



## **13 'exceptional' gardai honoured with Scott Medals for bravery**

**26.08.2021**

TRIBUTES have been paid to the “extraordinary courage and heroism” of gardaí, as 13 gardaí received a gold, silver or bronze Scott Medal – the highest decoration for bravery in the force.

Thirteen gardaí – some living, others honoured posthumously – were awarded the Scott Medal at an outdoors ceremony in Dublin Castle earlier today, August 25.

Garda Representative Association President Frank Thornton, who attended the ceremony, said: “It is a very proud and humbling day for every serving member to see these exceptional gardaí recognised for their extraordinary courage, bravery and heroism in service.”

Three of the Scott medals were given posthumously and followed a trawl through the history of the organisation, resulting in recognition of the bravery of three detectives shot by the IRA in August 1940.

Two of the gardaí, Detective Sergeant Patrick McKeown and Detective Garda Richard Hyland, were fatally wounded, while their colleague Detective Garda Michael Brady was seriously injured.

All three received the Gold Scott Medal – the highest decoration. Nine Bronze Scott medals and one Silver Scott medal were also awarded at the ceremony, held in Dubh Linn Gardens in Dublin Castle.

Two gardaí who helped [free kidnapped dentist John O'Grady in 1987](#) were also presented with medals.

A Silver Scott medal was awarded to Detective Inspector Richard Fahy, and a bronze to retired Detective Garda Brian Coade. Mr O'Grady had been abducted several weeks earlier and had several fingers severed by his captors who made a IR£1.5m ransom demand.

Eight bronze medals were awarded to other officers who confronted armed robbers, and in one case disarmed an armed man who was threatening self-harm.

The bronze medal recipients are Inspector Darren Kirwan, Sergeant John McDonagh, Sergeant Joseph Young, Sergeant Pat Carroll, Garda Robert Duffy, Garda Barry Hennessy, Garda Michael Lee and Garda Andrew Gardiner.

Sgt Young and the now-retired Sgt McDonagh were recognised for their role in apprehending two masked and armed men and freeing a family in Cork on 2 May 2005.

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris said 13 awards given to gardaí and their families for bravery provides a “real reassurance” to the public of the service members provide and the “exceptional lengths” they will go to protect them.

“This is a real reassurance to the public of the service we provide and the exceptional lengths members of An Garda Síochána will go to to protect the public,” Commissioner Harris said.

Justice Minister Heather Humphreys said the awards were given for “truly heroic action” by the gardaí concerned, actions she said that were “over and beyond the call of duty”.

She said: “It’s important to recognise that bravery. They do put their lives at risk and when they get up in the morning they don’t know what they are going to face.”

She said it was “especially poignant” for those receiving posthumous awards and their families.

.