



CIGIREACHT AN GHARDA SÍOCHÁNA
GARDA SÍOCHÁNA INSPECTORATE

Terms of Reference

An inspection into the effectiveness and efficiency of the Garda Síochána's response to domestic abuse.

In furtherance of its statutory objective, as defined in Section 117(1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, as amended, the Garda Inspectorate considers it appropriate to carry out an inspection into the effectiveness and efficiency of the Garda Síochána's response to domestic abuse.

This inspection will examine the Garda Síochána's approach to tackling domestic abuse at both strategic and operational levels, with reference to the best standards of comparable police services. It will adopt a victim-centred focus and will engage directly with victims of domestic abuse and organisations that work with them, as well as with relevant garda personnel.

In particular, the inspection will examine how the Garda Síochána:

- Prevents domestic abuse from occurring;
- Protects victims of domestic abuse, including through the use of risk assessments and safety planning;
- Responds to and investigates reports of domestic abuse; and
- Works in partnership to prevent domestic abuse from occurring, protect victims and bring offenders to justice.

The inspection will also review the governance and accountability arrangements that are in place to ensure compliance with applicable policy and legislation and consider the extent to which relevant recommendations in previous Inspectorate reports have been implemented.

A report on the findings of this inspection will be prepared under Section 117(2) (b) and shall contain, if appropriate, recommendations for any action that the Inspectorate considers necessary.

For the purpose of this inspection, the Inspectorate will use the Garda Síochána's definition of domestic abuse which is:

“the physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse of one person against another who is a family member or is or has been an intimate partner, regardless of their gender or sexuality”.