



VEMS Newsletter

July 2022



Boat Crew Training. © Department of Defence

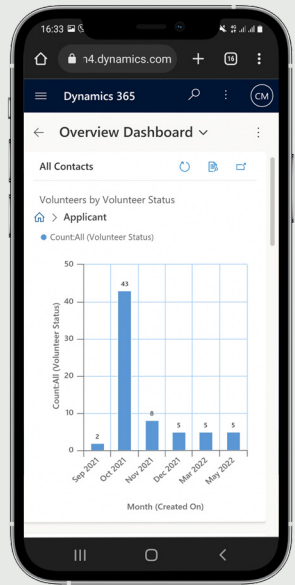
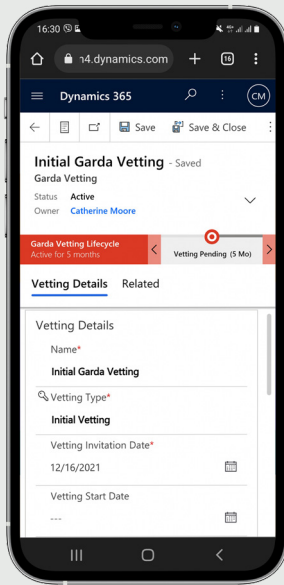
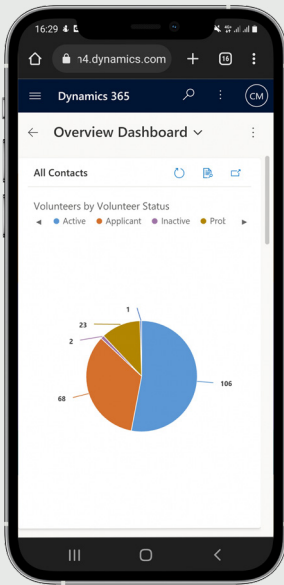
In 2021 the Department of Defence entered into a contract to develop a new on-line Volunteer and Equipment Management System (VEMS) for Civil Defence. A lot of work has been completed by Civil Defence Officers and Department staff on the system which will 'go live' towards the end of the year. The design phase is almost complete. The coming months will be devoted to building and testing the new system. Before the system can go-live a lot of information will be migrated over from our existing systems. Extensive security testing will also be carried out to protect our volunteer data.

VEMS for Volunteers

Volunteers will be able to access VEMS on their smartphone, laptop or tablet. They will receive messages about upcoming training events and duties. They will be able to respond to confirm or decline attendance at events. They will receive timely reminders to help ensure their Garda vetting and skills are kept in date. Volunteers will be able to update their contact details on-line. Volunteers will have access to a calendar of events.

VEMS for Civil Defence Officers and Assistant Civil Defence Officers

VEMS will help CDOs and ACDOs in their day to day work of managing, training and deploying volunteers. They will have access to dashboards with key information about their volunteers, their skills and their training. It will also help them manage their equipment, for example vehicle maintenance and inspections. They will also use the system to order stocks such as uniforms and boots from our central stores. CDOs will be able to quickly run reports on all the activities of their Unit.



VEM Interface. © Department of Defence

VEMS for the Department of Defence

VEMS will provide the Department of Defence with accurate and up to date information on Civil Defence across the country. It will help us efficiently manage ordering and distribution of stocks and equipment. It will assist in organising central training and also in certifying training across the country. It will help speed up the process of Garda vetting our volunteers. It will provide accurate reports on the large number and wide range of duties undertaken by Civil Defence Units on an almost daily basis.

Next Steps

Over the coming months our contractors will complete the build phase of the new system. This will undergo extensive user testing both by Department staff and CDOs. The new system will also undergo security testing. Work is already underway preparing the data, such as training records, that will be migrated across from our current systems. A training plan is also being put in place to ensure that all users get the maximum benefit from the new system.