



## AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA POLICING AUTHORITY

### **Policing Authority appoints an Assistant Commissioner in the Garda Síochána.**

The Policing Authority is pleased to announce that it has appointed Chief Superintendent Pat Leahy to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of the Garda Síochána. This is the second senior appointment that the Authority has made since the commencement of its statutory appointment functions on 1 January 2017.

Speaking about the appointment, Authority Chairperson Josephine Feehily said

*“Giving effect to the policy and legislative changes regarding senior appointments is one of the most important reform initiatives given to the Authority. It sends strong external and internal confidence building messages. On behalf of the Authority, I have congratulated Assistant Commissioner Leahy and wish him every success in his future career.”*

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

21 April 2017

**ENDS**

### **Notes for Editors**

#### **Biography of Assistant Commissioner Pat Leahy**

Assistant Commissioner Pat Leahy is a native of Cobh in County Cork and having joined An Garda Síochána in 1982 he has 35 years of policing experience both in Ireland and abroad.

While Pat has spent brief periods policing in Clare, Wexford and Mayo, most of his policing experience has been in Dublin’s North and South inner city where he served as a Garda, Sergeant, Inspector and Chief Superintendent. Throughout his career to date, Pat has also been in charge of the national ‘Operations Support Unit’ and the ‘Professional Standards Unit’.

He has significant international experience having served in an operational role with the United Nations in Namibia, Cambodia, Bosnia and the Middle East, and having completed policing assessments on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs (Irish Aid Programme) in Uganda and Malawi.

Pat has a degree in Public Management (Administration of Justice stream), an International Executive MBA from UCD Smurfit, an Executive Diploma in Police Leadership and is currently in the final stages of a PhD in business administration (Policing) at Dublin City University (DCU). Pat has also studied 'Executive Leadership', 'Negotiation', and 'Strategy and Innovation' at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T) respectively.

### **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 25 January 2017. Officers with at least two years at the rank of Inspector were eligible to apply.

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 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March. Final competitive interviews were held on 21 March. When the selection process concluded, the Authority established a Panel of candidates, which is used 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.

### **Future competitions**

A selection competition to appoint a person(s) to the rank of Chief Superintendent in the Garda Síochána is currently underway. A further competition for the rank of Superintendent will be held in the coming months.