

The Role of the 3 Agencies

These three agencies provide a range of functions which, together, aim to provide a better policing service for the people of Ireland.

However, as set out in this leaflet, each agency has a different remit in regard to achieving this overall objective.

What we have in common

All three bodies were set up under the Garda Síochána Act 2005, as amended, which sets out the legal basis for the establishment and functions of the bodies.

How we interact.

While each body has a different function, there is some inter-connection between them.

For instance:

- While GSOC has responsibility for dealing with complaints, the Policing Authority has a role to keep itself informed generally about complaints and about the application of the Garda Síochána Discipline Regulations; and
- The Policing Authority does not have an inspection role but may ask the Inspectorate to carry out an inspection or inquiry on any matter. The Authority also has a role in monitoring and assessing the implementation by the Garda Síochána of recommendations in reports of the Garda Inspectorate.

Dealing with Complaints

The Garda Ombudsman (GSOC) deals with complaints about Garda conduct.

Complaints can be made using the online complaint form on www.gardaombudsman.ie

You can also request a paper form by calling 1890 600 800.

Disclaimer

This leaflet is for information only. It is intended to describe the organisations in general terms and therefore does not attempt to cover everything or purport to be a legal interpretation of statutory provisions. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, but responsibility or liability howsoever arising cannot be accepted.

Contact Details

Further details of the work of these agencies can be found on their websites. Details of websites and other contact details are as follows:

Garda Inspectorate

87 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
D02 K230

Phone: +353 (1) 408 6500

Email: info@gsinsp.ie

Website: www.gsinsp.ie

Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC)

150 Upper Abbey Street
Dublin 1
D01 FT73.

LoCall: 1890 600 800

Phone: +353 (1) 871 67 27

Email: complaints@gsoc.ie for complaints or

info@gsoc.ie for other matters

Website: www.gardaombudsman.ie

Policing Authority

4th Floor
90 King Street North
Dublin 7
D07 N7CV

Phone: +353 1 858 9090

Email: info@policingauthority.ie

Website: www.policingauthority.ie



**Working together towards
better policing for Ireland.**



Who are we?

The Garda Síochána Inspectorate is an independent agency established in 2006. Our objective is to ensure that the resources available to the Garda Síochána are used to achieve the highest levels of effectiveness and efficiency in its operation and administration as measured against the best standards of comparable police services.

What do we do?

The Inspectorate does its work by carrying out inspections or enquiries on particular aspects of the operation and administration of the Garda Síochána. This can be done as a result of:

- A request by the Minister for Justice and Equality;
- A request by the Policing Authority; and
- On the Inspectorate's own initiative.

A report is prepared on the findings of the investigations or enquiries, which, together with recommendations for necessary action, are submitted to the Minister, who must by law, lay all reports before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

The Inspectorate's other main function is to provide advice to the Minister and the Authority with regard to best policing practice.

The Inspectorate has produced eleven reports since its establishment in 2006 on various aspects of policing in Ireland. The most recent published report; *Changing Policing in Ireland (2015)* is a comprehensive operational and administrative review of the structure, organisation, staffing and deployment in the Garda Síochána.

Further details of the Inspectorate's current work and copies of the published Inspectorate reports can be found on the website www.gsinsp.ie



Who are we?

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) is an independent agency set up in 2007. Our job is to deal with matters involving possible misconduct by members of the Garda Síochána, in an efficient, effective and fair manner. The main ways that this may arise are as a result of a complaint from a member of the public, the referral of an incident from the Garda Síochána, or because it for some other reason appears to be in the public interest that a matter be investigated.

What do we do?

The main function of GSOC is to deal with complaints made by members of the public concerning the conduct of members of the Garda Síochána. There are several different ways these may be dealt with, depending on the nature of the complaint received:

- Allegations of criminal offences by Gardaí are investigated by GSOC investigators.
- Allegations of breaches of discipline can be handled:
 - By informal resolution by a GSOC officer;
 - By disciplinary investigation by a Garda superintendent, under the Garda Síochána Discipline Regulations 2007; and
 - By non-criminal investigation by a GSOC investigator.

Responsibilities unrelated to complaints are to:

- Investigate matters in relation to the conduct of Gardaí, when it is in the public interest, even if a complaint has not been received;
- Examine any practice, policy or procedure of the Garda Síochána, with a view to preventing or reducing complaints;
- Conduct independent investigations, following referral by the Garda Síochána, in circumstances where it appears that the conduct of a Garda may have resulted in the death of or serious harm to, a person.



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Who are we?

The Policing Authority is an independent agency which was set up with effect from 1 January 2016. Our job is to oversee the performance of the Garda Síochána in relation to policing services in Ireland, to promote public awareness of policing matters and to promote and support the continuous improvement of policing to make sure that our policing services are fit to meet the challenges of a modern Ireland.

What do we do?

The Authority has a range of functions. Some of these were previously carried out by Government or the Minister for Justice and Equality and will be taken over by the Authority in 2016.

These include:

- Overseeing how the Garda Síochána performs its policing functions and ensuring that they use their resources in a way that achieves the highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness;
- Putting a Code of Ethics in place to set standards of conduct and practice for members of the Garda Síochána;
- Approving the Garda Síochána Strategy Statements and Policing Plans and setting priorities and levels of performance;
- Making nominations for appointment by the Government to the posts of Garda Commissioner and Deputy Garda Commissioner, following a selection processes undertaken by the Public Appointments Service;
- Appointing persons to the ranks of Garda Superintendent, Chief Superintendent and Assistant Commissioner;
- Removing persons from ranks at and above Superintendent as provided for by law; and
- Reviewing arrangements for the recruitment, training and development of Garda members and civilian staff.

At least four times a year, the Authority will hold meetings in public with the Garda Commissioner in relation to these functions.