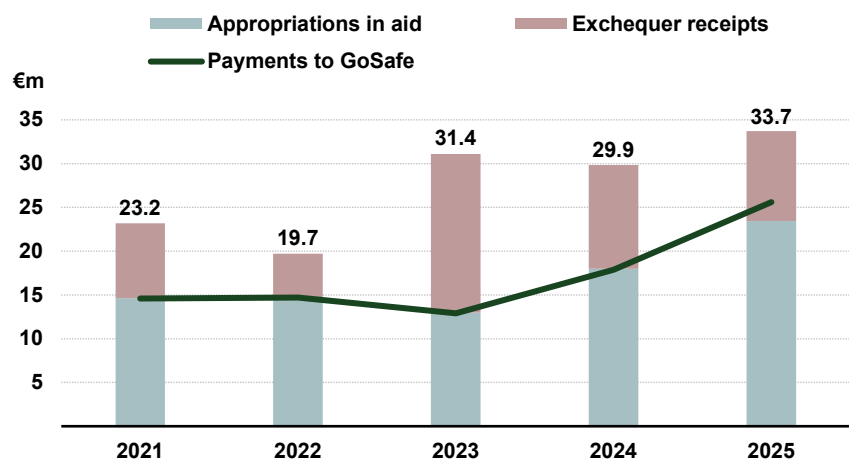


13 Cancellation of fixed charge penalty notices due to errors

- 13.1** GoSafe is a private company contracted to An Garda Síochána for the provision of services including the operation and management of national safety and speed detection camera networks across Ireland under the direction of An Garda Síochána.¹
- 13.2** The Office for Safety Camera Management (OSCAM) within An Garda Síochána is responsible for day-to-day management and oversight of traffic safety camera operations. OSCAM's responsibilities include financial control, monitoring of operations, performance management, site approval, reporting and consultation.
- 13.3** GoSafe has responsibility for ensuring that traffic monitoring and survey sessions are conducted in accordance with the agreed schedules, and for the provision of survey and monitoring data to An Garda Síochána. GoSafe provides the necessary monitoring and survey equipment, vehicles and operators.
- 13.4** In the period 2021 to 2025, receipts of €138 million were generated from fixed charge penalty notices (FCPNs) that issued arising from speeding detections by GoSafe cameras. An Garda Síochána made payments of €85.7 million in that period to GoSafe. The costs of the service are an effective first charge on the receipts, and the balance is remitted to the Exchequer.²

Figure 13.1 Receipts from FCPNs and GoSafe costs 2021 – 2025



Source: An Garda Síochána. Analysis by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

- 13.5** In 2025, An Garda Síochána cancelled 2,785 FCPNs that had issued following excessive speed detection by two static cameras. The cancellation of the notices resulted in the loss of fine receipts estimated to total €445,600.³ The related penalty points were either cancelled or not applied to driver licences.
- 13.6** An Garda Síochána estimated the administration costs associated with the cancellations amounted to €3,654.

1 Following public procurement processes, An Garda Síochána awarded consecutive contracts to GoSafe in November 2010, August 2016 and November 2025.

2 Amounts required by An Garda Síochána to pay GoSafe are retained from the total amounts collected and recorded as appropriations-in-aid of the Vote.

3 Standard speeding offences incur a fine of €160 and the attachment of three penalty points to the driver's licence. Estimated loss: €160 x 2,785 = €445,600.

Figure 13.2 Circumstances leading to the cancellation of FCPNs**Case 1 — N17 County Mayo**

On 12 February 2025, An Garda Síochána and GoSafe identified an issue in relation to a static speed detection camera on the N17, during an exercise where An Garda Síochána was collating copies of calibration certificates for each camera operated by GoSafe. The camera on the N17 was operating effectively but it did not have a valid certification of calibration. The static camera had become operational on 20 December 2024. Between the date the camera became operational and when the error was identified, 1,871 speeding fixed charge notices had been issued by An Garda Síochána. Each of the notices was subsequently revoked. The audit team has estimated that the approximate loss as a result of the cancellation of the FCPNs was €299,360.

An Garda Síochána stated that refunds were issued to 923 motorists that had paid fines prior to the calibration error being identified. Motorists had paid fines at both the standard rate of €160 and at the increased rate of €240 that applies if the fine is not paid within 28 days.

The camera calibration certificate was issued on 13 February 2025.

Case 2 — N25 County Kilkenny

In June 2025, An Garda Síochána identified an error in the location included in an FCPN that had issued when they received an application for the notice to be cancelled from a member of the public. The validity of the offence location was being questioned by the motorist.

The error related to an incorrect townland being recorded in the FCPN processing system, rendering the notice invalid. The FCPN processing system is maintained by An Garda Síochána.

Between 30 May 2025 and 30 June 2025, 914 speeding FCPNs were issued by An Garda Síochána with the offence location recorded as N25 Ballynamona, Mullinavat, Kilkenny. The correct location was N25 Ballynamona, Glenmore, Kilkenny. Each of the notices was subsequently revoked.

The audit team has estimated that the approximate loss as a result of the cancellation of the FCPNs was €146,240.

An Garda Síochána noted that refunds were issued to 208 motorists that had paid fines prior to the location error being identified.

The error was rectified on the FCPN processing system on 30 June 2025, when the correct location was uploaded. The static speed detection camera resumed its operations from 4 July 2025.

Source: An Garda Síochána. Analysis by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Measures put in place to avoid errors reoccurring

- 13.7** An Garda Síochána confirmed to the audit team that the following controls are now in place to prevent the errors reoccurring.
- Copies of all fixed and average speed detection camera calibration certificates are obtained from the outsourced service provider, GoSafe.
 - An internal record including details relating to the issuing and renewal dates of each calibration certificate is now maintained by An Garda Síochána. GoSafe is required to confirm the replacement of each calibration certificate on the renewal date.
 - GoSafe has implemented enhanced safeguards within its quality assurance processes to include daily compliance checks of calibration certification status for every monitoring session and weekly reviews of all required calibration certifications by GoSafe management.
 - Location assessments for all fixed and static speed detection cameras are reviewed by OSCAM before being added to the Garda Síochána IT system to confirm their integrity. This includes review of the location identifier, the location address including townland, town and county, the relevant byelaws and the enforcement speed.

Recovery of losses incurred

- 13.8** The GoSafe contract in place at the time of the N17 and N25 incidents did not contain a provision for the recovery of losses in the event of a failure originating from GoSafe.
- 13.9** The current GoSafe contract, which is effective from 1 November 2025, includes a provision that an amount may be withheld if the service provider, GoSafe, fails to provide the services in accordance with the contract terms.
- 13.10** An Garda Síochána has stated that the costs of operating the static speed detection camera on the N17 during the affected period were recovered from GoSafe.

Conclusions and recommendation

- 13.11** Due to errors and a lack of compensating controls, An Garda Síochána has not collected approximately €445,600 in fines associated with the operation of two static speed detection cameras. Related penalty points could not be applied to the licences of motorists driving in excess of the speed limit that were identified by the speed detection cameras due to these errors.
- 13.12** In the case of one of the incidents, An Garda Síochána was able to recover the costs of operation of the camera during the period when speeding fines were not enforceable.
- 13.13** An Garda Síochána has taken steps to strengthen controls over the static camera and FCPN systems. However, there is scope for formalisation of procedures to help avoid situations where motorists detected speeding are able to avoid the appropriate statutory financial and licence point penalties.

Recommendation 13.1

A set of formal procedures should be devised by An Garda Síochána setting out the processes to be followed prior to setting up a new location on the FCPN processing system.

Accounting Officer's response

Agreed.

An Garda Síochána is at the latter stages of the drafting of such a procedure document.