

# Witness Security Programme (WSP) Ireland

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# Background to the Irish Witness Security Programme

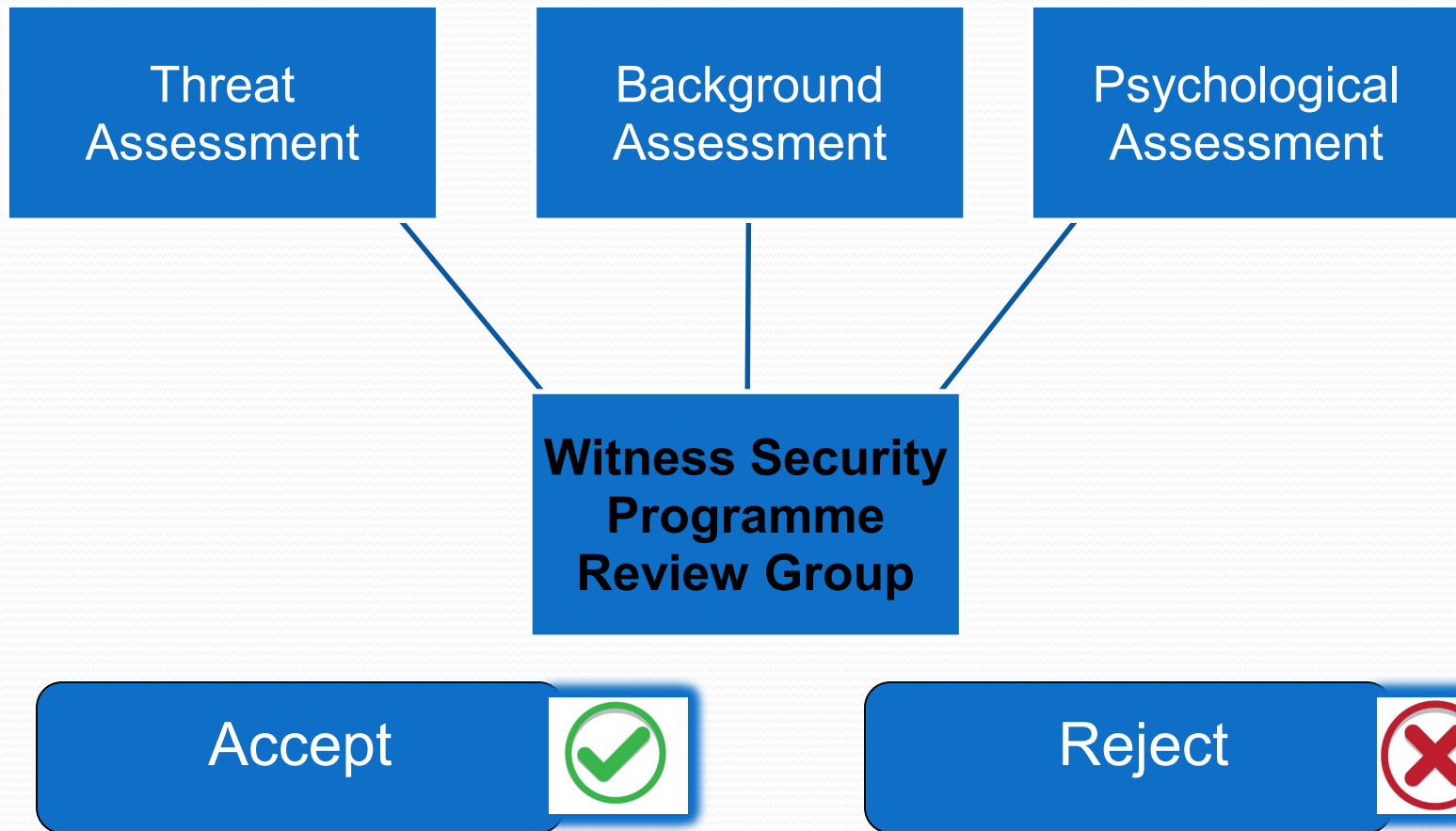


- The investigation into the murder of crime journalist, Veronica Guerin 1996 uncovered witnesses who played important roles in the murder and trial.
- Intimidation and real threats ensued.
- Lead to Witness Security Programme

# Criteria for inclusion in the Programme

- Witness must give *essential evidence* in respect of a *serious crime*
- Must be a *threat* to life
- Written statement + *willing* to give evidence
- No incentive or inducement
- Witness prepared to *abide by conditions*
- Clear *separation* between investigators and protectors
- Measures only agreed after admission to programme

# Assessment Process



# Measures Available

- Re-Location - inside or outside jurisdiction
- Finances – ‘like for like’ payments - no lump sums
- New Identity
- Psychological assessment/counselling
- Medical
- Other measures depending on circumstance

# Successes

- Over 20 years
- Witnesses secure
- Criminal convictions as result of testimony of witnesses in programme
- Witnesses reaching self sufficiency abroad – less likely to achieve in Ireland without compromise
- Collaborations with International partners successful