



CIGIREACHT AN GHARDA SÍOCHÁNA  
GARDA SÍOCHÁNA INSPECTORATE

Report of the Garda  
Síochána Inspectorate

# Public Order Policing

A Review of Practices in the Garda Síochána

## Progress on Implementation of Recommendations

A Review of the Implementation Status of RECOMMENDATIONS  
from the FOURTEENTH Report of the GARDA SÍOCHÁNA  
Inspectorate on PUBLIC ORDER POLICING - A REVIEW OF PRACTICES  
IN THE GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

Review of report MAY 2023

**April 2019**

*Implementation Update of the Recommendations Contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Garda Síochána Inspectorate  
Public Order Policing – A review of practices in the Garda Síochána (2019)*

Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Accepted (A); Accepted with Modification (AM); Rejected (R).	Inspectorate Assessment of the Progress of the Recommendation
1	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána develop a wider strategic assessment of threat and risk which should be formalised in a Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment document	A	The recommendation is implemented.
2	<p>The Inspectorate recommends that the Assistant Commissioner Roads Policing and Major Event Management should have lead responsibility for public order governance, policy and compliance and chair the National Public Order Steering Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Group should meet regularly to commission and review the Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment, and to oversee all aspects of public order policy, practice, training and standards, including human rights and the Garda Síochána Code of Ethics. It should also produce an implementation plan for all recommendations relating to public order policing and garda use of force.</li> <li>• The Group should have broader membership including senior representation from the training, public procurement and human rights departments and from the Garda Síochána Analysis Service and staff associations.</li> </ul>	A	The recommendation is implemented.

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<b>3</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána Public Order Incident Command Model must be activated whenever specialist resources or tactics are being considered.	A	Not implemented -action ongoing.
<b>4A</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the remit of the Garda Síochána Public Order Steering Group be expanded to include the internal monitoring of use of force. In addition to use of force reports the group should consider wider information including Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission findings, civil claims and injury on duty reports. The Garda Síochána should publish use of force data on its external website as well as all procedures and guidelines relating to public order and use of force, with only operationally sensitive material being excluded.	A	The recommendation is implemented.
<b>4B</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the external oversight of garda use of force trends should be incorporated into the performance monitoring activities of the Policing Authority and any subsequent oversight body.	A	The recommendation is implemented.
<b>5</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána use the evidence base of a current Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment to determine its public order operating model, capacity, capability and contingency.	A	The recommendation is implemented.
<b>6</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána develop a standardised, transparent selection process for the National Public Order Unit. This process should be overseen by the Human Resource and People	AM	The recommendation is implemented.

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	Development Department to ensure consistency, fairness and equality of opportunity. Selection should be contingent on the member having up-to-date refresher training in use of force and having signed the Code of Ethics. Unsuccessful candidates should receive appropriate feedback.		
<b>7</b>	The Inspectorate recommends the adoption of a specific strategy to develop greater female representation in public order policing.	A	The recommendation is implemented.
<b>8</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the National Public Order Steering Group should determine the number and distribution of Garda Síochána public order strategic/operational commanders on the basis of the Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment. The need to enhance the diversity of public order policing through more visible female role models should also be a strategic objective of the group.	A	Not implemented -action ongoing
<b>9</b>	The Inspectorate recommends a mandatory recertification process for all public order commanders that ensures that they maintain operational competence, professional knowledge and a current understanding of relevant human rights issues.	A	Not implemented -action ongoing
<b>10</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that staff in the new regional control rooms and the DMR Command and Control Centre have the capacity and capability to manage all spontaneous incidents, such as critical firearms and public order incidents.	A	Not implemented -action ongoing

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<b>11</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the Department of Justice and Equality planned legislation for the recording of images in public, fully supports the use of photographic and video equipment by the Garda Síochána at public events for evidence-gathering purpose.	A	The recommendation is implemented.
<b>12</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that event planners and public order commanders have ready access to human rights advice.	A	The recommendation is implemented.
<b>13</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that as part of the planning process the Garda Síochána adopt a more structured approach to engagement, including the use of community impact assessments and crisis negotiators	A	Not implemented -action ongoing
<b>14</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that all planned deployment of the National Public Order Unit have the prior approval of the assistant commissioner with lead responsibility for public order policing. However, planning and operational delivery should remain the responsibility of local commanders. For spontaneous public order incidents the Garda Síochána should develop an effective authorisation process for deploying National Public Order Units.	A	Not implemented -action ongoing
<b>15</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána embed the Garda Decision-Making Model into operational practice though the provision of scenario based exercises in all use of force and public order training.	A	The recommendation is implemented.

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<b>16</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána adopt a wider definition of ‘critical incident’ that recognises the risk to confidence in policing and take steps to ensure that this wider definition is embedded in operational practice.	A	Not implemented -action ongoing.
<b>17</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána formalise its debriefing process by involving external stakeholders including organisers, protesters and wider representation from internal organisational units. Lessons learned should be reviewed by the Public Order Steering Group and should influence subsequent selection, training and development of tactics and strategy.	A	Not implemented -action ongoing.
<b>18</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána formalise the process for establishing the criminal justice and intelligence aspects of the planning and policing of events.	A	Not implemented -action ongoing
<b>19</b>	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána enhance welfare arrangements by considering the Employee Assistance Services as part of public order event planning and debriefing; promoting the availability of Employee Assistance Services on all command and operational public order courses; and reviewing the current welfare support provided to members at superintendent rank and above.	A	Not implemented -action ongoing