



**acjrd**

**ACJRD**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2020**

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## Executive Summary

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In 2020 The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) hosted the ACJRD 23rd Annual Conference entitled "*Privacy and Personal Space: The Challenges of Technology in Justice*" and the 13th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture entitled "*Reducing Reoffending: Choices and Challenges*". The ACJRD also held a Working Groups seminar at which attendees had the opportunity to contribute their opinions and share perspectives.

The Association continues to further current and future Research opportunities, maintains a membership base and a number of Working Groups. It also contributes to the criminal justice community in Ireland through its newsletters and continued memberships and relationships with other not-for-profit organisations who share common ground with the objectives of the ACJRD. The collaboration with Northumbria University and Queen's University Belfast on a UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network, which began in 2018, continued throughout 2020.

All of the above-mentioned activities have of course taken place during a particularly challenging pandemic year. ACJRD staff have been working remotely since March 2020 and all ACJRD meetings and events have moved online. Planned strategic work on the ACJRD website was accelerated during the pandemic and our new website, which includes a Members Area and Online Conferencing facility was launched in December.

This report provides a summary of the events and activities for 2020 under the following headings: Events, Membership, Working Groups, Research Collaborations, Student Engagement, Newsletter, Commitment to Achieve Change, Governance, Strategy 2020 – 2022, Annual General Meeting and International Collaboration and Association Memberships.

Throughout the report are links to further information on the ACJRD website [www.acjrd.ie](http://www.acjrd.ie).

# 1. Vision, Mission, Value and Objectives

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**Our Vision:** is The Fair and Effective Operation of the Criminal Justice System

**Our Mission:** is to inform the collaborative development of effective evidenced-based policy and practice in criminal justice

## Values statement.

- **Independence**
  - Seek, incorporate and objectively represent the collective views of the membership
- **Inclusiveness**
  - Embrace a broad multidisciplinary membership within and tangential to the criminal justice sector
- **Engagement**
  - We deliver a multitude of events, facilitate expert groups, request member input at all levels and provide networking opportunities with a focus on sharing and disseminating
- **Collaboration**
  - Work together with national and international actors and organisations on criminal justice initiatives and projects
- **Evidence-Based**
  - Emphasize the practical application of the findings of the best available current research

## ACJRD Objectives

The main object for which the Company is established is: to promote study and research in the field of criminal justice and related fields and disseminate results in order to advance education and benefit the community, by such means as conference, seminars, journal published papers, database of members' interests, and special interest study groups.

The subsidiary objects for which the Company is established are:

- to provide a forum where experienced personnel working in or having worked in the criminal justice system and associated professions can discuss, in an informal setting, problems and methods of working thereby assisting the advancement of community welfare, conflict resolution and reconciliation and, the integration of those who are disadvantaged;
- to develop a network of members who subscribe to these objectives;
- to promote the highest standards of practice by professionals working in and associated with the criminal justice system;
- to represent the collective views of its members; to build links with similar professional organisations in Ireland and abroad; and
- to raise public awareness of issues relating to children, young people and crime.

## 1. ACJRD Events 2020

Below is a summary of ACJRD events during 2020. Please note the following outputs do not include the ACJRD Working Groups outputs which are profiled separately from page 5.

### MARTIN TANSEY MEMORIAL LECTURES

The ACJRD marks the contribution Martin Tansey made to criminal justice in Ireland, and to this association, with a memorial lecture each spring.

Information and papers from the lectures which have taken place since the inaugural event in 2008 can be found at:

[www.acjrd.ie/publications](http://www.acjrd.ie/publications)

### 13th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, 29th June, 2020

The 13th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Ian O'Donnell, University College Dublin Sutherland School of Law. The lecture entitled "*Reducing Reoffending: Choices and Challenges*" took place online on Monday, 29th June, 2020. This lecture was ACJRD's first ever online event.

This event was exceptionally well attended and Prof. O'Donnell's lecture was very well received.

ACJRD would like to thank UCD for facilitating and hosting this lecture through their online conferencing facility.



*ACJRD 23rd Annual Conference, 11th December 2020<sup>1</sup>:*

*“Privacy and Personal Space: The Challenges of Technology in Justice”*

This conference featured the following speakers:

- **Helen McEntee**, TD, Minister for Justice and Equality
- **John Fitzgerald**, S.C
- **Dr. Gemma Davies**, Associate Professor at Northumbria Law School
- **Mark Brosnan**, MD and Co-Founder, Get Visibility
- **Dr. TJ McIntyre**, Chair of Digital Rights Ireland and Law Lecturer, UCD

The conference programme also featured a number of workshops presentations delivered by **Liam Herrick**, Executive Director for Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), and **Olga Cronin**, Policy Officer on the ICCL, **Kate Harnett**, Associate at A & L Goodbody, Solicitors, **Dr. Susan Leahy**, University of Limerick School of Law, and **Susan Hudson**, Solicitor, Office of the DPP, **Dr. Caroline Finn**, Policy Analyst at Irish Prison Service, **Aoife McNicholl**, Solicitor at Sheehan and Partners, **Chief Superintendent Pat Lordan**, Garda National Economic Crime Bureau, **Deirdre Duffy** BL, Human Rights Expert Member, DNA Database System Oversight Committee, **Fiona Ní Chinnéide**, Executive Director and **Molly Joyce**, Legal and Public Affairs Manager, Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT).

The ACJRD would like to thank all of the conference rapporteurs at this event:

Louise McNeil, Genevieve Lynch, Olivia Reid, Beth Duane, Rory Penny, Ciara McQuillan, Tristan Canning and Ruth Cormican.

ACJRD also thanks the workshop chair volunteers from the ACJRD Council:

Dr. Liz Heffernan, Tony O'Donovan, Gerry McNally, Yvonne Furey, Sophia Cleary and Michelle Johnston. Thanks also to Stephanie O'Brien from the Office of the DPP for chairing a workshop.

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<sup>1</sup> Postponed from 16<sup>th</sup> October due to ongoing pandemic considerations

## 2. Membership

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Three categories of ACJRD membership were on offer in 2020: Student €25.00, Individual €35.00 and Organisational membership €155.00. Organisational membership is based on a flat rate: this includes all members of that organisation, with up to five members able to attend any one ACJRD event.

Benefits to ACJRD members include special rates on ACJRD conferences, seminars and other public events, publications on research and conference/seminar proceedings, priority bookings at all ACJRD events, circulation of the newsletter, the option to become involved in the ACJRD working groups and access to a range of peer networks.

35 Organisations, 44 Individuals and 10 Students held membership of ACJRD in 2020.

### 3. ACJRD Working Groups

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The ACJRD currently has the following working groups in operation:

- Addiction
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Mental Health
- Reintegration
- Restorative Justice
- White Collar Crime

At the Strategy Discussion and Training day in 2018 the highest priority goal identified was to "*Complete a rationalisation of the Working Group structure.*". During 2020 a Strategic Design Sub-Committee was established and it has taken on responsibility for strategic implementation work to include and assessment of what works well in the current Working Group structure and what might work better.

## Seminar on Building Community Resilience – 23rd July, 2020

The ACJRD seminar '***Building Community Resilience***' was held on Thursday, 23rd July, 2020. The seminar was hosted by the University of Limerick (UL) virtually on their Law Department's YouTube Channel.

This seminar was presented by **Dr. John Connolly**, Centre for Crime, Justice and Victim Studies, University of Limerick (UL).

The Building Community Resilience research identifies the nature and reach of key criminal networks within Dublin South Central and documents the intimidation, stress and fear that pockets of communities living in the areas most connected to the networks are experiencing.

The report finds that only a relatively small number of people (estimated at under 2% between the ages of 12 and 40) are involved in criminal and anti-social behaviour. However their actions are having a continuing corrosive and damaging impact on a far greater number.

This ground-breaking research forms the evidential basis for a new strategy, of the same name, which completely re-thinks and upends more conventional responses to criminal and anti-social behaviour. It prioritises the needs and concerns of the communities and families silenced by the anti-social behaviour, in addition to continuing to focus on the criminality. The new research and strategy was commissioned by the four local policing forums (4Forums) across Dublin South Central.

To view Dr. Connolly's presentation, [please click here](#).

## 4. Research Collaborations

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### A Changing Landscape

In its formative days the ACJRD (then IASD) would commission research and or engage the services of researchers when the Association won a research tender. Nowadays ACJRD is often approached by third parties who require a civil society partner to engage in and or facilitate research that has been successfully tendered for, such as a Juvenile Sexual Offending Project outlined below.

Council Members engaged in discussions on the implementation of a Strategic Review that included a recalibration of how ACJRD could facilitate the criminal justice research community. It was agreed that our members would be best served by the Association facilitating both commissioners of research and individual researchers by forming a member-led Research Hub. The newly formed Strategic Design Sub-Committee has taken on responsibility for the implementation of this new strategy.

### Juvenile Sexual Offending Project

ACJRD is partnering with Dr Etain Quigley, Maynooth University, on the Juvenile Sexual Offending Project funded by the New Foundations IRC. This project aims to develop a survey to collect data on officially reported cases and convictions, changes in the law and on state responses (diversion, programmes, sentencing etc.) to juvenile sexual offending.

ACJRD facilitated an online meeting for ACJRD Juvenile Justice Working Group members and other with expertise in juvenile justice on 9th July, 2020, to input into this project.

Please also see Section 11 below, which outlines ACJRD's international collaborations.

## 5. Student Engagement

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### ACJRD Academic Sponsorship in Maynooth University

ACJRD continues its academic sponsorship with Maynooth University. Lucy Callaghan won the Maynooth University | ACJRD Prize for the Best Student in Criminal Law in 2020.

## Other Student Engagement

Yahaira Lidia Reyes De Bolks, a student from Maynooth University completed a six-week placement with ACJRD in 2020.

Students from Dublin City University, University of Limerick, Maynooth University and the Law Society of Ireland acted as rapporteurs at the ACJRD Annual Conference.

## 6. Newsletter

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The ACJRD Newsletter is delivered via email to members and interested parties of the Association and is also available on the ACJRD website. The newsletter keeps members informed about current and forthcoming events and includes news from our members and developments in other agencies and relevant organisations.

As well as promoting the ACJRD, the Newsletter is designed to attract and encourage new members. This service is produced in-house and there are no printing or postage costs. It promotes the creation and development of an online community for the ACJRD.

A Spring newsletter was produced in 2020. Many "Items/Events of Interest" convened by agencies and organisations in the criminal justice and related sectors were also circulated to or membership during the year.

## 7. Commitment to Achieve Change - Submissions

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ACJRD makes appropriate submissions in satisfaction of its mission and vision in areas where there is relevant expertise and interest. The views expressed in ACJRD submissions are those of ACJRD in its independent capacity and are not those of the ACJRD members' organisations or their employers. All submissions made by the ACJRD are available on our website <https://www.acjrd.ie/services/development>.

In June 2020, ACJRD made a submission to The Department of Justice and Equality on the '*Draft Youth Justice Strategy 2020-2026*'.

In August 2020, ACJRD made a submission to The Department of Justice and Equality on the '*Criminal Justice System Strategy*'.

In November 2020, ACJRD made a submission to the Department of Justice and Equality on the '*Review of the Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions and Certain Disclosures) Act 2016*'.

## 8. Governance

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In 2020 the ACJRD Council was comprised of representation from the following: Department of Justice and Equality, The Probation Service, the Irish Prison Service, the Office of the DPP, An Garda Síochána, the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Revenue Commissioners, University of Limerick, Trinity College Dublin, the Policing Authority, the Courts Service and an independent Chairperson.

### The following ACJRD Council meetings took place during 2020:

14th January, 2020, in the Meeting Room, SPADE Enterprise Centre, North King Street, Dublin 7

3rd March, 2020, in the office of the Policing Authority, 90 North King Street, Dublin 7

The April 21st Council meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic lockdown.

26th May, 2020, online

7th July, 2020, online

29th September, 2020, online

3rd November, 2020, online

15th December, 2020, online

### Council Training

Board Roles and Responsibilities training was undertaken by two new Council Members and during 2020. All serving Council members have completed this training as of 31.12.20.

## Council representation

The ACJRD Council members have represented by the Association's Chairperson, Maura Butler, Solicitor, at several events during the year. These have included:

- The Irish Penal Reform Trust Launch of their report '*Making Rights Real for People with Disabilities in Detention*' on January 15th
- The International Therapeutic Jurisprudence Society Irish Chapter, 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Round Table Discussion at Maynooth University, on February 7th.
- A seminar to mark 20 years of UCD Criminology at Mountjoy Prison on February 24th.
- The Policing Authority webinar '*Children, young people and police: Building Confidence and Trust*' on September 10th.
- The National Disability Authority Conference -Facilitating the effective and equal participation of persons with disabilities in the Irish criminal justice system (Article 13 UNCRPD) on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Council Sub-Committees:

Discreet aspects of Council work have been matched with individual Council Member expertise in the establishment of a number of sub-committees with a Council Member chairing each of them:

- Governance Sub-Committee
- Strategic Design Sub-Committee
- HR and Business Sub-Committee

## Charities Regulatory Authority Governance Code

Significant work has been undertaken by the Council and the Governance Sub-Committee to ensure compliance with the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA) Governance Code. ACJRD will report in 2021 on the 2020 compliance in line with the CRA Requirements.

## 9. Strategy 2020 – 2022

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The Council approved a new strategy for 2020 – 2022. To view a copy on the ACJRD Website please [click here](#)

New Developments include the previously mentioned re-design of the Association’s website, the planned restructuring and expansion of the Working Groups, plans to establish a Research Hub and the formation of a mentoring service for members.

The Vision, Mission statements were updated and a Values Statement was created, see the Vision, Mission, Value and Objectives section of this report.

## 10. AGM 2020

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The ACJRD Annual General Meeting was held online on Friday, 11th December, 2020, following the close of our Annual Conference. At this meeting of ACJRD members the Association’s Auditors, Browne Murphy and Hughes, presented the ACJRD audited accounts 2019 for adoption by members.

## 11. International Collaboration

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### ***The UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network***

In 2018 the ACJRD began a collaboration with Northumbria University and Queen’s University Belfast on a UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network.

The UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network is an initiative which is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and led by Northumbria University in partnership with Queen’s University Belfast and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development in Ireland. The funding commenced on 1st October, 2018, and the project was initially intended to run for 18 months and this timeline was extended during the pandemic lockdown. The Network brings

together policymakers, practitioners and academics to share their vast range of expertise in considering the implications of Brexit for criminal justice cooperation between Ireland and the UK.

The Network comprises a core group of approximately sixty participants and it delivered workshops where the Chatham House Rule<sup>2</sup> was applied. Ireland's Network members were nominated by the ACJRD, many of them from amongst our membership.

Three workshops were held in 2019.

- *"Overview of Article 50 Negotiations Process and Principles and Policing Perspectives"*, held on 11th January, 2019, in the Law Society of Ireland, facilitated by ACJRD.
- *"The Changing Landscape in Criminal Justice: How to Keep the Lights On"* held on 10th April, 2019, in Queen's University Belfast, facilitated by that university.
- *"UK-Irish Policing cooperation after Brexit: exploring European perspectives"* held on 29th November, 2019, at the Law Society of Ireland, facilitated again by ACJRD.

A Conference was scheduled for April 2020 at Northumbria University, but unfortunately it had to be cancelled, due to the pandemic.

Two online seminars were held in 2020:

- *"Policy Update re EU-UK negotiation progress"* on 17th September, 2020;
- *"Common Law and Prisoner Transfer in a post-Brexit Europe"* on 12th November, 2020.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Network collaborator Gemma Davies, Associate Professor of Law, Northumbria University presented a submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee on Cross-border co-operation on policing, security and criminal justice after Brexit on behalf of the Network.

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<sup>2</sup> *"When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed".*  
<http://www.chathamhouse.org/about/chatham-house-rule>

The unpredictable nature of Brexit and the pandemic disruptions have inevitably impacted the content and frequency of Network discussions. There are plans to publish the outcomes of these workshops and online seminars and to hold a conference in due course, within whatever pandemic restrictions apply.

## 12. Association Memberships

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ACJRD is a member of the following organisations:

### ***The Wheel***

The Wheel is a support and representative body connecting community and voluntary organisations and charities across Ireland. Established in 1999, The Wheel has evolved to become a resource centre and forum for the community and voluntary sector. The ACJRD maintained its membership of the Wheel in 2020.

### ***The Irish Penal Reform Trust***

The Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) is Ireland's leading non-governmental organisation campaigning for the rights of people in prison and the progressive reform of Irish penal policy. Established in 1994, IPRT has a well-established role as an independent voice in public debate on the Irish penal system. IPRT is committed to reducing imprisonment, respecting the rights of everyone in the penal system, and progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies. The ACJRD maintained its membership of the IPRT in 2020. IPRT has reciprocal membership with ACJRD.

Should you wish to get involved with ACJRD and contribute to its work please contact us at [enquiries@acjrd.ie](mailto:enquiries@acjrd.ie) or visit our website [www.acjrd.ie](http://www.acjrd.ie).