

ICCL PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION



FOR ALL OUR RIGHTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

2024

INVESTING IN RIGHTS

Item	Explanation	Cost
<p>Police Ombudsman</p>	<p>Based on the projected need to double expenditure on the office of GSOC in its reformed Ombudsman role as part of the passage of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill, we are suggesting a 33% increase in resourcing for this office for each year over three years.</p> <p>This would effectively double the €16.67 million allocated to GSOC in 2023 and adequately resource its expanded range of functions as the new Garda Ombudsman office is established.</p>	<p>€5.5 M</p>
<p>Independent Examiner of Security Legislation</p>	<p>As part of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill, an office of the Independent Examiner of Security Legislation will be established in the near future. This office will examine security legislation and decisions to withhold information from oversight bodies on the basis of national security. It is critical this office is properly funded to carry out its remit.</p> <p>We are basing our cost assumptions on the UK's Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation model of one part time independent examiner and one special advisor.</p> <p>Independent Reviewer: 150 days p/a @ €900 per day €135,000</p> <p>Special Advisor: 150 days p/a @ €750 per day €112,500</p>	<p>€247,000</p>
<p>Public Prosecutors</p>	<p>There should be a clear division between investigation and prosecution of crime. Yet, in Ireland garda investigators routinely act as prosecutors at District Court level. This is contrary to recommendations made by the Commission on the Future of Policing</p> <p>ICCL is calling for garda prosecutors to be replaced by state solicitors as part of the passage of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill. We estimate that Ireland would need 75-80 prosecutors to remove the need for Gardaí to carry out this role in the Judicial system.</p> <p>In Budget 2024 we are calling for the recruitment of 20 additional state solicitors with a commitment to increasing this number in 2025 and 2026.</p> <p>We estimate that this would cost €1,000,000 (Avg. Salary of €40,000 x 20 +20% pension + 5% equipment and sundry costs etc. x 20)</p>	<p>€1 M</p>
<p>Data Protection Commission Review</p>	<p>While the appointment of additional Commissioners to the DPC in 2022 is welcome, we remain deeply concerned that the Government has not launched an independent review of how to strengthen and reform the Commission. Without such a review it will be impossible for the new commissioners to know what they need to fix. The Minister's suggestion that the DPC review itself is totally inadequate.</p> <p>Investing in additional Commissioners alone without also launching an independent review will be ineffective.</p> <p>Similar reviews have cost in the region of €150,000-€400,000. Given the complexity and importance of the work of the DPC, we are calling for €300,000 to be invested in a review.</p>	<p>€300,000</p>

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<p>Coroners Support Staff</p>	<p>ICCL strongly welcomes the work of the Oireachtas Justice Committee on the operation of the coroners' service which builds on our 2021 report "Death Investigation, Coroners' Inquests and the Rights of the Bereaved".</p> <p>One issue which has been highlighted by both our report and the Committee discussions is the impact the absence of appropriate staffing support has on the coronial service in many parts of the country. With this in mind, we are suggesting, as an initial step towards wider reform, that the Department of Justice make a provision in the budget to hire 30 administrative and legal support staff to be distributed to offices nationwide on the basis of population and technical need.</p> <p>30 support staff hired at the civil service "Administrative Officer" and/or "Legal Executive" scale: Approx (€35,000 x 30 + 20% pension + 5% equipment and sundry costs etc.)</p>	<p>€1.3 M</p>
<p>Tackling Hate Crime & Extreme Hate Speech</p>	<p>ICCL strongly welcomes the progression of hate crime legislation through the Oireachtas and we have been leading the work of the Coalition Against Hate Crime Ireland (CAHC). However, it is the view of ICCL and CAHC members that legislation alone isn't enough to tackle the problems of hate crimes and extreme hate speech in Ireland. To make the legislation work, the public need to understand what hate crimes and hate speech are and how the new laws will work.</p> <p>To this end, alongside the commencement of laws tackling hate crime and extreme hate speech, we are seeking a commitment from the government for an education campaign and action plan to combat the causes of hate crime and hate speech in Ireland.</p> <p>A 2018 public awareness and education campaign on hate crime by the Scottish government was allocated a budget of £300,000 (Approx €353K) we believe that this is a useful comparison given the relatively similar population size and demographic makeup. We are requesting that a commitment of €500,000 is made for a campaign. This would include research and design, a national advertising campaign and a post-campaign evaluation of outcomes.</p> <p>We are also calling for an initial €1.5 M is made available for an action plan to tackle hate crime. This would allow for design and initial actions to take place in 2024, with a further €1M to be additionally allocated in 2025 to be re-granted to impacted communities.</p>	<p>€ 2 M</p>
<p>Total: €10,347,000</p>		