



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA  
POLICING AUTHORITY

## Minutes of Meeting of the Policing Authority

**Date:** 29/30 September 2020

**Venue:** By Video Conference

### Part A – Authority Meeting

#### Attendance

**Authority:** Bob Collins (Chairperson), Vicky Conway, Pat Costello, Deborah Donnelly, Judith Gillespie, Valerie Judge, Paul Mageean, Moling Ryan.

**Secretary:** Aoife Clabby

**Staff of the Authority:** Helen Hall (Chief Executive), Margaret Tumelty, Cormac Keating, Sharon O'Brien, David Pasley.

#### 1. Private Authority meeting

The Authority exercised the option to meet in private.

#### 2. Chairperson's Opening Remarks

The draft agenda was discussed and approved. No conflicts of interest were declared in relation to any of the matters for discussion. The Chairperson noted the range of correspondence received and highlighted a number of matters for Members' consideration and decision.

The Authority approved a request received from the Garda Síochána to report on matters in respect of risk on a quarterly basis.

Members noted that the Garda Síochána had provided an Annexe to its Annual Report 2019, addressing the implementation of the Policing Plan in detail. Arising from the late receipt of the document, it was noted that the Annexe would require review and the re-submission of observations to the Minister for Justice and Equality on the Garda Síochána Annual Report 2019, further to the statutory provisions.

The Chief Executive advised that a response to the Policing Authority's correspondence regarding the sanction conditions for a number of HEO positions for the Operating Model was still awaited.

Members discussed correspondence and associated documents received in relation to the Garda Síochána proposal to move the Public Attitudes Survey online. While supporting the important work of maintaining legitimate and robust monitoring of public attitudes, and noting the challenges presented to the survey methodology precipitated by the COVID-10 pandemic, a number of concerns were expressed with the proposal, as outlined. In particular, the challenge of achieving some degree of comparability between the existing survey and that proposed, and the absence of a clear rationale for the discontinuation of a number of questions was highlighted. In addition, Members expressed a desire to further understand any mitigations being deployed to take account of the changed methodology. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Chief Executive should engage further with the Garda Síochána in respect of the matters raised.

Members noted correspondence received, advising of the planned retirement of Deputy Commissioner John Twomey.

A_079_01	To revert to the Garda Síochána regarding the Public Attitudes Survey highlighting Authority observations and questions.	ASAP	Chief Executive
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### 3. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meetings on 27 July, 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were approved and cleared for publication.

The Chief Executive advised that work was ongoing to review the Log of Actions in respect of material requested from the Garda Síochána and consequently, only those actions relating to the Policing Authority were presented. The Authority approved a number of items for closure and noted that the full Log of Actions would be presented at the October Authority meeting.

### 4. Chief Executive’s Report

The Chief Executive’s report was taken as read and further updates were provided to Members on a number of matters in the context of the report, including:

- Progress on the procurement of a Human Rights Advisor to provide advice on the Article 2 element of the Homicide Review and the review of the human rights elements of the Code of Ethics.
- Receipt of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies: Annexe on Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Details of engagement with the authors of ‘*Principles for Accountable Policing*’ and proposals to provide further feedback to the authors before the end of the year.
- Engagement by the Chief Executive with the Scottish Policing Authority and the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Members noted the differing approaches to oversight of policing the COVID-19 pandemic in each jurisdiction.
- The apparent legislative impediment to the full operation of PEMS stores by Garda staff members. Members noted that further detail on this issue was awaited from the Commissioner.
- The Ministerial request, received in March 2018, under section 117(a)(2) of the Act, to monitor and oversee the measures taken by the Garda Síochána to implement the recommendations contained in the Garda Inspectorate report ‘*Responding to Child Sexual Abuse*’. Mindful of the elapse of time and the seriousness of the matters involved, the Authority agreed to inform the Minister that it was proceeding with work in this area.

Members noted items in the monthly correspondence report and approved proposals to refer specific items on an anonymised basis to the Commissioner.

Members considered a report of a meeting with representatives from the Garda Síochána Ethics and Culture Bureau. It was agreed that further information on plans to conduct a cultural audit, its envisaged scope and comparability with the audit conducted in 2018, would be sought from the Commissioner at the meeting in public.

A_079_02	Correspond with the Minister for Justice, advising that the Authority will proceed to work on oversight of the recommendations contained in 'Responding to Child Sexual Abuse'	ASAP	Chairperson
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## 5. Committee Updates

### 5.1. Garda Appointments Quality Assurance and Selection Governance Committee

The Committee had not met since the last Authority meeting.

### 5.2. Organisational Development Committee (ODC)

The Committee had not met since the last Authority meeting.

### 5.3. Policing Strategy and Performance Committee (PSP)

The Committee Chair updated Members in relation to the recent meeting of the Committee including in relation to:

- The late receipt of papers, coupled with the receipt of papers with insufficient information to facilitate their consideration by the Committee.
- The standard of reporting against the Policing Plan and challenges arising as to its meaningful consideration by Committee members.
- A proposed approach to Policing Priorities for 2021, scheduled for consideration by the Authority under item 9.
- The receipt of a progress update on the recommendations of the Homicide Investigation Review Team (HIRT). The Authority was advised that the information received did not provide sufficient qualitative assurance and that a further comprehensive update would be required from the Garda Síochána.
- The receipt of a verbal update on the examination of issues relating to the submission by the Garda Síochána of DNA samples to Forensic Science Ireland.

Members expressed their disappointment that Authority oversight of the homicide investigation review and the handling of DNA samples could not be concluded, as part of the engagement in public with the Commissioner. The Chairperson advised that a detailed report regarding the handling of DNA samples had been received on the evening prior to the meeting and would now be considered at the October and November meetings of the Authority. Members also noted the supplementary information received regarding the work of the Homicide Investigation Review Team, but agreed that more detail would be required before oversight on the matter could be satisfactorily concluded.

Arising from discussions in respect of the homicide investigation review, members briefly discussed resource requirements for the Garda Síochána analysis and information services. It was agreed that the Chairperson would consider with the Commissioner, before the end of the year, the latter's current view of the structural arrangements in respect of information management.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action point</b>	<b>By Date</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
<b>A_079_03</b>	Chairperson to consider with the Commissioner his current view of information management structures.	End of year	Chairperson

#### **5.4. Policing Reform Working Group**

The Group had not met since the last Authority meeting.

#### **6. Audit, Governance and Risk**

Members noted the monthly risk management report, provided in accordance with the Authority's Risk Management Policy. The Committee Chair highlighted a number of matters that had been considered by the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), at its most recent meeting including:

- The systemic approach to the review of the Risk Register. Members were advised that the new register would be submitted for consideration to the October meeting of the Authority.
- The outcomes of the internal audit conducted into the Authority's appointments process, in particular that significant assurance could be placed on the Authority's systems and procedures in respect of the selection competition and appointments process.
- The consideration of proposals received from the internal auditor to undertake independent, external assessment of the Authority's performance. The Chairperson advised that a revised proposal had been sought.

Members discussed the methodology outlined by the internal auditors for the conduct of audits in 2020 and clarification was sought as to whether the Chairperson of the Audit Committee was consulted as part of the audit process. The Committee Chair affirmed that this had been the case and agreed to revert to the internal auditors to ensure that a future articulation of the methodology would reflect this fact.

<b>A_079_04</b>	Revert to Internal Auditors to ensure that the methodology for future internal audits includes consultation with the ARC Chairperson.	ASAP	ARC Committee Chairperson
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#### **7. Garda Síochána Appointments**

The Secretary briefed members on the outcome of the clearance process in respect of candidates on the Chief Superintendent and Superintendent panels. Members considered the outcomes of the clearance process and appointed the candidates with effect from the date of taking up their position, as assigned by the Garda Commissioner.

Members considered the draft competition booklet for the position of Deputy Commissioner in the Garda Síochána. Following discussion, the Authority was satisfied to approve the proposed requirements relating to knowledge, ability and suitability for appointment as Deputy Commissioner, as outlined in the draft competition booklet, subject to clarification on the number of positions to be advertised.

The Authority was further satisfied to authorise the Chief Executive to seek the approval of the Minister for Justice and Equality to agree these requirements with the Public Appointments Service, in accordance with s.10(3) of the Act.

The Authority also agreed to nominate the Chairperson as the representative to participate on the selection panel for the recruitment campaign for the position.

Members considered the Expressions of Interest Booklet for the position of Head of Internal Audit in the Garda Síochána. It was noted that the Garda Síochána was intending to fill the position by means of a secondment with expressions of interest being sought from across the public and civil service. Pending completion of this secondment process, the Authority was also requested to approve the appointment of a temporary Acting Head of Internal Audit. Members were concerned that the Expressions of Interest Booklet for the position did not adequately convey the significance of the role and appeared not to convey a sense of ambition for its potential. The absence of clarity in respect of the envisaged reporting lines for the position was also noted. The Authority decided to request sight of an amended Booklet prior to approval. The Authority's views regarding the inadequacy of the information provided would be conveyed to the Garda Síochána.

Members went on to consider the request to appoint a temporary Acting Head of Internal Audit, noting that the submission involved the backdating of the acting assignment to April 2020. Members expressed concern that, once again, retrospective approval was being sought and decided to seek information relating to the process of selecting the candidate and in respect of the chosen candidate..

Members considered and approved, in principle, a request to appoint and Acting Principal Officer (Accountant) to the Finance Directorate in the Garda Síochána, subject to the receipt of a CV from the GS for the successful candidate.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action point</b>	<b>By Date</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
<b>A_079_05</b>	The Authority's views on the Expressions of Interest Booklet for Head of Internal Audit to be conveyed to the Garda Síochána.	Immediate	Chief Executive
<b>A_079_06</b>	Additional information to be sought on the process associated with the acting-up assignment for Head of Internal Audit, together with additional information on the proposed candidate.	Immediate	Chief Executive
<b>A_079_07</b>	CV of the Acting Principal Officer (Accountant) to be provided to the Policing Authority.	ASAP	GS

## 8. Oversight of Policing during COVID-19

Members considered a number of documents provided in support of discussion on this agenda item. The Chairperson sought Members' views with regard to the desired frequency of reporting to the Minister, in light of the dynamic and changing situation, the rising number of cases, the potential public health response and the consequential impact on policing and the execution of police powers. Members also considered the range of challenges arising from the new regulations and the extent to which they were clearly understood by Garda members, in the context of the additional powers provided to Gardaí. It was noted that a video communication had issued through Newsbeat on the matter and that it would be helpful to obtain a copy of it. Members re-emphasised the critical importance of the accurate recording of any use of additional powers, on a disaggregated basis, and agreed that the issue would be highlighted with the Commissioner.

Members were provided with an overview recent stakeholder engagements and issues arising in respect of engagement with the Garda organisation and trying to ensure a shared understanding of the regulations.

In concluding its discussions, the Authority agreed that its reporting of oversight of policing during COVID-19 should remain flexible and in the current climate this may result in fortnightly submissions to the Minister. It was further agreed that a degree of flexibility should attach to the format of the report, to cater for levels of data available and the extent of stakeholder engagement at any given time.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
<b>A_079_08</b>	A copy of the Newsbeat video on the new Criminal Justice Act to be provided to the Authority.	ASAP	GS

## 9. 2021 Policing Priorities

Members considered a paper outlining an approach to the development of policing priorities for 2021. In particular, it was noted that it was not proposed to change the substance of the priorities, as they remain valid and reflect issues of most importance. However, a revised approach, setting out envisaged outcomes for the public and the Garda Síochána organisation from the achievement of the priorities was presented for Members' consideration and input.

Members were supportive of the proposed revised approach and agreed that a greater focus on envisaged outcomes would enable assessment of performance on a smaller number of more strategic measures and may be helpful in providing a clearer framework for the Garda Síochána in developing its Policing Plan 2021. The Authority agreed that further, detailed consideration was required to ensure that the correct indicators of success had been identified. Following discussion, it agreed that the Authority should proceed to consult with the Commissioner on the Policing Priorities, outlining the proposed approach for 2021 and advising that the Policing Plan 2021 will be on the agenda for discussion at the October meeting of the Authority.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
<b>A_079_09</b>	To consult with the Commissioner on the Policing Priorities and to advise that Policing Plan 2021 is an item on the October agenda	Immediate	Chief Executive

#### **10. Chairperson of the Garda Síochána Audit Committee**

Members had a detailed and wide-ranging discussion with the Chairperson of the Garda Síochána Audit Committee, Ms Niamh Brennan. A number of matters were discussed including:

- The technological and operational challenges to conducting the internal audit function in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The approach to, and engagement with, internal audit in the Garda Síochána. In this regard, the potential scope of internal audit and the adoption of a risk-based approach to inform audit themes and the audit effort overall was discussed. The need for greater interaction between professional standards, risk and audit in the Garda Síochána was also referenced.
- The importance of good quality data to inform internal audit activity was highlighted. In this regard, Ms Brennan advised of work on-going to collate and assess previous internal audit recommendations and the extent of their implementation, as part of a process of informing the Committee's future work.
- The breadth of experience required on the Audit Committee to ensure its effectiveness.
- The audit report on Garda Síochána payroll that had been the subject of recent media coverage.

Members agreed that the discussion with the Chairperson of the Garda Síochána Audit Committee had been very helpful and informative. It was agreed that such engagement should take place on an annual basis, in the context of the statutory requirement for the submission of the annual Internal Audit report to the Authority. It was also agreed that the subject of internal audit would be a matter for engagement with the Commissioner at an early date. In this regard, members requested that a copy of the audit findings on payroll should be requested from the Garda Síochána.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
<b>A_079_10</b>	Annual engagement to take place with the Chairperson of the Garda Síochána Audit Committee, on receipt of annual reports.	Annually	Chief Executive.
<b>A_079_11</b>	Internal Audit to be tabled as an agenda item with the Commissioner	ASAP	Secretary
<b>A_79_12</b>	A copy of the Internal Audit report on payroll to be requested from the Garda Síochána.	ASAP	Chief Executive

## 11. Adult Caution Report

Members considered the draft Review of the Adult Cautioning Scheme, prepared by Crowe, together with responses received in relation to a number of outstanding queries, arising from the July meeting of the Authority. Members were satisfied to accept the final report, as submitted, and to approve its publication.

Members then considered the proposed accompanying commentary to the report, having regard to the report findings. A number of discussion points arose, in particular in relation to training, professional standards, governance and victim engagement. It was agreed that the commentary document should be further reviewed to ensure that it reflected appropriately the issues discussed. The Authority was also satisfied to approve the approach to the publication of the Review, including mechanisms for its provision in advance to the Commissioner, and noted that the matter would be tabled for consideration at the November meeting of the Authority in public.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action point</b>	<b>By Date</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
<b>A_79_13</b>	Provide an advance copy of the Review of the Adult Cautioning Scheme and the accompanying Authority commentary to the Commissioner and once sufficient time has elapsed, proceed to publish.	ASAP	Chief Executive

## 12. Advice to the Minister on Resources

Members considered a draft letter to the Minister for Justice, further to its statutory requirement to provide advice on the adequacy of resources available to the Garda Síochána to perform its functions. The Chairperson provided an overview of the key themes addressed, in particular the need for flexibility in Garda workforce numbers, the imperative for immediate investment in ICT and the necessity for an innovative approach to the management of the Garda Síochána Estate. Members agreed that the themes proposed provided a helpful framework for the Authority's advice and made a number of suggested refinements. It was also agreed that the correspondence to the Minister should indicate that considerable work remained in obtaining the necessary financial information from the Garda Síochána to enable the Authority to more fully discharge this statutory function. Following discussion, it was agreed that the advice to the Minister would be provided as drafted, subject to the inclusion of the proposed refinements.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action point</b>	<b>By Date</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
<b>A_79_14</b>	Provide advice to the Minister on the adequacy of GS resources.	Immediate	Chief Executive.



### 13. General Scheme Policing and Community Safety Bill

Members considered an initial draft submission on the draft General Scheme of the Policing and Community Safety Bill. Members were satisfied that all of the significant issues that had been the subject of detailed discussion in previous meetings were comprehensively addressed. Noting the confidential nature of the current stage of the consultation process, it was agreed that it would be helpful to have a distillation of the key issues of concern to the Authority, in anticipation of the next phase of consultation on the published Heads of Bill.

Members then gave consideration to an Annexe to the Submission, containing detailed observations in respect of each Head. It was noted that a number of the observations required clarification and augmentation. It was agreed that, having regard to the discussion and observations made, the Chairperson and Chief Executive would finalise the document and submit to the Department of Justice.

Members noted that correspondence received from the Department of Justice, requesting observations on Part 6 of the Policing and Community Safety Bill, in addition to a copy Part 6 of the General Scheme. It was acknowledged that the timing of the receipt of the material precluded its detailed consideration at the meeting and that it would be considered at the October meeting of the Authority.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
<b>A_79_15</b>	Finalise submission on the draft General Scheme of the Policing and Community Safety Bill and submit to the Department of Justice and Equality	Immediate	Chief Executive.

### 14. Preparation for Meeting with the Garda Commissioner

Members discussed the agenda for the meeting and agreed the matters to be discussed with the Garda Commissioner and his team.

### 15. Documents for Noting by the Authority – September 2020

The following documents were noted by the Authority:

	<i>Document</i>	<i>Action Required</i>
<b>D_079_01</b>	General Scheme Digital Recording Bill	For noting
<b>D_79_02</b>	Statutory Instrument-Garda Síochána (Ranks) Regulations 2020	For noting
<b>D_79_03</b>	Review on Vulnerable Witnesses in Sexual Offence Prosecutions	For noting
<b>D_79_04</b>	IHREC Guidance Note on COVID-19 & Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty	For noting
<b>D_79_05</b>	Update on Early Attested Probationer Gardaí	For noting
<b>D_79_06</b>	ICCL consultation submission on the use of anti-spit hoods	For noting
<b>D_79_07</b>	IHREC consultation submission on the use of anti-spit hoods	For noting

<i>Document</i>		<i>Action Required</i>
<b>D_79_08</b>	Garda Síochána Newsbeat 28 July, 11August, 25 August, 1 September, 15 September	For noting
<b>D_79_09</b>	Policing Authority Oversight Agreement 2020-2021	For noting
<b>D_79_10</b>	Policing Authority Performance Delivery Agreement 2020	For noting

## Part B – Authority Meeting with the Garda Commissioner in private

### Attendance

**Authority and Executive:** As for Part A

**Garda Síochána:** Drew Harris (Garda Commissioner), John Twomey (Deputy Commissioner), Joe Nugent (Chief Administrative Officer), Anne Marie McMahon (Acting Deputy Commissioner), David Gilbride (executive Director Strategy and Transformation, Marie Broderick (Superintendent).

### 16. Garda Síochána Risk and Resources

Members discussed a number of matters with the Commissioner under this agenda item including:

- Preparedness for Brexit: The Commissioner provided the Authority with an overview of inter-agency engagements on the matter, including with the PSNI, in addition to the organisation's own considerations in respect of resource requirements.
- Recruitment: The Commissioner confirmed that the targets for the recruitment of Garda members in 2021 would not be achieved, arising from COVID-19 and the consequent constraints on the use of the Garda College. An update was provided in respect of Garda members who were attested early and the current status of their training and plans for its completion. The Commissioner advised that intake targets for 2021 would require further consideration in the context of likely methods for training delivery.
- Professional standards: The Commissioner advised that the go-live date for the anti-corruption unit was imminent.
- Information and Technology: Members acknowledged receipt of material on the Garda Síochána Information and Technology Vision. The required budget to deliver the Vision was discussed with the Commissioner and Members were apprised of current negotiations underway with the Department of Justice, in the context of Budget 2021 and having regard to the need for multi-annual capital funding to give effect to the Vision and the requirements of A Policing Service for the Future.
- Policing COVID-19: The evolving requirements to policing the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed with the Commissioner, in particular the additional resources needed for those areas of the country on a higher restriction level. The Commissioner advised that the approach adopted by the Garda Síochána was different to that adopted in other jurisdictions and emphasised the importance of maintaining a positive relationship with the public and of adhering to the approach of engaging, educating and encouraging, with enforcement as a last resort. The Commissioner also advised that the organisation continued to emphasise its role in supporting those experiencing domestic violence or who had been the victims of economic crime. Members noted that consideration was being given to adapting the approach to training in the area of protective services. Members discussed internal communications on policing the pandemic with the Commissioner, particularly in the context of evolving regulations. An overview of the communications approaches and formats was outlined.
- Roster: Members were advised that the temporary roster, introduced as part of the operational response to COVID-19, had been extended to the end of the year and that other supporting structures remained in place.
- Resources: The Chairperson advised the Commissioner that correspondence would issue to the Minister in the coming days in relation to the adequacy of Garda Síochána resources.

The Chairperson also reminded the Commissioner that further information on the use of Garda staff for certain key roles had been requested and was still awaited.

- Risk: The Chairperson advised the Commissioner that the Authority was satisfied to agree to the Garda Síochána request to move to quarterly reporting on risk.
- Audit: The Chairperson advised that a meeting had taken place with the Chairperson of the Garda Síochána Audit Committee and that the Authority would revert to the Commissioner on a number of matters arising from that engagement, including the audit of Garda Síochána payroll that had been the subject of recent media coverage.
- Annual Report: The Chairperson advised the Commissioner that the late receipt of the Annexe to the Garda Síochána Annual Report would require the re-submission of observations to the Minister for Justice, further to the statutory provisions.

## **17. 2021 Policing Priorities and Annual Policing Plan**

Members discussed the 2021 Policing Priorities with the Commissioner and advised that no substantive changes to the existing priorities were being contemplated for the forthcoming year, but that the approach to measuring the priorities was being refreshed to ensure more focus on envisaged outcomes. Members advised that it was hoped that such an approach would serve to simplify and further embed the Policing Plan as a central document in guiding the work of the Garda Síochána.

The Commissioner welcomed the approach proposed and advised that a similar process in relation to the development of the Policing Plan was being developed.

## **18. HR Related Matters**

The Chairperson advised the Commissioner that a number of positions at the level of PO, Chief Superintendent and Superintendent had been approved by the Authority and that the relevant notifications would now issue.

Members discussed existing and upcoming senior vacancies with the Commissioner, in addition to a number of other HR matters. In discuss the approval process for appointments generally, the Chairperson expressed the Authority's renewed concern in relation to the overall quality of job specifications being received for approval, citing a number of recent examples.

The Chairperson conveyed to the Commissioner Members' concerns, noted above, in respect of a number of proposed appointments. .

## **19. Other Business**

A number of other matters were discussed with the Commissioner, in advance of the meeting in public, including:

- The provision of an overview, by the Commissioner, of the security and governance arrangements surrounding access to data on the PULSE system. The Commissioner expressed his satisfaction in respect of the current system in place.
- The Commissioner was advised of the Authority's decision to resume more frequent reporting on oversight of policing COVID-19 and reiterated the Authority's position in respect of Garda Síochána use of enforcement powers and the need for accurate recording of related data. The Commissioner acknowledged that, in the context of more limited Garda powers under level 3

restrictions, the number of instances of use of those powers would be minimal, and agreed to consider the matter further.

- The Chairperson recorded the Authority's considerable disappointment that material relating to the handling of DNA samples by the Garda Síochána had not been received in sufficient time to facilitate its consideration at the meeting.
- In a similar manner, while acknowledging the helpful briefing that had been provided to the Policing Strategy and Performance Committee on the work of the Homicide Investigation Review Team, the Chairperson expressed the Authority's view that the written material received was insufficient to bring the matter to conclusion at this meeting, as had been intended. The Commissioner was advised that both items would be tabled for discussion at the October and November meetings of the Authority.
- The approach to publication of the report on the Adult Cautioning Scheme was outlined and the Commissioner was advised that a copy of the report would be provided for review and observations.
- Members' concerns in respect of moving the Public Attitudes Survey online were conveyed to the Commissioner and it was agreed that the Chief Executive would revert to Garda colleagues on the matter.
- Members discussed the use of discretion by Garda members with the Commissioner, in terms of its scope and application.

## Part C – Authority Meeting with the Garda Commissioner in public

### Attendance

**Authority and Executive:** As for Part B

**Garda Síochána:** Drew Harris (Garda Commissioner), John Twomey (Deputy Commissioner), Joe Nugent (Chief Administrative Officer), Anne Marie McMahon (Acting Deputy Commissioner), John O’Driscoll (Assistant Commissioner), Andrew O’Sullivan (Chief Information Officer), Gráinne Shortall (Assistant Principal Officer)

This meeting with the Garda Commissioner and his team was held remotely and live streamed to the public as it was not possible to meet in public due to COVID-19 restrictions. In accordance with the Authority’s Standing Orders, the official record of the meeting is the recording which is available to view at:

The following matters were discussed during the meeting:

Agenda Item	Principal matters discussed
<b>Access to and Security of Confidential Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assurance and control provisions in place to ensure there is no unintended or unauthorised access to confidential information.</li> <li>• Process for investigation of breaches and overview of any sanctions in place where information may have been accessed in an unauthorised way.</li> <li>• Nature and extent of random spot-checking currently in place.</li> </ul>
<b>Policing during COVID-19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent house and street parties in various locations, perceptions of a ‘hands off’ approach by the GS and the impact of this perception on the communities concerned.</li> <li>• GS policy for dealing with significant numbers attending gatherings, in the context of COVID-related regulations.</li> <li>• Events in university towns and any anticipatory approach by the GS in their management.</li> <li>• Articulation of GS response in the future with gatherings of this type in breach of regulations both urban and rural, including a consideration of the likely challenges.</li> <li>• Recording of use of powers in the context of existing regulations and their equitable application.</li> <li>• Basis for the continued use of anti-spit hoods.</li> <li>• Policing protests and vindication of right to protest.</li> </ul>
<b>Sexual Crime</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policing response to sexual crime and measurements of effectiveness.</li> <li>• Process for determining the assignment of sexual crime to specialist units.</li> <li>• Approach to training for Garda members, including first responders.</li> <li>• Current rates of detection for rape.</li> <li>• Reporting sexual crime in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Cultural challenges in the GS in dealing with sexual crime cases and improving victim confidence.</li> <li>• Recent legislation and perceptions of its effectiveness.</li> <li>• Progress against the recommendations contained in <i>‘Responding to Child Sexual Abuse’</i>.</li> </ul>

Agenda Item	Principal matters discussed
<b>Commissioner's Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garda Síochána budgetary position to year end.</li> <li>• Roll-out of Property Exhibit Management Stores and challenges being addressed.</li> <li>• ICT: accessing systems and confidence in GS capacity to deliver large-scale systems.</li> <li>• Scope and scale of the next GS Cultural Audit and communications on matters of GS culture generally.</li> </ul>

**Actions arising from the meeting held in public:**

No.	Action point	By Date	By Whom
A_079_16	To provide the Policing Authority with a copy of the findings of the Health and Well-Being Survey undertaken in 2019.	ASAP	GS