



Irish Council for
Civil Liberties

Monitoring rights during the pandemic
10-16 October

New restrictions introduced

Following the decision by the Northern Ireland Executive on Wednesday to close schools (from next Monday) for two weeks and bars and restaurants for four weeks (from Friday), the Cabinet decided that evening to move the border counties, Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan, to level 4 and to introduce a nationwide ban on household visits from midnight on Thursday.

NPHET recommendations

On Saturday, the government is to consider NPHET's recommendation to move the whole country to level 5 for six weeks.

Policing operation

A high-visibility garda operation is planned for this weekend to encourage people to stay within their county borders, which will include additional patrols and checkpoints. This operation is in addition to Operation Fanacht, under which large-scale checkpoints are taking place on national roads to reduce unnecessary journeys, and Operation Navigation, under which members of the force conduct spot checks at licensed premises to see if Covid-19 guidelines are being followed. We at the ICCL have consistently called on the gardaí to engage with, encourage and educate the public on the public health guidance and welcome the Garda Commissioner's expressed commitment last week to the sparing use of enforcement powers.