



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Policing Authority public consultation event: Draft Code of Ethics and Policing Priorities

Today, the Policing Authority held a consultation event on two important pieces of its work which have reform significance:

- Establishing a draft Code of Ethics for the Garda Síochána; and
- Determining the 2017 Policing priorities for the Garda Síochána.

Over 90 people participated in the event including members of the public, Joint Policing Committee representatives, civil society groups, state agencies, representative associations and Garda members including Garda management. This resulted in lively and robust discussions in both sessions and the feedback provided will be very beneficial to the Authority in completing these critical projects.

In addition to today's consultation event the Authority hopes to receive written submissions from interested parties on the draft Code of Ethics. Responses to this consultation should be received no later than close of business on **Friday 23 September 2016**. Full details on how to do this are available on the Authority's website.

Speaking after today's event Policing Authority Chairperson, Josephine Feehily said

"The establishment of a Code of Ethics for the Garda Síochána by the end of this year is a specific task given to the Authority by the Oireachtas. Today's event has provided rich feedback to the Authority as it finalises the Code. It has presented a number of challenges and dilemmas for the Authority to consider as we develop the final text.

We are extremely grateful to those members of the public, civil society groups, Garda Síochána and state bodies who gave us their time and ideas today.

This year marks a significant milestone in the reform in the justice sector Garda Síochána as it is first time that the priorities for policing in Ireland will be determined by a group of civilians. The stakeholder input today will be hugely helpful to us in validating our work which will be developed further with Garda colleagues before submission to the Tánaiste.

The accelerated recruitment programme for the Gardaí launched today is most welcome. In accordance with Government policy, over the next 5 years, there will be up to 30% new Garda members, reserves and staff in the service. This level of turnover presents an invaluable opportunity to influence culture in the Garda Síochána and the Code of Ethics established by the Authority will play a significant part in this. "



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End

08 September 2016

Note to editors:

Since its establishment on 1 January 2016, the Policing Authority has been focusing, as a matter of priority, on its functions which have statutory deadlines and reform significance. Two of those functions are to establish a Code of Ethics for the Garda Síochána by 31 December 2016 and to determine Policing Priorities for 2017 for approval by the Minister for Justice and Equality.

Draft Garda Code of Ethics

The Policing Authority is required under section 17 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 to establish a Code of Ethics that includes standards of conduct and practice for Garda members and provisions to encourage and facilitate the reporting of wrongdoing in the Garda Síochána. The Authority invited initial views on the Code of Ethics in April of this year. The Authority considered all submissions received as well as conducting further research to develop a draft Code of Ethics for the Garda Síochána, which was published on the Authority website on Monday 8 August 2016 for further public consultation.

After this the Authority will give due consideration to all submissions received and work on finalising the Code of Ethics before the deadline of 31 December 2016.

Policing Priorities

The Authority is required by section 20 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 to determine priorities and targets for policing service (policing priorities). These policing priorities will form the basis of the Garda Commissioner's development of the 2017 Annual Policing Plan which needs to be submitted to the Authority for its approval by 31 October 2016. In this regard the Authority is working to determine Policing Priorities in respect of 2017 for approval by the Minister.

In developing the Policing Priorities the Authority has had regard to the Programme for Government, the Garda public attitudes survey, discussions in committee with the Garda Síochána, concerns expressed by members of the public and civil society and in the media, priorities for previous and comparator Policing Plans. The Authority will consider feedback from today's event into the determination of the Policing Priorities for 2017.