



CIGIREACHT AN GHARDA SÍOCHÁNA
GARDA SÍOCHÁNA INSPECTORATE

Press Release

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

The Garda Síochána Inspectorate has commenced a self-initiated inspection into the effectiveness and efficiency of the Garda Síochána's response to domestic abuse.

The 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 relevant garda personnel.

Chief Inspector Mark Toland commented, *"This inspection will consider how the Garda Síochána prevents domestic abuse from occurring, protects victims, and responds to and investigates domestic abuse incidents. It will also review how the Garda Síochána works in partnership with others to do so."*

The full terms of reference that will guide the work of the inspection can be found [here](#).

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. 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".

2. This inspection will be led by Deputy Chief Inspector Pauline Shields.

3. 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.

Any queries can be addressed to Mr Joe Mortell (joe.mortell@gsinsp.ie)