

# Checkpoint calms mood in estate trouble spot

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GARDAI in Limerick are maintaining a 24-hour checkpoint at the entrance to one of the city's most troubled estates following the recent spate of murders in the city.

At any one time up to eight gardai, including armed plainclothes officers, patrol St Mary's Park on the city's north.

Much of the troubles that brought the city into the national spotlight late last month originated in this area.

The focal point of the surveillance is a round-the-clock checkpoint, manned by up to four gardai, at the entrance to the estate.

All persons entering and leaving the estate are questioned briefly and vehicles are also searched for weapons and drugs.

The checkpoint and patrols have brought calm to the estate but are placing extra demands on garda resources, though a spokesman said yesterday that there are sufficient numbers in the city to cope.

"Calm has prevailed" in the area since the operation began, said the spokesman.

The operation began following the murder of two local teenagers in August.