That Dáil Éireann acknowledges:

* The number of community Gardaí across the state has fallen from 1182 in 2010 to 710 in July 2020 with a drop in Community Garda numbers in the Dublin Metropolitan Region decreasing by 45% from 508 in 2010 to 278 in July 2020;
* The number of Gardaí assigned to the Dublin Metropolitan Region in August 2020 at 4059 remains below 2010 figures at 4160
* That the Programme for Government makes a commitment to “prioritise visible policing in both rural and urban communities” and “remove Gardaí from administrative, technical and other non-core duties to allow them to focus on policing matters”
* The fear and anxiety felt throughout communities, particularly in urban areas in the run up to Halloween caused early onset of the misuse of fireworks
* That several serious incidents have been reported including fireworks being thrown at those attending a vigil for a hit and run victim; fireworks being thrown in letterboxes and pedestrians being targeted by fireworks;
* The threat caused by these actions to public services and community facilities such as local bus services, sports pitches and public parks.
* The impact of the use of illegal fireworks on the resources of emergency services with over 900 calls to Dublin Fire Brigade on Halloween 2018 including over 300 ambulance call-outs and the Dublin Fire Brigade being called out to approximately 180 emergency incidents on Halloween night in 2019;
* The safety risk posed by the use of illegal fireworks and the increasing possibility of serious injuries in the absence of effective measures to prevent the unlicensed import, sale and distribution of illegal fireworks;
* The significant noise pollution and disturbance caused by the illegal and frequent use of fireworks to the wider community, particularly distressing for elderly people; young children and animals; That the start date for Operation Tombola which commenced on the 4th September 2020 is ineffective given that multiple incidents have been reported well in advance of the operations commencement.

Calls on the Government to:

* Ensure that the frequency of Garda patrols in communities most affected by these actions is immediately increased and commit to restoring the number of Gardaí assigned to the Dublin Metropolitan Region to a minimum of 2010 levels by 2021;
* Immediately increase the recruitment of Garda Civilian staff to help facilitate increased Garda presence in communities;
* Commit to a minimum recruitment of 800 Gardaí per annum with priority deployment in the area of community safety.
* Immediately establish a joint taskforce between an Garda Síochána and the PSNI under Operation Tombola to proactively work to combat the distribution, sale and use of illegal fireworks
* Establish a confidential and dedicated telephone line to allow members of the public to report instances of the misuse of fireworks
* Immediately roll out a public and school awareness campaign incorporating Dublin Fire Brigade and Gardaí including engagements with schools, community groups and youth organisations to highlight the dangers of misuse of fireworks;
* Commit to providing a report on Operation Tombola to the houses of the Oireachtas before December 31st, 2020 identifying areas for improvement in resourcing and making recommendations in respect of same to develop an annual strategy for the effective combating of the importation, sale and use of illegal fireworks;
* Immediately commence public consultation to run until after the Halloween period involving community groups; youth organisations and the wider public to identify the extent of the impact of the misuse of fireworks and to ensure that resources are effectively targeted in areas most affected and the views of effected communities are incorporated into the annual strategy
* Commit to the establishment of Operation Tombola on an annual basis to commence no later than July 1st and ensure that the operation is sufficiently resourced and involves joint co-operation with the PSNI