



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting of Policing Strategy and Performance Committee

Date: 14 September 2017

Venue: 90 North King Street, Dublin 7

Attendance

Authority: Judith Gillespie (Chair), Maureen Lynott (by conference call), Noel Brett

Secretary: Louise Joyce

Executive: Margaret Tumelty, Úna Ní Éigeartaigh, Karen Shelley, Helen Hall, Catherine Pierse (private section only)

Garda Síochána: Deputy Commissioner John Twomey, Policing and Security
Assistant Commissioner Pat Leahy, Dublin Metropolitan Region
Assistant Commissioner John O’Driscoll, National Support Services
Assistant Commissioner Michael Finn, Roads Policing and Major Event/Emergency Management
Mr David Gilbride, Executive Director, Strategy and Transformation
Dr. Gurchand Singh, Head of the Garda Analyst Service
Superintendent John Keegan, Strategy and Change Management
Inspector Paul Franey, Strategic Planning
Sergeant Myles Byrne, Strategic Planning

Apologies: Vicky Conway

1. The following matters were considered and discussed as set out in the agenda:
 - 1.1. Policing Plan Workshop – outcomes of preparatory work
 - 1.2. Consideration of Policing Priorities consultation outcomes
 - 1.3. Preparation for Authority Meeting
 - 1.4. Policing Plan monthly performance evaluation
 - 1.5. Meeting with Garda Síochána Representatives – Confronting Crime

2. Actions and Matters of Note:

- 2.1. The Chair welcomed the recently appointed Garda Síochána Executive Director for Strategic Transformation to the meeting.
- 2.2. The Chair recognised the increasing demands on the time of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner following recent events. It was agreed that they need not attend all Committee meetings, provided that representatives attending are vested with the proper authority to speak to the matters relevant to the Committee.
- 2.3. The Chair noted that some aspects of the 2017 Policing Plan should be carried forward to the 2018 Policing Plan, with particular reference to any initiatives that are not expected to be completed in 2017, and advised Garda representatives of the same.
- 2.4. The Executive presented a summary of the submissions received following a public consultation on the 2018 Policing Priorities to the Committee for their consideration. It was agreed that the broad areas identified in the submissions had been included in the current draft of the 2018 Policing Priorities, and that no changes were required to the draft Priorities. The Committee directed that the Executive write to all parties who provided submissions to thank them for their contribution, and to demonstrate where their suggestions appear in the Priorities. Garda representatives were informed that arising from the consultation it was likely that no changes would be made to the current draft of the Priorities.
- 2.5. The Committee discussed the arrangements for the workshop on the 2018 Policing Plan Targets scheduled for Monday September 18th. Potential targets for a number of areas including organised crime, domestic violence and Brexit preparedness were explored in detail, both in private and with Garda representatives. A number of general points relating to targets were considered; in particular, the importance of choosing targets that incentivise positive behaviour was acknowledged, as was the importance of avoiding tension between targets. The Chair noted that data quality would underpin all aspects of the 2018 Policing Plan, and that clear targets for data governance were crucial.
- 2.6. In response to questions posed by the Committee, the Garda Síochána confirmed that the commitment made to increase personnel in the Roads Policing Bureau by 10% in 2017 would not consist of probationers, but of fully attested members. In addition, probationers are to be rotated through the Roads Policing Bureau for ten week periods. The Garda Síochána also committed to making a further 10% increase in Roads Policing personnel in 2018.
- 2.7. The Garda Síochána informed the Committee of a number of actions currently being undertaken by the Garda Síochána in the area of Brexit preparedness.
- 2.8. The Committee noted the importance of the inclusion of Domestic Violence as a standalone priority area in the 2018 Policing Plan, as it has been consistently identified as an area of concern for a number of stakeholders (JPCs and civil society groups), and for the general

public. Potential targets for the 2018 Policing Plan were discussed, with particular attention given to the potential implications of various targets. The importance of data quality in this area was emphasised, both from the point of view of the increasing recording and reporting to capture more complete data, and developing systems to allow for increased disaggregation of data. The Garda Síochána discussed the relationship between the recording and reporting of Domestic Violence incidents.

- 2.9. Members noted that the Organised Crime Framework did not appear in the 2018 Policing Plan and enquired as to the current status of the initiative. The Committee asked that consideration be given to including the Framework in the 2018 Policing Plan if it is not completed in 2017. Potential targets for this area were discussed. The GS informed the Committee that an IT solution had been found to address areas where reporting had previously been challenging and resource intensive.
- 2.10. The Committee indicated a number of broad areas of questioning to be explored at the public meeting on Confronting Crime scheduled to take place on September 28th. These included detections, crime prevention, sexual violence, assaults and the night-time economy, and victims and the Garda Síochána approach to the implementation of the Victims' Directive.
- 2.11. The current situation regarding detections made by the Garda Síochána was discussed in detail. The Garda Síochána reported that improvements had been made in some crime areas, particularly property crime, such that they expected that the reduction in detections could be halted by the end of 2017. The Committee welcomed this and questioned in detail the nature of, and reasons for, this improvement. Concerns were raised regarding a number of serious crime types where detections have not been improving, particularly rape and sexual violence. Members requested that the Garda Síochána confirm that this was not due to a reduction in the quality of detection data.
- 2.12. The Committee enquired about the progress made by the Garda Síochána in implementing the Victims' Directive. The Garda Síochána stated many of the requirements were introduced with the establishment of the Victims' Services Offices, but that legislation had not yet been finalised.
- 2.13. The Committee enquired about the current situation regarding the collection of a booster sample of young people's views through the Public Attitudes Survey. Potential targets in this area were also discussed.
- 2.14. Garda representatives discussed work currently being done to map regions based on census data to support the development of a Community Policing plan for each area in order to bring consistency to the Garda Síochána approach to Community Policing.