



## AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA POLICING AUTHORITY

### **Meeting of the Policing Authority**

The Policing Authority held its monthly meeting yesterday (14<sup>th</sup> March 2016), which included a meeting with senior members of the Garda Síochána. The Authority received a briefing on operational policing and discussed preparations for the Garda Síochána Strategy Statement for 2016-18 which is due to be approved by the Authority by end June 2016.

Subsequent to each meeting of the Authority the agenda for the meeting and minutes of the previous meeting will be published on the Authority's website. Click [here](#) to see the documents published today.

The Authority's first public meeting with the Garda Commissioner will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2016. The previous intention to hold this meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March was changed to facilitate an unexpected scheduling difficulty for Garda Commissioner Noirín O'Sullivan who is absent from the State on official business. Further details regarding the April public meeting, including arrangements for attendance of members of the public, will be available on the Authority's website in the coming weeks.

End

15/03/2016

#### **Note for Editors:**

The Policing Authority has been established as an independent body to oversee the performance of the Garda Síochána in relation to policing services in Ireland. In doing so, it will promote public trust and confidence in policing and help shape policing services to meet the challenges of a modern Ireland. The Authority was established by the enactment of the Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 on 18 December 2015. It was then formally established on 1 January 2016.

The Chairperson and members of the Authority were selected for appointment following selection processes run by the Public Appointments Service. Authority members are appointed for a term of 3 or 4 years, but may be reappointed for a further term subject to a maximum of 8 years. Members of the Oireachtas or Local Authorities, serving members of the Garda Síochána, GSOC or the Garda Inspectorate are not eligible to be members of the Authority. The Authority will be supported by a team of core staff headed up by Ms. Helen Hall, who has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer.

#### **Functions of the Authority**

The main function of the Authority will be to oversee the performance by the Garda Síochána of its functions relating to policing services. The Policing Authority is established as a statutorily independent body and it is independent in the performance of its functions under the legislation. The Authority's functions include:

- keeping under review the adequacy in the Garda Síochána of:
- the corporate governance arrangements and structures;
- the arrangements for the recruitment, training and development of the members and members of the civilian staff;
- the mechanisms in place for the measurement of performance and accountability of members and civilian staff; and
- the arrangements for managing and deploying the available resources.
- regular meetings with the Garda Commissioner, at least 4 of which will be held in public each year and broadcast;
- nominating persons for appointment by the Government to the posts of Garda Commissioner and Deputy Garda Commissioner, and recommending their removal in certain circumstances,;
- appointing persons to the ranks of Superintendent, Chief Superintendent and Assistant Commissioner (and removing them for reasons related to policing services);
- determining (with the approval of the Minister) Garda priorities in relation to policing services;
- approving (with the consent of the Minister) the 3 year Garda strategy statement;
- approving (with the consent of the Minister) the annual policing plan;
- establishing a Garda code of ethics;
- promoting and supporting the continuous improvement of policing in the State;
- accounting, as appropriate, to the Public Accounts Committee and to other Oireachtas Committees;
- monitoring, assessing and reporting to the Minister on the measures taken by the Garda Síochána in relation to recommendations made in a report of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate;
- requesting the Garda Síochána Inspectorate and/or the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission to initiate an inspection or inquiry or to examine Garda practices or procedures; and
- exercising the current functions of the Minister in relation to Joint Policing Committees.

### **Members**

Information on all the Policing Authority members is available on our website at [www.policingauthority.ie](http://www.policingauthority.ie).

### **Meetings in 2016**

A schedule of meetings for 2016 is also available on the website.