



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting of the Policing Authority

Date: 8 July 2021

Venue: By Video Conference

Part A – Authority Meeting

Attendance

Authority: Bob Collins (Chairperson), Deborah Donnelly, Valerie Judge, Paul Mageean, Stephen Martin, Moling Ryan, Shalom Binchy, Elaine Byrne.

Apologies: Donal De Buitleir

Secretary: Aoife Clabby.

Staff of the Authority: Helen Hall (Chief Executive), Cormac Keating, Margaret Tumelty, Clare Kelly (item 3) Sharon O'Brien (item 4)

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

The Chairperson provided Members with an update on a number of matters arising from notifications received from the Deputy Commissioner, Policing and Security.

3. Cancellation of CAD 999 Priority 1 Incidents

The Chairperson advised Members that he had spoken with the Commissioner and communicated the Authority's decision to obtain strategic external advice on the Garda Síochána's review of the cancellation of CAD 999 Priority 1 calls.

The Chairperson advised that an independent consultant, Mr. Derek Penman, Director, Learntech (Scotland) Limited, had been identified as a suitable specialist to support the Authority's oversight. Members had regard to a profile and CV provided for Mr. Penman. Following discussion, the Authority was satisfied to appoint Mr. Penman to provide strategic advice to the Authority in support of its oversight of the GS review of the cancellation of CAD999 Priority 1 calls, subject to the conclusion of contractual arrangements. Members noted that the resolution to utilise single source procurement without a tendering process had been formally adopted at the Authority meeting on 29 June. .

Members considered the draft Terms of Reference for the independent assessment of the Garda Síochána Review of the Cancellation of CAD 999 calls. Members expressed their satisfaction with the proposed

timescale for the current phase of oversight engagement. Members made a number of observations in relation to the scope, scale and the substance of the proposed Terms of Reference. A number of clarifications in respect of the intent of particular terms were sought. Members also gave consideration to the manner in which any strategic advice arising would inform engagement with the Commissioner and the future direction of the Authority's oversight of the review of cancelled CAD 999 calls in the longer term.

Following detailed discussion, it was agreed that the Terms of Reference would be further reviewed and revised, having regard to the issues raised by the Authority. It was further agreed that any additional proposals for amendment would be provided to the Chief Executive and that the Terms of Reference would be finalised, in consultation with the Chairperson.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
A_095_01	Proposals for amendment of the ToRs to be provided to the Chief Executive by Authority Members and ToRs to be finalised by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairperson.	Immediate	Authority
A_095_03	Conclude arrangements to appoint Derek Penman, further to Authority approval.	Immediate	Chief Executive

4. Garda Síochána Appointments

Members considered a request received from the Chief Administration Officer in the Garda Síochána to appoint a candidate to the position of Human Resources Director, in accordance with approvals already in place. In considering the request, Members had regard to the Candidate Information Booklet and details of the candidate's CV. Following discussion, the Authority was satisfied to appoint the successful candidate to the position, at the grade of Director.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
A_095_03	Notify successful candidate of their appointment to the position of Director of Human Resources in the Garda Síochána.	Immediate	Chief Executive
A_095_04	Notify CAO of Authority approval and appointment of Director of Human Resources.	Immediate	Chief Executive

5. Garda Síochána draft Annual Report 2020

The Authority considered the draft Garda Síochána Annual Report 2020, further to the requirements of section 46 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. In contemplation of supplying a copy of the Report to the Minister, Members made a number of observations, having regard to direction on the form of the report previously provided. In particular, the Authority noted further improvements in respect of content and presentation, thereby enhancing the report's effectiveness in communicating policing services delivered to the public in 2020. While noting that the report contained information addressing human rights and diversity and inclusion, Members expressed the view that this information might be more usefully contextualised and discussed with reference to the Garda Síochána's obligations under section 42 of the

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. Members noted that further information in relation to the extent of the organisation’s compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, including explanations of any non-compliance, would benefit from inclusion in future reports. Members noted the paucity of financial information provided in the Annual Report, in particular given the budget allocation of approximately €2 billion. Having regard to the principles of accountability and transparency, Members agreed that the current level of information provided was inadequate to offer a meaningful understanding of how such a significant budget is spent. Finally, Members noted that the Annual Report provides an opportunity for the Commissioner to articulate the challenges faced across the organisation as an aid to greater public understanding of policing matters and that this opportunity might be more effectively utilised. In this regard, Members noted that the report contained no reference to the significant work that began in Q4, 2020 on the examination of the cancellation of CAD 999 calls and the attendant organisational challenges.

No.	Action point	By Date	By Whom
A_095_05	Provide the Minister for Justice with copy of the Garda Síochána Annual Report 2020, including observations in relation to the report’s adherence to direction previously provided by the Authority.	ASAP	Chief Executive