



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA  
POLICING AUTHORITY

## Minutes of Meeting of the Policing Authority

**Date:** 27 March 2017

**Venue:** 90 North King Street

### Policing Authority Meeting

#### Attendance

<b>Authority:</b>	Josephine Feehily (Chairperson), Noel Brett, Vicky Conway, Valerie Judge, Moling Ryan
<b>By Conference Call:</b>	Bob Collins, Pat Costello, Maureen Lynott
<b>Secretary:</b>	Aileen Healy
<b>Executive:</b>	Helen Hall (Chief Executive), Catherine Pierse, Margaret Tumelty
<b>Apologies:</b>	Judith Gillespie

#### 1. Chairpersons opening remarks

The agenda was agreed and there were no disclosures of interest in relation to any of the items for discussion.

The Chair updated the Members on developments in relation to the issues surrounding Mandatory Alcohol test (MAT) and Fixed Charge Notices (FCN) since the Authority's last meeting on 23 March. There was a broad ranging discussion, including on the timelines from the Authority's point of view.

The Chairperson advised that she had been asked by the Chair of the Garda Síochána Audit Committee to bring to the Authority's attention that the Audit Committee and, to his knowledge the Internal Audit Section, had no information about the MAT or FCN issues and that the MAT "Audit" was not an internal audit as commonly understood.

#### 2. Request from the Garda Commissioner dated 24 March 2017

The Authority considered correspondence from the Garda Commissioner dated Friday, 24 March in which the Commissioner requested that the Authority refer a number of matters in relation to the MAT and FCN issues to the Garda Inspectorate (GI). There was agreement that the information currently available to the Authority was not sufficient to enable an informed decision regarding the Commissioner's request and that it was premature to decide whether there is value in asking the GI to conduct an examination or what type of examination might be required.

It was decided that the Chief Executive is to formally request the Garda Síochána (GS) to provide specific further information by the 31st March on a range of matters to facilitate further consideration by the Authority, to include a copy of all existing reports, audits or examinations on both matters. In addition, details of the examination proposed to be undertaken by an Assistant Commissioner and internal audit and timelines for their completion are to be requested.

It was agreed that it was imperative to confirm that the systems in place now are working properly, and are adequate to prevent a recurrence of the issues. The Authority decided to engage expertise to assist it in conducting a quality assurance review on the remedial actions taken by the GS in response to these issues.

The ongoing developing nature of events was noted and it was expected that further events, including the Commissioner’s press conference later in the afternoon, could further inform the situation. The need to ensure that any actions arising from the Authority’s consideration of these matters will take cognisance of the full breadth of the issues involved and of the potential cultural, ethical and behavioural issues was emphasised. It was agreed that the Chairperson and CEO would monitor the situation closely and respond as considered necessary.

The option of an early meeting with the Commissioner in public was discussed, however it was considered that this would not be productive in the absence of the detailed information. It was also noted that the relevant Oireachtas Committee was likely to arrange an early hearing. Noting that the next meeting of the Authority on 27<sup>th</sup> April in public will focus on the theme of Roads Policing, it was agreed that the Authority will continue to probe all available information with a view to a detailed examination on that day. There was however, considerable disquiet that the Commissioner had indicated that she would not be available for the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April. In the context of the damage to public confidence, the Chief Executive was directed to communicate to the Commissioner its strong view that this was not appropriate and to request that she reconsider her availability for that meeting.

No.	Action point	By Date	By Whom
A_019_01	The Executive to request the GS to provide further information by the 31st March on a range of matters relating to MAT and FCN issues, including include a copy of all existing reports, audits or examinations on both matters.	Immediate	Chief Executive
A_019_02	Details of the examination proposed to be undertaken in the GS by an Assistant Commissioner and internal audit and timelines for their completion to be requested.	Immediate	Chief Executive
A_019_03	The Chief Executive to proceed to engage expertise to assist it in conducting a quality assurance review on the remedial actions taken by the GS in 2016 in response to the MAT and FCN issues.	Immediate	Chief Executive
A_019_04	The Chief Executive to communicate the strong views of the Authority to the Commissioner regarding her proposed non-attendance at the meeting on 27 April.	Immediate	Chief Executive

### 3. Other Business

It was agreed that the Executive would carry out some scenario planning to endeavour to be in a position to provide an agile response in the coming months.