn't realised before how many people had been impacted by his actions.

### ***What could have been done differently?***

Peter recognised that he could have done things differently. Perhaps going home and having a meal before attending the party was a sensible choice. He recognised that his use of cannabis and alcohol needed attention and being in a crowd of strangers made him uncomfortable.

### ***What do you think needs to happen next?***

Peter explained that he wanted to apologise to the people impacted by his behaviour. Peter also stated that he wanted to pay compensation to the victim to cover any cost of medical bills. While Peter recognised the need for him to apologise to the community, he explained that it was not feasible to apologise to all. Instead, Peter believed that undertaking some voluntary work could be a good alternative. Finally, Peter decided to engage in an alcohol and drug awareness programme, in order to gain a better understanding of how these have contributed to the incident and how the misuse of these affects him.

### ***The Victim - Mark***

Mark availed of the opportunity to meet with the Services. However, he did not wish to meet with Peter. He explained that he did not know him and was still fearful of him. Mark expressed his desire for Peter to understand his story and the impact of his actions.

Remembering what happened, Mark explained that he had come to the party with friends. He had been enjoying his night until later on when he went to the bathroom. He recalled that an unknown man had started to follow him up, proceeding to pushing him and demanding an apology. Mark explained that he did not engage and entered the bathroom. Mark continued and told the Case Worker that while in the bathroom, he had texted his friend looking for help. Mark

remembered hearing a lot of noise outside the bathroom and his friend's voice. As he opened the door, Mark saw that Peter had a glass bottle in his hand, which he smashed on the console. Mark recalled being hit across the head with the smashed bottle. After the assault, Mark explained that he went outside because he was angry. He could remember that his head was bleeding. He was helped by other guests, who attempted to stop the bleeding with towels. Mark explained that he returned inside to lie down and shortly after, he saw Peter coming towards him, looking for an apology. Mark explained that Peter was persistent and he did say sorry to try to calm things down. Mark reported that the Gardaí arrived and arrested Peter. Mark left with his mother and went to the hospital to get stitches. Mark informed the Case Worker that Peter had contacted him on WhatsApp, asking him why he had made him do this. Mark ignored the messages.

Mark explained that the attack had left him feeling very anxious and afraid. He said that he used to look forward to socialising, but since the event, he had been reluctant to go out. Mark also explained that he hated "being in places where there are strangers" and felt nervous if he had "to walk by another group of lads now". Mark stated that he did not understand why Peter targeted him.

Mark explained that the assault also impacted his family. Indeed, he told his Case Worker that his sister worries for him when he is out and she waits up at night until he is back at home.

Mark was informed of Peter's offer to pay compensation for the medical expenses and the written apology. However, Mark did not wish to meet Peter in person.

### **The Panel**

Peter attended a Restorative Panel with his parents. Also present were a victim representative, a member of an Garda Síochána and a community representative.

During the Panel, Peter reflected about the offence and the impact of his actions. He demonstrated the ripple effect of same. His sister and his mother spoke to Peter about how this had impacted them, citing the hurt they experienced, the breach of trust between them and the disbelief at Peter having harmed another person. They also expressed their love and their inner belief that despite it all, they believed Peter was a good person. The other participants spoke in turns and addressed the impact on Mark and his family, the Gardaí and emergency personnel, and communities.

Peter offered an apology to all present and thanked his case worker for providing him the opportunity to engage in a Restorative Justice process.

In terms of reparation and moving forward, Peter informed the panel of his reparative actions, including, voluntary work with a soup kitchen, his attendance at an alcohol and drug awareness programme and him having stopped using cannabis. Peter also informed all of his intention to return to education in September and finish his degree. Finally, Peter confirmed that he was writing a reflective piece, which he would submit to the Court.

### **Court outcome:**

On returning to the Court, the Judge commented positively on the work completed by Peter as part of the Restorative Justice process. As a sanction, Peter received a 1-year Peace Bond.



## Case Study 2 – Public Order – intoxication in a public place, failure to give name and address – District Court

### ***What happened?***

The offence happened while Lisa was on a hen night in Dublin. She explained that they had started drinking around 2pm in the house while getting ready. She explained that at about 8.00pm, they got a taxi to go to a night club on the Quays. She recalled that there was a lot of alcohol and a lot of dancing. They left the club around 2 am, and planned to go to McDonalds, but town was very busy that night and she found herself separated from her friends. She decided to get herself into a taxi and go back to the house.

Near the taxi rank, she was approached by two Gardaí, who asked her if she was ok and asked her for her name and address. She explained that she doesn't know why but she just refused to give them the information. She remembered them asking her again and she just heard herself saying "f\*\*k off and mind your own business". Lisa explained that she was put in the Gardaí car and driven to the Station where she stayed in a cell until the next morning. She informed the Case Worker, that when she woke up, she knew where she was and just felt incredibly embarrassed by what happened.

She explained upon leaving the Station, she had asked to meet the Gardaí who had brought her in to apologise, but was told they were no longer on shift.

### ***What were you thinking at the time?***

Lisa explained to the Case Worker that she did not know what she was thinking at the time. She stated that while she was drunk, she knew it was not an excuse for her behaviour. She could remember feeling nervous as she had been separated from her friends and wanted to get back to the house. She believed she panicked when the Gardaí approached.

### ***What have you thought about the offence since?***

Upon reflecting on the offence, Lisa expressed embarrassment and shame. She recognised that the Gardaí were just doing their job and, if anything, they were probably trying to keep her safe.

### ***Who has been affected and why?***

Lisa identified that The Gardaí, her friends and her family had been impacted by her actions that night. She explained that the Gardaí were just doing their job and did not deserve to be spoken to like that. She knew that her friends were impacted as they had spent the night looking for her and the whole incident had spoiled the hen party. Finally, she stated that she has been impacted as she is now before the Court and depending on the sanction, this could impact her future.

### ***How could things have been done differently?***

Lisa stated that she could have just given her name and address and that things would have ended very differently

### ***What needs to happen next?***

Lisa expressed that she would like to meet with the Gardaí from that night to understand fully understand the events and offer an apology for her behaviour and wasting their time. Lisa also explained that she would like to have a conversation with her friends to understand how the night had impacted them and apologise for the stress that she had caused. Finally, Lisa recognised how alcohol was a factor in the offence and agreed to attend an alcohol awareness programme to better understand the effects of alcohol on the person and on the community.

### **The Restorative Panel**

Lisa met with one of the Gardaí who arrested her on the night, and with a community representative during the restorative panel. The Garda went over the event of the night from her point of view. She explained that she had witnessed a young woman under the influence and alone. She explained that she and her partner had a duty of care to ensure Lisa was safe and asking someone for their name and address was part of this process. The Garda stated that when Jade refused to give her name, they had no choice but to arrest and bring her back to the station as they feared for her safety. The Garda also asked Lisa if she remembered being examined by a doctor in the station. Lisa stated she did. It was explained to Lisa that it was an essential part of the Garda's duty, as they need to ensure the individual's wellbeing and that no harm had come to them while under the influence.

The community representative spoke about the impact of such an offence on the wider community. The representative spoke about what it was like to witness someone being excessively under the influence of alcohol and appearing not to know who they are and where they live. They also spoke about the impact of ill-treating a Gardaí, as they are there to keep the community safe. Gardaí being ill-treated on a regular basis may have an impact on their well-being, which may result in them leaving the force, and in turns it may contribute in the community not having enough Gardaí resources to address crime and keep people safe.

As part of the reparation agreement, Lisa offered an apology to the Gardaí, recognising how her behaviour had impacted on their resources, which could have been better utilised somewhere else. In addition, Lisa undertook to volunteer with a group who meet up to clean up the bank of the canal, acknowledging that

she herself may have disposed of her cans and rubbish on the bank while out partying with her friends. She agreed to volunteer with Feed the Inner City Homeless to give back to the community and also to write a reflective piece.

### **Return to Court**

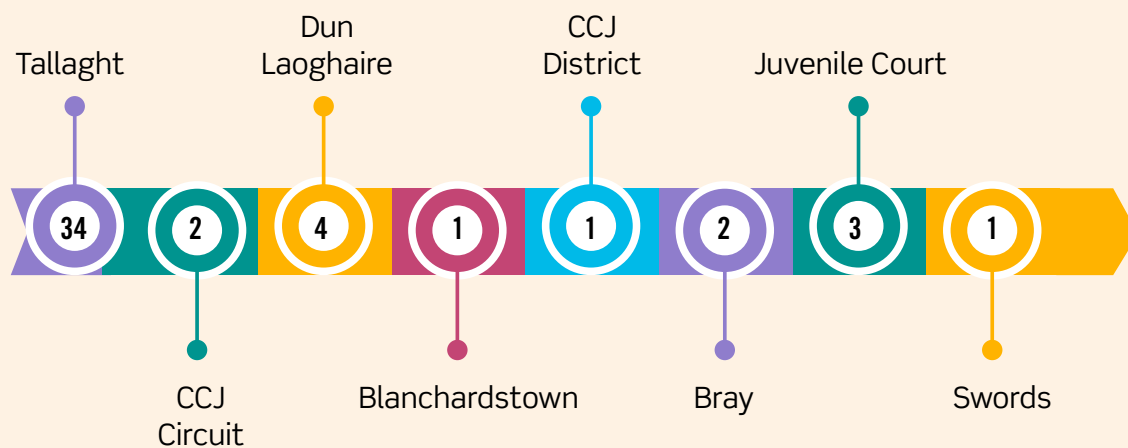
On returning to Court, the Judge recognised Lisa's engagement in the Restorative Justice processes and the reparation actions undertaken by Lisa. The Court afforded Lisa a discharge under the Probation Act.

# Restorative Road Safety Programme Statistics for 2022

## Cases Referred in 2022

48 cases

## Source of Referral

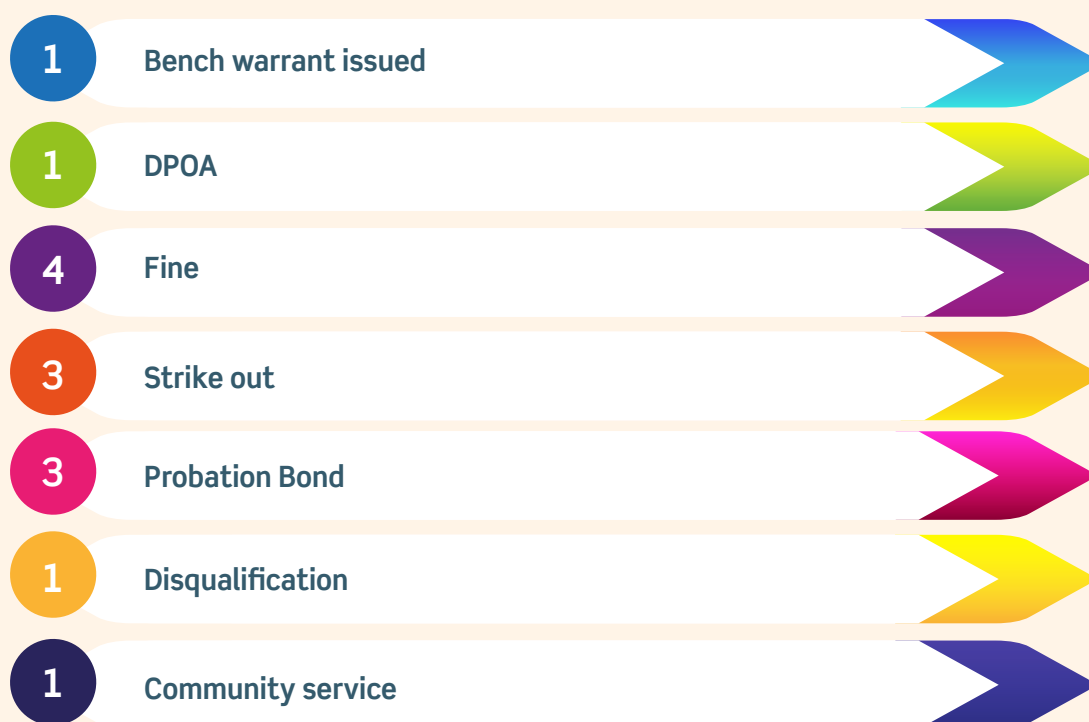


## Offences before the Court



**Note 1:** Referrals are often accompanied by more than just one offence / charge.

## Sanction - Court Outcomes

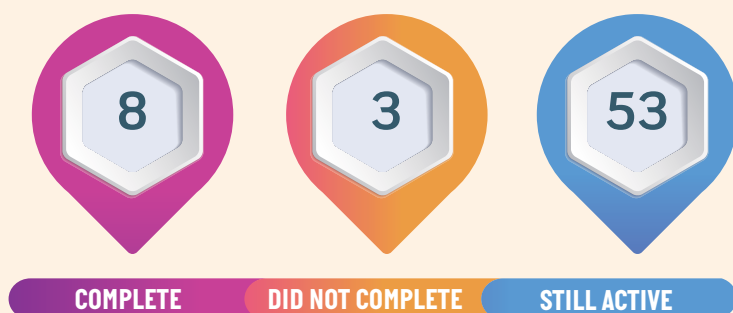


## Charitable Donations

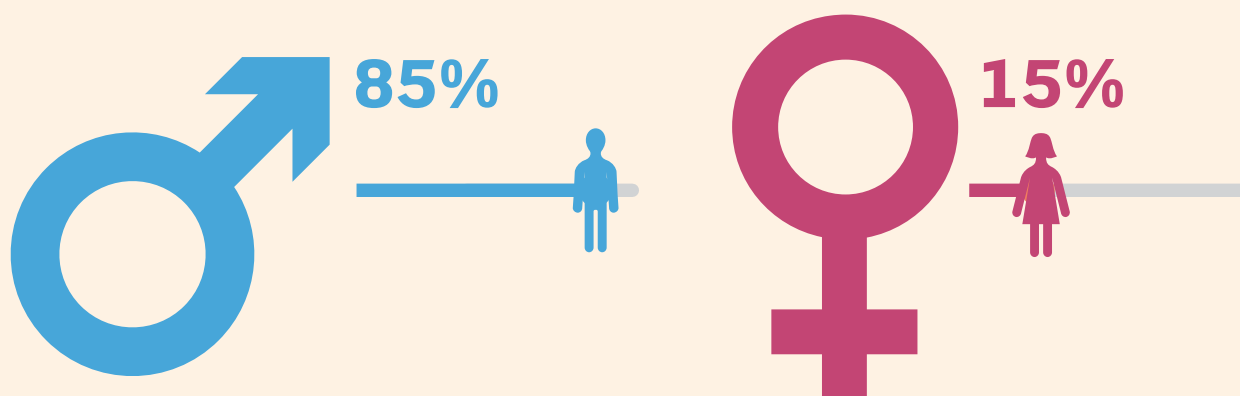
Alone	€20
Aslam Charity	€50
Barnardos	€65
DSPCA	€50
Eastwell Women's Refuge	€100
Irish Cancer Society	€30
Merchants Quay	€100
Not Specified	€10
Peter McVerry Trust	€50
Simon Community	€50
<b>Total</b>	<b>€525</b>

**Note 2:** A charitable donation is a common element with the Restorative Road Safety Programme.

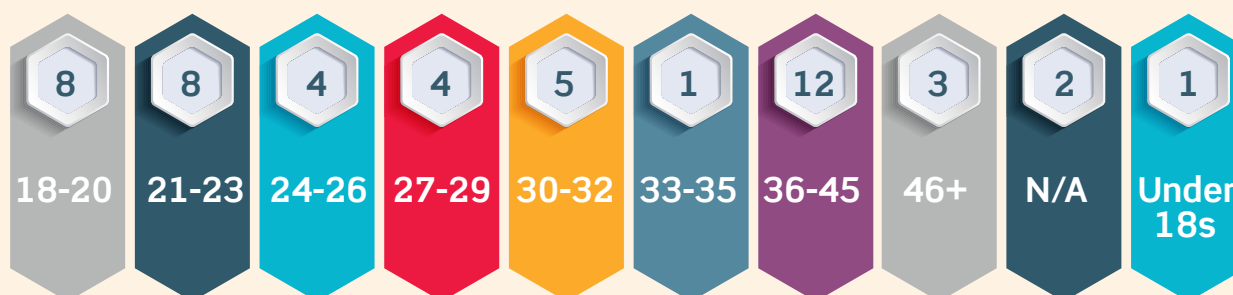
## Completions



## Gender



## Age Demographic



**Note:** Still Active refers to cases referred in 2022 that remain active at time of publication.





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