

EXCLUSIVE: IT'S DUBAI IN BLUE..

EXCLUSIVE by **STEPHEN BREEN**
Crime Editor

A SENIOR Garda will be posted to the United Arab Emirates this month as part of the crackdown on the Kinahan cartel.

The Irish Sun on Sunday can reveal the superintendent will be permanently based in the Irish Embassy in Abu Dhabi to coordinate investigations into Daniel Kinahan's mob and other Irish crime gangs based in the region.

It's the first time Gardai will have a permanent presence in the Middle East.

Their role will be to work closely with authorities in the UAE as part of the effort by the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau to bring down Kinahan, his brother Christopher, dad Christy, pal Sean McGovern and other senior cartel figures.

The move comes one year after the US Government placed a \$5million bounty on the Kinahan clan and issued financial sanctions against companies linked to the narco-terrorist gang.

It's also only the second time an officer with the rank of superintendent has been appointed as a liaison officer, with the other one based in Washington, US.

One investigator told us: "This permanent presence in the Middle East is a result of ongoing international cooperation between Gardai and their overseas partners."

"The liaison officer is very experienced and was appointed after a lengthy application and interview process was undertaken."

"The posting will enable Gardai to deal directly and in real time with authorities in the UAE in ongoing investigations. The position can only help law enforcement in their ultimate objective to dismantle the top tier of the Kinahan Organised Crime Group."

At present, Gardai believe Daniel Kinahan and his close inner circle are lying low in Dubai.

Kinahan also remains a "person of interest" in three major probes. If they arrest him, Gardai are hoping to charge him with a number of offences, including directing the activities of an organised crime gang.

As the probe into the cartel continues, the UK's National Crime Agency, who brought down kingpin Thomas 'Bomber' Kavanagh, have vowed to assist Gardai in their efforts to dismantle the mob.

In a statement to The Irish Sun on Sunday, NCA Deputy Director Craig Turner said: "Our ongoing action against the Kinahan Organised Crime Group demonstrates the NCA will exploit every opportunity to target and disrupt the most dangerous criminals who pose the highest risk to the public."

"We will continue to work closely with the AGS in Ireland, as well as partners in the US, to target the Kinahans, their associates and anyone involved in criminal activity that impacts on our communities."

And former Garda Assistant Commissioner John O'Driscoll, who helped orchestrate the global crackdown against the cartel, believes the ongoing operations will lead to more successes.

Mr O'Driscoll said: "The initiative designed to dismantle the Kinahan OCG and ensure its members are brought to justice has provided a template for law enforcement throughout the world, for effectively tackling the criminality they engage in."

"An Garda Siochana and its partners who participated in the event (announcing the new approach) at City Hall, continue to make significant arrests and seizures of drugs, firearms and money, associated with the OCG."

"Additional convictions of persons associated with the OCG have also been

Hopeful... O'Driscoll



CHRISTY KINAHAN

Father of Daniel & Christy Jr is part of clan under \$5m bounty



DANIEL KINAHAN

Mob boss lying low in Dubai is seen as toxic by ex-associates



CHRISTY KINAHAN JR

Daniel's brother & Christy Sr's son, also believed to be in UAE



SEAN MCGOVERN

Key Kinahan cartel figure and best pal of mob boss Daniel



In hiding... key Kinahan figures in Dubai

WARRANTS OF ARABIA

Top garda in UAE to track down Kinahans

achieved. Also, financial sanctions imposed by the Office of Foreign Asset Control within the US Department of Treasury remain in place, and continue to cause significant disruption to the operations of the OCG.

"Undoubtedly, the full impact of the initiative revealed at City Hall, Dublin, in April 2022 has yet to be experienced by the OCG. Additional success in this regard is certain, I believe."

Since last year's historic announcement of the global crackdown, there have been no public sigh-

tings of Kinahan or other senior members of the group.

Other senior members of the mob - including Ross Browning - have returned to Ireland.

And although top cartel figure Liam Byrne has made trips to the region in the last year from the UK, we understand his relationship with Kinahan has deteriorated in recent months.

One resident from the south inner city area of Dublin: "The word in the area is that Daniel is very paranoid and is only keeping his inner circle close by."

"He used to be very close to Liam Byrne, but the pair have moved in different directions in recent months and Daniel doesn't

want him or any other of his associates coming over to Dubai.

"They're all feeling the pressure and nobody knows who to trust."

"People are also saying that Kinahan is toxic and many criminals don't want to deal with them because of all the people who have ended up in prison."

Another cartel figure feeling the heat is Maurice Sines, who fears his assets may also be targeted after the sanctions imposed on the Kinahan-linked firms.

Sines - who uses the name Fred Doe - has changed bank account details for his firms five times recently. He has also asked guests at one of his caravan parks to pay cash. Investigators believe this is to

prevent the UK's National Crime Agency coming after his assets. One source said: "Sines is a senior associate of the Kinahan cartel and he's worried his business interests could also come under the spotlight of the US Government."

Since the announcement at Dublin's City Hall last year, senior Kinahan money launderer Johnny Morrissey has been arrested in Spain, cartel assassin Imre Arakas has been deported to Estonia and Douglas 'Doogie' Glynn has received a jail term for running a drug distribution centre.

Kinahan also suffered a blow when partners in Europe's "super cartel" were held and sanctioned.

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