

Crime has almost doubled in the two years since new law came in

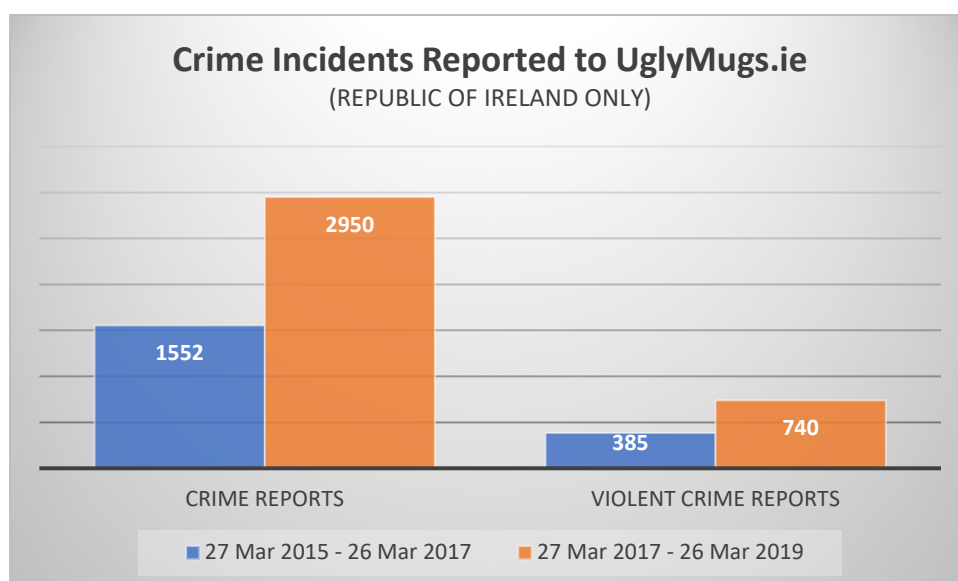
UglyMugs.ie is an app that improves the safety of sex workers and reduces crime. Sex workers can confidentially report incidents of abuse and crime to UglyMugs.ie.

Since the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 came into force on 27 March 2017, the number of sex workers using UglyMugs.ie has remained steady at between 6,000 – 7,000 per year¹. However, the number of incidents of abuse and crime being reported to UglyMugs.ie by sex workers in the Republic of Ireland has greatly increased.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF REPORTS, CRIME REPORTS & VIOLENT CRIME REPORTS IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND FOR TWO YEARS BEFORE AND AFTER CRIMINAL LAW (SEXUAL OFFENCES) ACT 2017

| Year | All Reports | Crime Reports | Violent Crime Reports |
|---|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 2 years before Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 | | | |
| 27 Mar 2015 - 26 Mar 2016 | 1537 | 607 | 168 |
| 27 Mar 2016 - 26 Mar 2017 | 2741 | 945 | 217 |
| Totals: | 4278 | 1552 | 385 |
| 2 years after Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 | | | |
| 27 Mar 2017 - 26 Mar 2018 | 4598 | 1445 | 387 |
| 27 Mar 2018 - 26 Mar 2019 | 5478 | 1505 | 353 |
| Totals: | 10076 | 2950 | 740 |

Comparing the two years before and the two years after the new law came in, crime has increased 90% and violent crime specifically has increased 92%.



The severe increase in crime occurred in the first year since the law came in (2017/18), with 53% more crime and 78% more violent crime being reported to UglyMugs.ieⁱⁱ. In the second year since the law came in (2018/19) the newly high level of crime was sustained.

Less than 1% of sex workers reporting crime to UglyMugs.ie say that they have or will also report to the gardaí. This low figure has been consistent over the last several years and is reflective of the extremely poor relationship between sex workers and An Garda Síochána.

ⁱ UglyMugs.ie membership has been 6,000 – 7,000 members active per annum in Ireland for the years 2015-2018. UglyMugs.ie membership is calculated per calendar year and does not distinguish between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Therefore, this is an all Ireland figure.

ⁱⁱ UglyMugs.ie members can report incidents that happened in the past. In a statement on 3 April 2018, UglyMugs.ie reported a 54% rise in crime and a 77% rise in violent crime in the first year since the new law came in. Those figures were correct on that date. The small revision to these numbers now is because additional reports relating to the timeframe under examination have since been made to UglyMugs.ie.