



Irish Council for  
**Civil Liberties**

ICCL: Monitoring rights during the pandemic  
29 August-4 September

## **COVID-19-RELATED ADVOCACY WORK**

### **New regulations requiring food orders to be retained for 28 days**

Our Surveillance Rights Director, Elizabeth Farries, spoke on RTÉ Radio 1 [Morning Ireland](#), [q102](#), [FM104](#) and Today FM outlining our concerns regarding the surveillance that the new regulations, in effect from 4 September, appear to provide for. We question whether this statutory instrument meets the proportionality and necessity requirements, and whether a data protection impact assessment was carried out.

### **Invitation to Special Oireachtas Committee on the COVID-19 response**

We received and accepted an invitation to make a submission and to attend the [Committee meeting](#) on the legislative framework underpinning the State's response to the pandemic on Wednesday, 9 September.

### **Our opposition to the use of spit hoods**

This week, we issued a [press release](#) ahead of the review by An Garda Síochána on the use of spit hoods. We have previously written to the Garda Commissioner twice expressing our opposition to their use on the basis that this may constitute inhumane or degrading treatment under international human rights law. A leading manufacturer has also confirmed that they are not effective in protecting against the spread of covid-19. As a statutory body, An Garda Síochána is obliged to carry out a human rights impact assessment of all new practices. We call for any assessment carried out to be published.

We also believe the use of the term “anti-spit guard” is misleading as it gives the false impression that a spit hood is a piece of PPE equipment, as opposed to a restraining device.

Our Executive Director, Liam Herrick, spoke on RTÉ Radio 1 [DriveTime](#), Policy Officer Deirdre Ní Cheallacháin spoke on [Raidió na Gaeltachta](#). Our position is also the subject of this [article](#) in The Irish Examiner and this [article](#) in The Irish Times.

### **Panel Discussion the COVID-19 tracker app**

Our Information Rights Director, Elizabeth Farries, took part in a [panel discussion](#) on the development of the COVID-19 tracker app in an event organised by the Trinity College Dublin Science Gallery.

### **Policing during the Pandemic**

Our Senior Research & Policy Officer, Doireann Ansbro, wrote an [article](#) for the Dublin Inquirer on the remit of the newly appointment Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee which includes a commentary on policing during the pandemic.

### **The translation of public health advice into law**

Our concerns regarding the process determining how public health advice is translated into law was covered by [The Irish Times](#), [mid west radio](#) and [LMFM](#).

