



VEMS Newsletter

February 2023



*Covid medals presentation – November 2022
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Update: 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 huge amount of work has been completed on designing the system and on some initial testing. This system is now built and we are now testing it. Before the system can go-live a lot of information will be migrated over from our existing systems. We will be providing comprehensive training to all Civil Defence Officers. Finally, extensive security testing will be carried out before the system 'goes-live' 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.



Westmeath Civil Defence at the Covid medals presentation © 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

The system is now built. Over the coming weeks it will undergo end-to-end user testing both by Department staff, CDOs and some volunteers. The new system will also undergo extensive security testing. We will continue preparing data, such as training records, that will be migrated across from our current systems. Training will be provided to all users to ensure we get the maximum benefit from the new system. We look forward to rolling out this important new system in the coming months.