



CIGIREACHT AN GHARDA SÍOCHÁNA  
GARDA SÍOCHÁNA INSPECTORATE

# Garda Síochána Inspectorate Work Plan 2019-2021

## **Functions of the Garda Inspectorate**

The Garda Inspectorate is an independent statutory 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 for examination, taking into account the level of risk to human rights, public safety, public confidence, reputation and financial management.

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; and
- developing a model for divisional level inspections.

## **Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty**

The Inspectorate is committed to its duties under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. The Act sets out a positive duty on public bodies to have, in the performance of their functions, regard to the need to eliminate discrimination; promote equality of opportunity; and protect the human rights of staff and the persons to whom services are provided.

In line with this commitment, the Inspectorate will assess the Garda Síochána’s performance in fulfilling its Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, when carrying out an inspection on any aspect of the operation or administration of the Garda Síochána.

Area for Inspection or Inquiry	Themes	Status
<b>Public order practices in the Garda Síochána</b>	The Inspection was a forward-looking examination of the effectiveness of public order policing by the Garda Síochána. Specific areas examined within the Inspection included : Leadership and the embedding of human rights and the Code of Ethics in all aspects of public order policing, Strategy, Governance and Accountability, Capacity and Capability, Operational Delivery and Post Incident Management.	Public order is completed and was published on 25 June 2019
<b>Countering the risk of corruption within the Garda Síochána</b>	This inspection will focus on the strategies, processes and procedures followed by the Garda Síochána to protect against internal corruption. The purpose of the inspection will be to establish how effective the Garda Síochána is at preventing, detecting, and mitigating against internal corruption.	Published 25 March 2021
<b>Custody arrangements in the Garda Síochána</b>	The inspection, in a human rights and equality context, will examine how police custody is managed, including the location, condition and use of Garda custody facilities; adherence to custody regulations and procedures; as well as the treatment of vulnerable persons in custody.	Commenced in Q3 2019
<b>Transnational Organised Crime; A Review of the Structures, Strategies and Processes in the Garda Síochána</b>	The primary aim of the inspection will be to establish how effective the Garda Síochána are at preventing transnational crime, as defined below, and disrupting and dismantling transnational organised crime groups. The inspection will examine how the Garda Síochána protect communities from the impacts of transnational crime and ensure that their rights are upheld. The inspection will also review the safeguards and oversight arrangements that are in place	Commenced in June 2021
<b>The Garda Síochána response to reports of domestic abuse</b>	The inspection will examine and investigate how the Garda Síochána manage and investigate the reporting of an incident of domestic abuse and the progress made in relation to Recommendation 6.18 of the Inspectorate's Crime Investigation Report 2014.	Due to commence in Q2 2021
<b>A review of the status and relevance of recommendations made in previous Inspectorate reports</b>	Work is ongoing with the Garda Síochána to identify the current status of recommendations from previous Inspectorate reports and to consider the relevance of those which have not yet been implemented. High-risk areas such as those identified in the Inspectorate's Crime Investigation report are a focus for this area of work.	Ongoing

<p><b>Potential future requests from the Minister for Justice and Equality or the Policing Authority</b></p>	<p>Under Section 117 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, the Inspectorate can be asked to carry out inspections or inquiries at the request of the Minister for Justice and Equality or the Policing Authority.</p>	<p>Awaiting requests</p>
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**Notes:** A common theme in all these inspections will be how effectively the Garda Síochána’s performance addresses its Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

The Chief Inspector may vary the Work Plan at any time as a result of changing circumstances, including requests made by the Minister for Justice Equality or the Policing Authority.