

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Security Industry Seeks Stiffer Sentencing for CIT Criminals**

In 2013 alone there have been eleven robberies or attempted robberies of cash-in-transit (CIT) operatives. The total number of cash-in-transit incidents in 2012 was 50. Of the nine incidents this year only three have resulted in arrests.

The total amount of cash stolen through CIT robberies last year was over €1.3 million. To date in 2013 the amount stolen totals €192,165, with four of the attacks being unsuccessful. However, the amount of cash stolen only begins to describe the impact of these incidents. Sarah O'Donnell, Communications Director of the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA), pointed out that "for every incident that has occurred at least one, if not two, individual's employment and well being is impacted on. The company they are employed with incurs numerous costs, whether the incident is successful or not; medical bills, counselling services, there may be costly equipment that needs to be replaced or repaired. Some of our members have indicated that on average the cost to the CIT company is, on average, at least twice that of the cash stolen".

Recent statistics released by the Central Statistics Office show numerous types of crime decreasing in quarter four of 2012. However, for the same period figures showed that robbing of cash or goods in transit had increased by 26 per cent.

The Chairman of the ISIA's Transport (CIT) Division highlighted, "most of these incidents are carried out in public locations and have involved the use of guns. This is not only putting the cash-in-transit industry at risk, but it puts the public at risk. There needs to be stiffer sentencing to deter these criminals from targeting the movement of cash and goods".

The CIT industry believes that some of these incidents are often perpetrated by the same individuals and, in some cases, while they are released on bail for an earlier CIT incident. Unless stiffer penalties are imposed and bail is not granted as easily, the CIT industry fears that this wave of crime will continue against them, putting their people and the public at risk on a regular basis.

Although, the CIT industry receives enormous support from the Gardai, they believe that there must be great resources made available to them. This combined with stricter sentencing and less leniency when granting bail to the individuals arrested in connection with these crimes, would reduce the risk to not only the industry, but to the public.

#### **About the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA)**

The ISIA was established in 1972 and represents security companies across eight divisions of private security including; guarding services, electronic security, event and entertainment security, monitoring centres, transport/cash-in-transit, physical security, security consultants and secure data destruction.

The members of the ISIA are representative of approximately 70 per cent of both the turnover and the employees in the industry. The ISIA represents over 90 per cent of the cash-in-transit industry.

For further information please contact:

Sarah O'Donnell, Communications Director  
Telephone: 01-4847206/Mobile: 087-2229127  
Email: [sarahodonnell@isia.ie](mailto:sarahodonnell@isia.ie)  
[www.isia.ie](http://www.isia.ie)