



Bille an Gharda Síochána (Feistí Taifeadta) (Leasú), 2026
Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) (Amendment) Bill 2026

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



BILLE AN GHARDA SÍOCHÁNA (FEISTÍ TAIFEADTA) (LEASÚ), 2026
GARDA SÍOCHÁNA (RECORDING DEVICES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026

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BILLE AN GHARDA SÍOCHÁNA (FEISTÍ TAIFEADTA) (LEASÚ), 2026
GARDA SÍOCHÁNA (RECORDING DEVICES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026

Bill

entitled

An Act to amend the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023 to require that public bodies provide members of Garda personnel access to publicly operated CCTV systems, without a full new authorisation being required, for the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences; to allow members of Garda personnel to install and operate CCTV in designated high-crime areas; to provide for the preparation of draft codes of practice in relation to Garda access to publicly operated CCTV systems, and for the Minister to declare them by order to be codes of practice. 5 10

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) (Amendment) Act 2026. 15
- (2) This Act shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may appoint by order or orders either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision and different days may be so appointed for different purposes or different provisions. 20

Definition

2. In this Act, “Principal Act” means the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023.

PART 2

AMENDMENT OF PRINCIPAL ACT

Amendment of section 28 of Principal Act

3. Section 28 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following:

“Garda access to publicly operated CCTV

28A. (1) A public body that operates a CCTV system in a public place shall, on

request, provide the Garda Síochána with access to live feeds and recorded footage from that system for any of the purposes specified in section 28(1).

- (2) Access under subsection (1) shall be provided—
- (a) without the need for an authorisation under section 28, 5
 - (b) in accordance with a data-sharing agreement approved under subsection (5), and
 - (c) subject to any conditions set out in a code of practice made under section 28C.
- (3) A public body shall ensure that its CCTV system is technically capable of providing access to the Garda Síochána in a secure and timely manner. 10
- (4) The Garda Síochána may process data obtained under this section for the purposes specified in section 28(1) and for no other purpose.
- (5) The Commissioner of the Garda Síochána shall prepare a standard data-sharing agreement applicable to all public bodies operating CCTV systems, and the Minister may approve it with or without modification. 15
- (6) A public body shall enter into the standard data-sharing agreement within 3 months of being requested to do so by the Garda Síochána. 20
- (7) A single data protection impact assessment shall be prepared by the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána in respect of the operation of this section, and no further DPIA shall be required for individual systems or access requests.
- (8) The Commissioner of the Garda Síochána shall ensure that all access to CCTV systems under this section is logged and subject to audit in accordance with the code of practice under section 28C. 25

Crime Prevention Zones

- 28B.** (1) The Commissioner of the Garda Síochána may designate a specified public area as a Crime Prevention Zone where satisfied that— 30
- (a) a pattern of criminal activity has occurred within that area,
 - (b) installation of CCTV is necessary and proportionate for the purposes specified in section 28(1), and
 - (c) less intrusive measures would be insufficient to achieve those purposes. 35
- (2) A designation shall—
- (a) specify the boundaries of the Zone,
 - (b) specify the duration of the designation, which shall not exceed 2 years,
 - (c) require annual review of the continued necessity and 40

- proportionality of the designation, and
- (d) require publication of a notice in such manner as the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána deems appropriate.
- (3) The Garda Síochána may, within a Crime Prevention Zone—
- (a) install, operate, maintain and remove CCTV cameras and associated equipment, 5
- (b) do so without the need for an authorisation under section 28, and
- (c) do so in accordance with section 28C and any regulations made under this Act.
- (4) CCTV installed under this section shall not involve biometric identification, automated profiling, or facial recognition processing unless separately authorised by law. 10
- (5) The Commissioner of the Garda Síochána shall ensure that—
- (a) a data protection impact assessment is prepared in respect of the operation of CCTV within Crime Prevention Zones generally, 15
- (b) all access to and use of CCTV installed under this section is logged and subject to audit, and
- (c) retention, deletion and security of data comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Law Enforcement Directive.
- (6) Upon expiry of a designation, operation of CCTV under this section shall cease unless the designation is renewed in accordance with the section. 20
- (7) A public body shall, on request, cooperate with the Garda Síochána in facilitating the installation or operation of CCTV under this section, including by permitting access to public infrastructure where reasonable. 25
- (8) Where a Crime Prevention Zone includes a playground, school facility, or other location primarily used by children, the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána shall ensure that any CCTV installed under this section— 30
- (a) operates only during such hours as are strictly necessary for the purposes specified in section 28(1),
- (b) is deactivated during times when the area is ordinarily used by children for play or recreation, unless exceptional circumstances justify otherwise, and 35
- (c) incorporates technical measures to minimise the capture of images of children except where necessary and proportionate for the prevention, detection or investigation of crime.

Codes of practice

- 28C.** (1) The Commissioner of the Garda Síochána shall, as soon as practicable 40

after the coming into operation of section 28A, prepare and submit to the Minister for approval a draft code of practice governing the operation of section 28A.

- (2) A code of practice under this section shall, insofar as practicable, be consistent with any code of practice made under Part 8 of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023, and shall include provisions relating to— 5
- (a) the procedures and standards to be followed by the Garda Síochána and by public bodies operating recording device systems to which access may be granted where section 28A applies, including procedures relating to the installation, configuration, and operation of such systems, 10
 - (b) the confidentiality, security, storage, access to, retention, deletion and any other processing of personal data obtained or accessed under this Part, 15
 - (c) the circumstances in which data obtained or accessed under this Part is to be disposed of or destroyed,
 - (d) the rights of data subjects in so far as they relate to the operation of this Part, including the exercise of rights under the Data Protection Acts and the Law Enforcement Directive, 20
 - (e) the publication of appropriate signage or public notices by public bodies operating CCTV systems to which section 28A applies, and
 - (f) such other matters relating to the operation of this Part as the Garda Commissioner of the Garda Síochána considers appropriate,
- and a code of practice may contain different provisions for different classes of recording device systems, different categories of persons, or different circumstances in which such systems are operated. 25
- (3) In preparing a draft code of practice under this section, the Garda Commissioner of the Garda Síochána—
- (a) shall prepare a data protection impact assessment in respect of the operation of section 28A, and 30
 - (b) shall ensure that the assessment referred to in paragraph (a) includes:
 - (i) a general description of the types of processing operations to which the assessment relates; 35
 - (ii) an assessment of the potential risks to the rights and freedoms of data subjects arising from such processing;
 - (iii) a description of the safeguards, security measures and mechanisms proposed to mitigate such risks and to ensure the protection of personal data processed under this Part, 40
- and

- (c) shall ensure that the draft code takes account of the assessment referred to in paragraph (a).
- (4) Before submitting a draft code of practice to the Minister under this section, the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána—
 - (a) shall consult with— 5
 - (i) the Minister,
 - (ii) the Data Protection Commission,
 - (iii) any public body or class of public bodies operating recording device systems to which this Part applies, and
 - (iv) such other persons as the Minister may direct, 10
 - (b) shall provide the assessment referred to in subsection (3) to the persons referred to in paragraph (a) prior to such consultation, and
 - (c) may consult with any other person or body appearing to the Garda Commissioner of the Garda Síochána to have an interest in the operation of this Part. 15
- (5) The Minister may approve, with or without modifications, a code of practice submitted under this section.
- (6) The Commissioner of the Garda Síochána shall ensure that a code of practice approved under this section is reviewed at intervals not exceeding 5 years, and may be reviewed more frequently where the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána considers it appropriate. 20
- (7) The Commissioner of the Garda Síochána shall consult with the persons referred to in subsection (4) when conducting a review under subsection (6).
- (8) Subsections (3) and (4) shall apply to a review under subsection (6), unless the Minister is satisfied that the amendments proposed are minor or technical only. 25
- (9) The Minister shall be informed in writing of the outcome of a review under subsection (6).
- (10) Following a review under subsection (6), or at any other time the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána considers appropriate, the Commissioner of the Garda Síochána may submit to the Minister a further draft code of practice to amend, revoke, replace or supplement an existing code of practice, or may request the Minister to renew the existing code. 30
35
- (11) Subject to subsection (10), subsections (2) to (9) shall apply to a draft code of practice submitted under subsection (1) or to a request to renew an existing code as they apply to a draft code submitted under subsection (1).
- (12) Subsection (11) shall not apply where the amendments proposed to a code of practice are minor or technical only. 40

- (13) A code of practice approved or renewed under this section shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas and shall be published on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Minister or the Government.”.

Bille an Gharda Síochána (Feistí Taifeadta)
(Leasú), 2026

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do leasú Acht an Gharda Síochána (Feistí Taifeadta), 2023 chun a cheangal ar chomhlachtaí poiblí rochtain ar chórais TCI a oibrítear go poiblí a sholáthar do chomhaltaí de phearsanra an Gharda, gan údarú iomlán nua a bheith riachtanach chuige sin, d'fhonn cionta coiriúla a chosc, a imscrúdú, a bhrath nó a ionchúiseamh; do cheadú do chomhaltaí de phearsanra an Gharda TCI a shuiteáil agus a oibriú i limistéir shainainmnithe ina bhfuil leibhéal ard coireachta; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le dréachtchóid chleachtais a ullmhú i ndáil le rochtain a bheith ag an nGarda Síochána ar chórais TCI a oibrítear go poiblí, agus maidir leis an Aire do dhearbhu, le hordú, gur cóid chleachtais iad.

Na Teachtaí Séamus Mac Eochagáin, Naoise Ó Muirí, Emer Ní Chomhraí, Gráinne Ní Bheoláin agus Maebh Ní Chonaill a thug isteach,

6 Bealtaine, 2026

Garda Síochána (Recording Devices)
(Amendment) Bill 2026

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Introduced by Deputies James Geoghegan, Naoise Ó Muirí, Emer Currie, Grace Boland and Maeve O'Connell,

6th May, 2026

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