



Press Release

The Garda Inspectorate commences a new inspection of custody in Garda stations

The Garda Inspectorate has commenced an inspection of the treatment of persons in the custody of the Garda Síochána.

The inspection will examine all aspects of custody with a particular focus on how the rights of persons in custody are protected, the dignity and respect shown to those persons and the suitability and condition of facilities. It will also examine the use of Garda powers in custody, the roles and responsibilities of gardaí involved in the management and delivery of custody services and the training provided to them.

Commenting on the inspection, Chief Inspector Mark Toland said, “**this independent review will examine the standard of treatment, safety and wellbeing provided to persons in the custody of the Garda Síochána. It will adopt a rights based approach, with particular consideration given to the arrangements for children and adults who are vulnerable**”.

Deputy Chief Inspector Pauline Shields will lead the inspection and the terms of reference are available on the Inspectorate’s website.

[Terms of Reference Treatment of Persons in Custody](#)

Ends

28 August 2019

Notes for Editors

The Garda Inspectorate is an independent body established under the Garda Síochána Act 2005. The Act provides that the objective of the Inspectorate is: "To ensure the resources available to the Garda Síochána are used to achieve and maintain the highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness in its operation and administration, as measured by reference to the best standards of comparable police services".

All inspections are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Act, which also provides that the Inspectorate may carry out inspections or inquiries in relation to any particular aspects of the operation and administration of the Garda Síochána in the following circumstances:

- 1) if the Inspectorate considers it appropriate to do so;
- 2) at the request of the Policing Authority in respect of a matter relating to policing services; or
- 3) if requested by the Minister for Justice and Equality.

Inspectorate Work Plan

The Inspectorate consulted with a number of key stakeholders including the Garda Síochána, the Policing Authority, and the Department of Justice and Equality before finalising its Work Plan for 2019-2021. The Work Plan outlines seven distinct areas of the operation and administration of the Garda Síochána which are being prioritised for examination taking into account the level of risk to human rights, public safety, public confidence, reputation and financial management.

- 1) Public order practices in the Garda Síochána;
- 2) Countering the risk of corruption within the Garda Síochána;
- 3) Custody arrangements in the Garda Síochána;
- 4) The Garda Síochána response to the policing of Ireland's borders;
- 5) The Garda Síochána response to reports of domestic abuse;
- 6) The administration and execution of arrest warrants by the Garda Síochána;
- 7) The management of bail cases by the Garda Síochána.

[GSI Work Plan 2019-2021](#)

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