



Garda Síochána Inspectorate

Press Release

The Garda Inspectorate commences an inspection of Counter Corruption Practices within the Garda Síochána

The Garda Inspectorate has commenced its first self-initiated inspection, examining counter corruption practices within the Garda Síochána. The inspection will focus on the effectiveness of the Garda Síochána at preventing, detecting and mitigating against internal corruption.

Specifically the terms of reference will assess the effectiveness of the Garda Síochána in relation to international standards and practices and the relevant factors affecting the following:-

- **Strategy and Governance;** in terms of the identification and management of risk, internal and external oversight, and the current anti-corruption architecture and strategy.
- **Building Organisational Resilience Against Corruption;** in terms of selection, vetting, leadership and supervision, physical and systems security and procurement.
- **Enhancing Professional Integrity;** in terms of ethics and integrity training, organisational registers and disclosures, substance testing, transparent and ethical decision making, professional standards, and maintaining professional boundaries.
- **Identifying and Investigating Corruption;** in terms of protected and confidential disclosures, intelligence, investigation, regulation and information sharing.
- **Reducing the Impact of Corruption;** in terms of demonstrating an effective response to reports of corruption and organisational learning.

For the purposes of this inspection, the Inspectorate will rely on the following commonly accepted definition of corruption used by a number of Government agencies, departments and commercial entities within Ireland: ***“Corruption is an abuse of a position of trust in order to gain an undue advantage”***.

Commenting on the importance of the inspection, Chief Inspector Mark Toland said: ***“While there is no doubt that the overwhelming majority of Garda members and staff are honest, professional and committed to the values outlined in the Garda Code of***

Ethics, the inspection will provide an independent forwarded looking report on the effectiveness of the Garda Síochána at preventing, detecting, and mitigating against internal corruption. This will complement the ongoing work of the Garda Commissioner in putting in place the processes to prevent and tackle corruption within the Garda Síochána".

The inspection is headed up by Deputy Chief Inspector Hugh Hume and is expected to be completed by the end of Q4 2019.

Ends

14 June 2019

Notes for Editors

Functions of the Garda Inspectorate

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;
- 3) if requested by the Minister for Justice and Equality.

Development of our 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.

Other work which will be completed as part of the work plan include:

- carrying out a review of the implementation of recommendations from previous Inspectorate reports
- developing a template for divisional level inspections.

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