



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting of the Policing Authority

Date: 7 September 2021

Venue: By Video Conference

Attendance

Authority: Bob Collins (Chairperson), Shalom Binchy, Donal de Buitléir, Deborah Donnelly, Paul Mageean, Moling Ryan.

Apologies: Elaine Byrne, Stephen Martin, Valerie Judge

Secretary: Margaret Tumelty

Staff of the Authority: Margaret Tumelty, Cormac Keating,
Clare Kelly (Items 1, 2), Sharon O'Brien (Item 1)

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 advised that there had been engagement with the Garda Commissioner on the matter of the unwarranted and invalid cancellation to CAD 999 calls and the progress made in the investigation underway in Limerick.

3. Garda Síochána Appointments

The Secretary briefed Members on the outcome of the clearance process in respect of the appointment of candidates to the rank of Superintendent in the Garda Síochána. Following discussion, the Authority was satisfied to appoint a number of candidates with effect from the date on which they take up the position assigned by the Garda Commissioner.

It was agreed that further information would be sought in order to allow for the consideration and conclusion of the clearance process in relation to one of the candidates.

The Authority considered and approved a request received from the Garda Síochána to appoint two candidates, at the level of Principal Officer, one as the **Head of GISC** and the other in the **Finance Unit** in accordance with sanctions in place. The Authority reiterated its view of the importance of early initiation of recruitment procedures by the Garda Síochána in respect of appointments where impending vacancies are known in advance.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
A_097_01	Notify candidates of their appointment to the rank of Superintendent.	Immediate	Chief Executive
A_097_02	Notify Commissioner of the appointment of Superintendents by the Authority.	Immediate	Chief Executive
A_097_03	Seek further information to facilitate the consideration and conclusion of the clearance process relating to a candidate	Immediate	Chief Executive
A_097_04	Notify CAO of the appointment of two Principal Officers to GSAS and the Finance Unit.	Immediate	Chief Executive

4. Independent Advice on Garda Síochána Review of the invalid and unwarranted closure of CAD incidents

The Chairperson briefed Members on a meeting held with Mr. Derek Penman and on the work undertaken to date on the examination of the invalid and unwarranted closure of CAD incidents. He also reported to Members on correspondence received from the Deputy Commissioner relating to work being undertaken by the Garda Síochána to understand the circumstances in which calls were invalidly closed, despite the corrective measures, within the timeframe since the matter first came to light.

The work being undertaken by Mr. Penman was reported as progressing well with good cooperation from the Garda Síochána. However, it was noted that two issues are impacting on the pace at which the work has progressed and these were discussed by Members. The first concerned delays in the receipt of some of the information sought from the Garda Síochána and the Authority noted its frustration in this regard.

A second issue concerned legal issues raised relating to the granting of access for Mr. Penman to call recordings. There has been early engagement by the Executive on this issue with the Garda Síochána. The Authority expressed its view that the ability to listen to a number of the relevant calls is a critical component of the examination being undertaken.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive would continue her engagement with the Deputy Commissioner to expedite the receipt of the relevant information and also to engage further to understand any legal issues that have been raised and how these can be addressed. The Authority noted that this was a source of concern, not only in the current instance, but in the general discharge of the Authority's statutory oversight duty.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
A_097_05	Engage with the Deputy Commissioner to expedite receipt of the relevant data and information.	Immediate	Chief Executive
A_097_06	Engage with the Garda Síochána to understand any legal issues that are preventing access to the call recordings and how these can be addressed.	Immediate	Chief Executive

5. Other Business

There were no matters for discussion under this agenda item.