

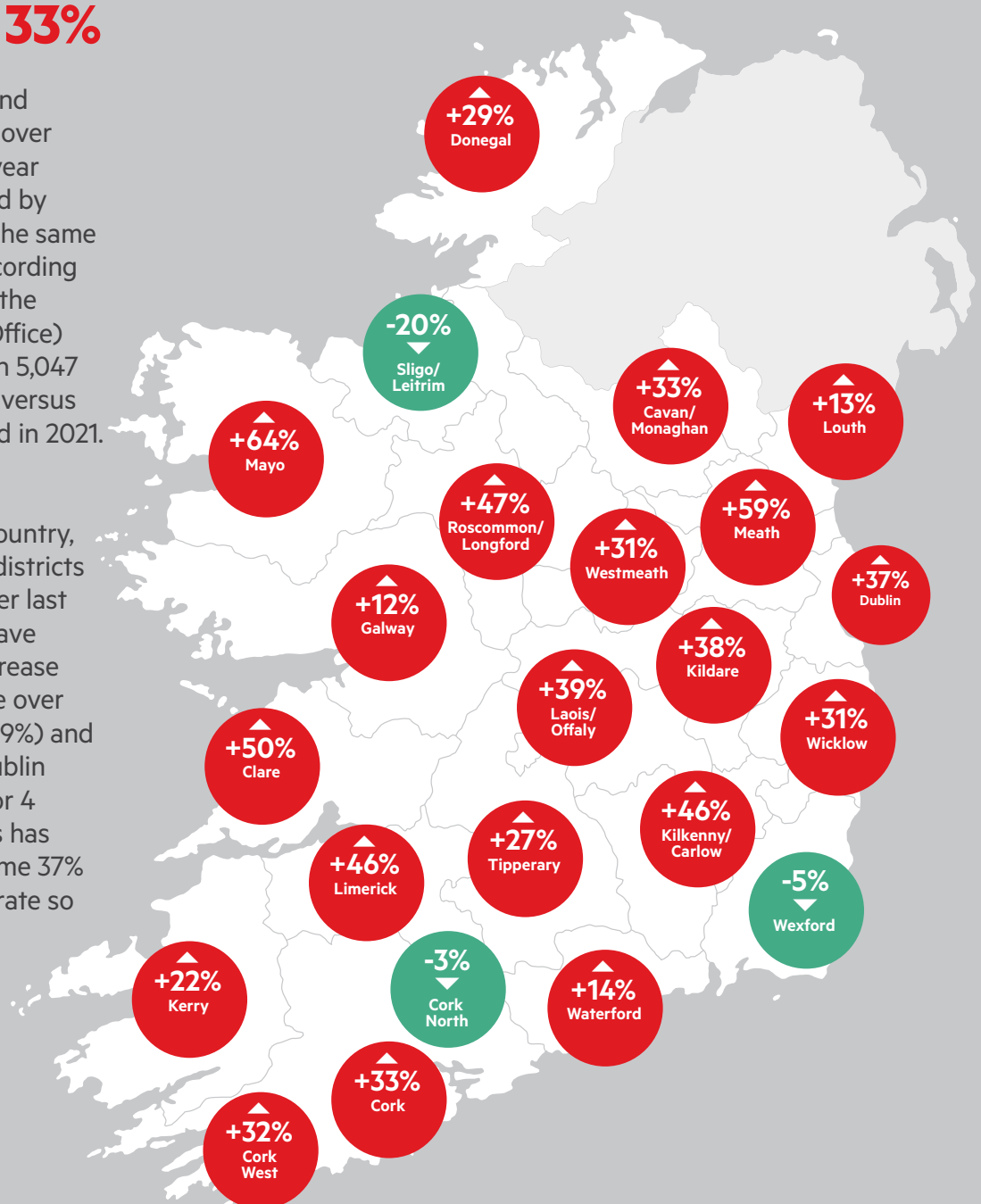
# PhoneWatch Burglary Report 2022

## Burglaries in Ireland increase by 33%

Following a declining trend in burglaries nationwide over the past few years, this year burglaries have increased by 33% when compared to the same time last year. This is according to statistics reported by the CSO (Central Statistics Office) that show there has been 5,047 burglaries so far in 2022 versus 3,807 for the same period in 2021.

This increase has been widespread across the country, with 25 of the 28 Garda districts reporting an increase over last year, the counties that have recorded the highest increase are Mayo (+64% increase over the last year), Meath (+59%) and Limerick (+46%). The Dublin region which accounts for 4 out of 10 of all burglaries has experienced an unwelcome 37% increase in the burglary rate so far in 2022.

### Burglaries by Gardaí Division



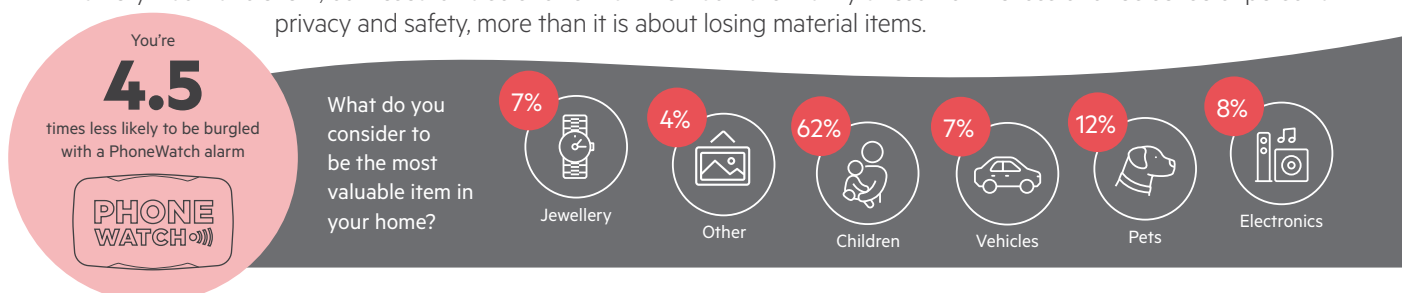
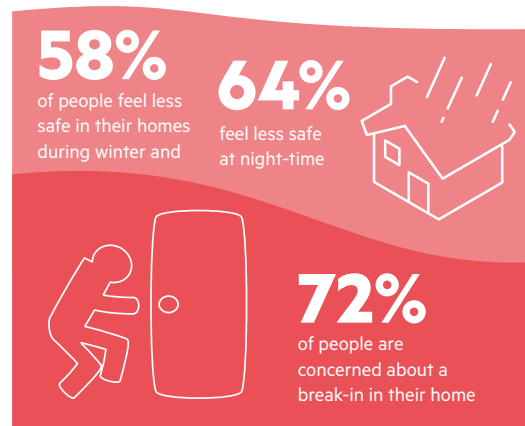
Data source: CSO recorded crime statistics September 2022 and PhoneWatch Alarm Receiving Centre Data November 2022.

## 1 in 10 homes burgled in the last 10 years

Taking a view of official figures over the last decade provides some startling facts. There have been over 180,000 burglaries reported in the last 10 years, which indicates that an average of 1 in every 10 houses nationally have been burgled during that period. This is a harsh statistic, that is far too high. The number of incidents is a reminder to homeowners of the importance of being vigilant and aware of the potential of burglary and of taking simple and effective measures that can help improve the security of their home and the safety of their family.

## 3 out of every 4 homeowners are concerned about being burgled

In addition to the other issues that householders currently face, these official statistics come at a time when people are more anxious about the safety of their families and their homes. Recent research\* conducted by PhoneWatch has revealed that 3 out of 4 (72%) homeowners are concerned about the prospect of being burgled. Not surprisingly, these concerns are more acute in wintertime with 58% of respondents outlining that they "feel less safe" during the winter season. In addition, 2 out of 3 people said they felt less safe at night-time. This high level of concern among householders, in the context of increased burglary rates, highlights the need for homeowners to be aware of the potential dangers. To have one's home burgled can be a very traumatic event, our research also shows that this trauma is mainly a result of the loss of one's sense of personal privacy and safety, more than it is about losing material items.



## Homes with a monitored alarm are 4.5 times less likely to experience a break in

There are a number of ways we can protect our homes. A lot of these come down to common sense. Repeatedly at PhoneWatch we encourage people to:

- Lock doors and windows even when at home.
- Leave lights on in the hallway for example during the darker evenings. A handy way to do this is to link your lights to smart plugs, so they can be put on a timer.
- Never leave Christmas gifts packed in the hallway – they are too visible and are asking to be taken!
- Always keep a close eye on candles and Christmas lights and ensure they are turned off at night. Ensure your smoke alarm is working well and regularly change the batteries.
- Repeatedly research shows that people with a monitored alarm are less likely to be burgled. When comparing the data from the PhoneWatch Alarm Receiving Centre to the national burglary stats, we can see that PhoneWatch homes are 4.5 times less likely to be burgled.
- Remember to **always arm your alarm**, at night and even when you're popping out for short periods of time.

Data source: CSO recorded crime statistics September 2022, PhoneWatch Alarm Receiving Centre Data November 2022 and research conducted by Bounce Insights, October 2022.