



**Award of Bronze Scott Medal**  
**Inspector Darren Kirwan, 26343E**  
**Dundalk Garda Station**



On 18 January 2011, Detective Sergeant Darren Kirwan and Detective Garda Andrew Barron were on mobile patrol in the Omeath area of Co. Louth targeting the activities of a criminal gang known to be involved in violent crimes and to carry firearms.

Detective Sergeant Darren Kirwan and Detective Garda Andrew Barron encountered one of the suspect vehicles, a BMW car bearing false number plates, with two occupants, which failed to stop when signalled to do so.

After a brief pursuit, the suspect vehicle suddenly turned off the road into a driveway and came to a sudden stop. Detective Garda Barron brought the patrol car to a stop behind the suspect vehicle. Without warning, the suspect vehicle reversed into the patrol car.

Detective Sergeant Kirwan exited the patrol car and made his way to the driver's door of the suspect vehicle, and as he did, the driver reversed the vehicle at him. Detective Sergeant Kirwan managed to jump out of the way and the suspect vehicle reversed into the parked patrol car for a second time. The driver of the suspect vehicle then reached down to the driver's door and suspecting that the driver was reaching for a weapon, possibly a firearm, Detective Sergeant Kirwan broke the driver's door window with his ASP and in doing so Detective Sergeant Kirwan received a significant cut to his hand from broken glass.

In fear for his safety and that of his colleague, Detective Garda Barron drew his official firearm and identified himself as "armed Gardaí".

The driver of the suspect vehicle repeatedly drove the vehicle at the patrol car forcing both Detective Sergeant Kirwan and Detective Garda Barron to jump out of the way. Detective Garda Barron was trapped between the patrol car and a wall and he discharged one shot from his official firearm. The suspect, continued to manoeuvre the car, colliding with the driveway wall until managing to escape and drive away.

During these manoeuvres, the male passenger jumped from the vehicle and tried to run away. Detective Sergeant Kirwan, despite injuries to his hand caught up with the passenger and arrested him.

Subsequently, both males were convicted of the offences and received prison sentences.

For exceptional courage and bravery involving personal risk to life in the execution of his duty, the Bronze Scott Medal is awarded to Inspector Darren Kirwan.