



FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT — I R E L A N D —

ABOUT FIU IRELAND

Introduction to FIU Ireland

The Irish Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) was established in May 1995 following the transposition of Council Directive of 10 June 1991 on prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering (91/308/EEC). Subsequent EU Directives, influenced by the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), have defined the roles and functions of FIUs.

FATF is a global intergovernmental body, which sets standards and promotes effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats. The FIU is subject to monitoring and inspections by the FATF, the EU and other international bodies to ensure compliance with established standards.

FIU Ireland is a police-based FIU located within the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau (GNECB). It was put on a statutory footing in 2018 with the enactment of the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) (Amendment) Act 2018. It is headed by Detective Chief Superintendent, GNECB, and staffed by employees of An Garda Síochána; however, it has its autonomy and operational independence in carrying out its functions, thus enhancing the FIU's compliance with FATF's Recommendation 29.

FIU Ireland carries out all of the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive (4AMLD) FIU functions on behalf of the Irish State. The FIU operates according to and makes all decisions in accordance with the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Acts 2010 to 2018.

Staff at the FIU contribute to the development of National and European policy and also sit on the Anti-Money Laundering Steering Committee (AMLSC) and represent Ireland at various international fora including the EU, FATF and Egmont Plenaries, EU FIU Platform meetings, etc..

Functions of the FIU

FIU Ireland is the central reception point for all Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) from 'Designated Persons' under Section 42 of the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Acts 2010 to 2018. It also receives reports from the various supervisory bodies, known as Competent Authority Reports (CARs), under Section 63 of the Act. It is important to note that

the Revenue Commissioners also receive a copy of every STR submitted as there is a system of dual-reporting in Ireland.

FIU Ireland analyses all STRs, CARs and other information relating to ML & TF for the purpose of preventing, detecting and investigating possible ML/TF. Its analysis function consists of conducting operational analysis of individual cases, targets and other appropriately selected information, and strategic analysis addressing wider ML/TF trends and patterns. If a suspicion appears to be substantiated, i.e. it appears that an STR contains a criminal indicator, FIU Ireland is obliged to send that information to the competent investigative authority, usually An Garda Síochána but also the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB), Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection, etc. STRs are confidential. A feedback form that should be completed by the investigator and returned for statistical purposes accompanies each dissemination.

Given the cross-jurisdictional nature of ML & TF, FIU Ireland complies with its obligations under Article 52 & 53 of the 4AMLD through its strong cooperation with other EU FIUs and works closely with other worldwide FIUs. In performance of this function, FIU Ireland complies with requests for information from other FIUs and sends requests for information when analysing STRs and other reports. FIU Ireland uses a secure decentralised system called [FIU.Net](#) to securely share STR-related intelligence with other EU FIUs and the Egmont Secure Web (ESW) when communicating with non-EU FIUs.

FIU Ireland uses specialised software (GoAML) to meet its data collection, management, analytical, document management, workflow and statistical needs.

Members of FIU Ireland, in addition to their Garda powers, have access to the various State beneficial Ownership Registers (Companies, Trusts and the forthcoming Bank Account and Safety Deposit Boxes) and may request in writing any financial, administrative or law enforcement information that the FIU requires to carry out its functions. FIU Ireland has access to the Garda PULSE system.

The FIU is assisted by a number of in-house Money Laundering Investigation Units (MLIUs) who conduct complex money laundering investigations and assist other worldwide law enforcement agencies conducting similar investigations. Other members of An Garda Síochána in specialist national units and throughout the Garda Regions also conduct ML & TF enquiries as part of their investigations into profit-generating crimes & domestic/international terrorism. The FIU provides training and outreach to these Garda units.

The Terrorist Financing Intelligence Unit (TFIU) was established within the FIU in 2017 to deal with all STRs and enquiries with suspected links to terrorist financing and related matters. The TFIU works closely with the Special Detective Unit (SDU) & Security & Intelligence Section, Garda Headquarters in the fight against domestic & International TF.

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