



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA  
POLICING AUTHORITY

28/03/17

The Policing Authority met yesterday (27 March 2017) to discuss the issues relating to Mandatory Alcohol Testing data and wrongful prosecutions.

The Authority again expressed its disappointment at not being advised in a timely manner that an audit into the breath test issues was underway. Despite questioning over several months, the Authority has not yet been provided with the full internal reports or indeed a clear sense of how these matters have been handled to date within the Garda Síochána or the status and content of the audits which have been undertaken.

The Authority considered the correspondence received from the Garda Commissioner on Friday 24 March last in which the Commissioner requested that the Authority refer a number of matters to the Garda Inspectorate.

In this context the Authority took the following decisions, which were conveyed to the Garda Commissioner yesterday:

- it concluded that, in the absence of the data requested, it is premature to decide at this time whether there is value in asking the Garda Inspectorate to conduct the type of inspection requested;
- it requested that by the end of this week (31/03/17) further information be provided by the Garda Síochána on a range of matters to facilitate the Authority's further consideration of this matter. This includes a copy of all existing reports, including audits or examinations on both matters
- to assist it in identifying gaps and because they were not entirely clear, the Authority asked for details from the Garda Commissioner of the examination proposed to be undertaken by an Assistant Commissioner and internal audit and the timelines for their completion.

The importance of supplying this additional information in a timely manner was emphasised to the Garda Commissioner.

Separately, the Policing Authority decided as a first step to engage expertise to assist it in conducting a quality assurance review on of the remedial actions taken in 2016 to help restore confidence in Garda data.

The Authority is being briefed on the outcome of today's Government meeting and will engage further with the Tánaiste to play its part in both the proposed external investigation into these specific matters and the independent root and branch review of the Garda Síochána.

The Policing Authority had already planned and announced a meeting in public with the Garda Commissioner on April 27<sup>th</sup> on the topic of Roads Policing. The Authority will continue to probe the information provided by the Garda Síochána as part of its oversight role in advance of that meeting. The Authority is anxious that any actions arising from its consideration of these matters will take cognisance of the full breadth of the issues involved, not least the potential cultural, ethical and behavioural issues in order to reassure the public.

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