



## **Garda Síochána Inspectorate comments on the High-Level Implementation Plan relating to the Future of Policing in Ireland report.**

**Tuesday 18 December 2018**

The Garda Inspectorate notes the publication today of the High-Level Implementation Plan relating to the Report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland and the decision to implement the recommendation of the Commission to merge the Inspectorate with the Policing Authority and create a new oversight body with a broad range of functions. These include carrying out inspections, and monitoring and assessing the implementation of recommendations arising from inspections.

Independent inspection is an essential component of police oversight, both in terms of assessing police efficiency and effectiveness as well as contributing to public trust and confidence in policing. However, it will be important that the new body has the power to carry out unannounced inspection visits, as previously requested by the Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate looks forward to contributing to the implementation process and the design of the new organisation's mandate in consultation with the Department of Justice and Equality and the Implementation Group on Policing Reform. Pending enactment of legislation, there will be a transition period during which inspections will continue, building on the close working relationship that has already been established with the Policing Authority and Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission.

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### **Notes for editors**

The Garda Síochána Inspectorate is an independent statutory body established under Part 5 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, which commenced its work on 26 July 2006. Its objective is to ensure that the resources available to the Garda Síochána are used to maintain and achieve the highest levels of effectiveness and efficiency in its operation and administration as measured against best international practice. Under Section 115 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, the Inspectorate must be three members, including a

Chief Inspector, appointed by the Government. The current members of the Inspectorate are Mr Mark Toland, Ms Pauline Shields and Mr Hugh Hume.

Mr. Mark Toland was appointed Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate in November 2017 having previously served as a Deputy Chief Inspector from 2012 to 2016. His policing career was in the Metropolitan Police Service where he worked for 30 years prior to retiring in 2010 and he received the Queens Police Medal for distinguished service in the same year. Before returning to the Inspectorate, Mark served as a Commissioner on the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission from 2016 - 2017.

Ms. Pauline Shields was appointed as a Deputy Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate in October 2016. Pauline served for 30 years with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in a variety of different policing roles and retired at the rank of Chief Superintendent. For services to policing and the community in Northern Ireland Pauline was awarded an OBE in the 2014 New Year's honours list.

Mr. Hugh Hume was appointed as a Deputy Chief Inspector of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate in November 2017. Prior to his appointment in the Inspectorate, he served as a police officer in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) for almost 31 years and completed his service at the rank of Detective Chief Superintendent. Hugh was awarded the Queens Police Medal in 2016 for distinguished police service.

The Inspectorate has produced twelve reports since its establishment in 2006. Further details of the Inspectorate's work and copies of previous Inspectorate reports can be found on our website. [www.gsinsp.ie](http://www.gsinsp.ie).