



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting of the Policing Authority

Date: 8 December 2023

Venue: By Video Conference

Attendance

Authority: Bob Collins (Chairperson), Elaine Byrne, Deborah Donnelly, Paul Mageean, Donal de Buitléir, Anthony Harbinson, Jane Mulcahy, Valerie Judge.

Secretary: Aoife Clabby

Staff of the Authority: Helen Hall (Chief Executive), Margaret Tumelty, Karen Shelly

Apologies Moling Ryan

1. Meeting of Members in Private

The Authority did not exercise its option to have a meeting in private.

2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks.

The Chairperson congratulated Chair designate, Elaine Byrne on her appointment by government and congratulated Members of the Authority whose terms of office had been extended to 31 December 2024, or until the establishment of the Policing and Community Safety Authority, whichever is sooner.

The meeting agenda was approved as drafted. No conflicts of interest were declared by the Members in relation to any of the items for consideration.

3. Approach to Ministerial Request-Public Order Policing

The Chairperson and Chief Executive outlined a number of developments that had occurred since the meeting with the Commissioner on 28 November. The Chairperson advised that he had received a letter from the Minister for Justice requesting the assistance of the Authority and advice as to what else might enhance policing performance and support the Gardaí in the exercise of their lawful powers in situations as arose on 23 November, in the context of the changed environment post-Covid along with the growth of social media. Members also noted that the request was being made in the context of the Authority's longstanding commitment to oversight of public order and its ongoing engagement with the Commissioner in relation to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Garda Inspectorate report on Public Order, commissioned by the Authority and published in 2020.

Having regard to the specifics of the Ministerial request, Members gave detailed consideration to the manner in which it might be approached, including in relation to a proposed number of activities, engagements and phases. Members also considered the potential scope of the review, the context within which it would be taking place. Members agreed that the events of 23 November were an important, inescapable contextual factor. Members discussed the potential timeframes for provision of a response to the Minister and reflected on the importance of providing a considered yet timely response.

Following detailed and lengthy discussion, it was agreed that a draft letter of response to the Minister, together with a document setting out the Authority’s initial observations and proposed approach would be tabled for the Authority’s consideration at its meeting on 19 December.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
A_131_01	Provide a draft letter of response to the Minister for Justice and supporting document(s) as relevant for Authority consideration at its meeting on 19 December.	ASAP	Chief Executive

4. Other Business

In recognition of the decision to livestream engagement with the Commissioner on the public order agenda item on 19 December in addition to the number of agenda items for the Authority’s consideration, it was agreed that some time would be availed of on 18 December to progress a number of the agenda items.