



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA POLICING AUTHORITY

Policing Authority appoints an Assistant Commissioner in the Garda Síochána for the first time.

In one of the most significant reforms in policing, the Policing Authority at its meeting yesterday (23 March 2017) appointed an Assistant Commissioner of the Garda Síochána for the first time.

Following the commencement of the Authority's functions under section 13 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, the Authority, on 25th January 2017, invited applications for a selection competition for appointment to the rank of Assistant Commissioner. The competition concluded on 21 March and the Authority is today pleased to announce the appointment of Detective Chief Superintendent Michael O'Sullivan to the rank of Assistant Commissioner.

Speaking about the appointment, Authority Chairperson Josephine Feehily said

"Assistant Commissioner O'Sullivan's appointment marks a historic moment in the evolution of policing in Ireland. It is the first time that a senior ranking Garda has been appointed by an independent body comprised of civilians. The cultural significance of de-politicising senior Garda appointments and the organisational impact of candidates having to send a promotion application to the Authority rather than the Garda Commissioner or Garda HQ should not be underestimated. The Authority took its responsibilities in this regard very seriously and put in place a rigorous three stage process, and is very pleased to have been able to carry out its responsibilities speedily. We have already made arrangements for the next selection completion, for appointment as Chief Superintendent, which was announced on 9th March.

On behalf of the Authority, I have congratulated Assistant Commissioner O'Sullivan and wish him every success in his future career."

The appointment is made following a selection competition which involved a three staged process, conducted in accordance with the statutory framework and the Authority's Statement of Practice.

24 March 2017

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Biography of Assistant Commissioner Michael O’Sullivan

Assistant Commissioner Michael O’Sullivan has 36 years policing experience in a range of operational roles here in Ireland, and abroad with the European Union, the United Nations and the Council of Europe. More recently as Detective Chief Superintendent in charge of Security and Intelligence Section he has responsibility for state security and all policies and counter-measures to afford protection or security within the state to persons, institutions, installations and any other persons and places at risk. He is the Head of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau for Ireland and Head of EUROPOL National Unit (European Police Intelligence Agency) in Ireland. He represents the Garda Síochána at a number of international working groups on security and intelligence matters. He also has responsibility for the Garda liaison officer network and the state’s witness security programme. Assistant Commissioner O’Sullivan holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Executive Leadership from UCD/Harvard USA and a BA (Hons) in Police Management. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and of the EUROPOL Management Board in The Hague.

Policing Authority Selection Process

The Authority’s functions under section 13 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 relating to appointments to the ranks of Assistant Commissioner, Chief Superintendent and Superintendent were commenced with effect from 1 January 2017. The Assistant Commissioner competition was announced on the Policing Authority website on 25th January 2017. Officers with at least two years at the rank of Inspector were eligible to apply.

A total of 31 applications were received with a breakdown by rank, gender and organisation as follows:

Applications for Assistant Commissioner in the Garda Síochána Competition 2017			
Rank	Chief Super	Other	Total
	19	12	31
Gender	Male	Female	
	27	4	31
Organisation	Garda Síochána	PSNI	
	31	0	31

The selection process was conducted by a Selection Board appointed by the Authority, which included an external Chair. Applications were shortlisted and preliminary interviews took place between the 6th and 10th March. Final competitive interviews were held on 21st March. When the selection process concluded, the Authority established a Panel of five candidates, for appointment in the order of merit determined by the Selection Board, if and when positions in the Assistant Commissioner rank fall to be filled. Chief Superintendent Michael O’Sullivan was ranked first in order of merit on this Panel of candidates.

Future competitions

A selection competition to appoint a person(s) to the rank of Chief Superintendent in the Garda Síochána commenced on 9th March. A further competition for the rank of Superintendent will be held in the coming months.