



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting of the Policing Authority

Date: 30 March 2023

Venue: 90 North King Street Dublin 7

Part A – Authority Meeting

Attendance

Authority: Bob Collins, Deborah Donnelly, Valerie Judge, Paul Mageean, Shalom Binchy, Moling Ryan, Elaine Byrne.

Apologies: Donal de Buitleir

Secretary: Margaret Tumelty

Staff of the Authority: Helen Hall (Chief Executive), Cormac Keating, Mark Nother (items 7-8)

Garda Inspectorate Mark Toland (Chief Inspector items 1-9)

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 by the Members in relation to any of the items for consideration.

The Chairperson advised that both he and the Chief Executive had met with Minister Harris and the Secretary General of the Department of Justice on 28 March and he set out briefly the key areas discussed.

The Chairperson advised Members that he had met with the Garda Commissioner the previous day and a number of issues had been discussed including resources and recruitment and the provision to the Authority of information to assist in the performance of its statutory function to advise the Minister on the adequacy of Garda resources.

Members noted a number of pieces of correspondence received. Members briefly discussed correspondence received from the Garda Síochána regarding the approach to Garda Síochána reporting on policing performance in 2022 and 2023. It was agreed that the key issues raised in the correspondence would be included in the discussion with the Garda Commissioner under the later agenda item on policing performance.

The Authority considered and welcomed the correspondence received from the Garda Commissioner regarding the Authority's report 'What we heard' which set out the Garda Síochána's response to the key themes raised in that report. In particular, the Authority very much welcomed the indication in the

Commissioner’s letter that he would regard the Report as a ‘benchmark’. It was agreed that the Chairperson would write to the Commissioner in that regard.

The Authority briefly discussed the relevance of many of the themes and responses to the issues likely to arise at the Authority meetings to be held in the North Inner City Dublin and Drogheda and that these meetings would be an opportunity to explore the detail of the response in the context of the policing challenges presenting in both areas.

With regard to correspondence received in March from GSOC relating to the Authority’s 2019 statutory referral under section 102(7)(a) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 relating to DPP v Lynn Margiotta – Members agreed that the Authority would welcome some greater insight into one or two matters so that it could consider what, if any, further action it may be able to take in respect of the underlying events.

The Chairperson advised that information regarding the appointment of an Authority member to fill the current vacancy was likely to be received in the coming week at which point members would be informed.

There was a brief discussion about potential proposed legislative changes that may permit Gardaí giving evidence in certain cases to have anonymity.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
A_119_01	Chairperson to respond to correspondence from the Garda Commissioner on the Authority’s ‘What We Heard’ Report	ASAP	Chairperson
A_119_02	Chief Executive to liaise with GSOC to obtain some insight into the considerations that led GSOC to the conclusions set out in correspondence received.	ASAP	Chief Executive
A_119_03	Chief Executive to notify Members once information regarding appointment of an Authority member is received	ASAP	Chief Executive

3. Consent Agenda Items

3.1. Minutes of Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 and 23 February were approved and cleared for publication.

3.2. Policing Authority and Garda Síochána Actions Logs

The Log of Actions was noted and proposals to close specified actions were approved. It was agreed that an opportunity to discuss matters relating to media coverage of past policing activities with the Commissioner in public would be sought at an early juncture.

In the context of considering information received relating to Garda discipline, as well as the recent publication of the Casey Report concerning issues arising in the London Metropolitan Police Force, Members also briefly discussed the relevance of a Human Resource Information System in the context of the Garda Síochána’s ability to monitor and assess issues relating to discipline and corruption within the police service. While the importance and need for such a system has been highlighted by the Authority before in terms of workforce deployment and training, it was agreed that its relevance in relation to matters of behaviour and integrity in the policing service should also be emphasised. It was

agreed that this emphasis will feature in the Authority's 2023 submission to the Minister on the adequacy of Garda resources.

No.	Action point	By Date	By Whom
A_119_04	Item on media coverage of past policing activities to be put on an Authority agenda at an early juncture	ASAP	Chief Executive

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 in relation to:

- The potential for a joint briefing for the Authority, Garda Síochána and Department of Justice from Dr. Ian Marder on the outcomes of the UBUNTU project. The Chief Executive advised that once a date is agreed, it will be circulated so that Members available might attend.
- The completion of a report by Mr. Derek Penman on the call listening exercise undertaken in late January, 2023. The Chief Executive advised Members of her concerns that the report remained outstanding in the context that Mr. Penman has to date received only a partial response to a number of queries he has raised. There is ongoing engagement between the Garda Síochána and Mr. Penman and it is hoped the matter will be resolved quickly.
- The submission to the Minister of the Authority's assessment of the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Garda Inspectorate Report on Child Sexual Abuse. The Chief Executive advised that the letter had been submitted. It was agreed that a copy would also be shared with the Garda Inspectorate.
- The intention that Members and staff of the Scottish Policing Authority will meet with the Authority in Dublin in 2023 and that planning around both that and a meeting with the Northern Ireland Policing Board had commenced.

Members briefly discussed the recommendation arising from the GRECO Fifth Round Evaluation Report of Ireland on 16 February relating to the Code of Ethics and its possible review. It was agreed that a working group of the Authority will be convened to potentially include some of those current and former Members involved in the development of the Code to have preliminary discussions on the recommendation.

Members approved the awarding of a contract, following a competitive tendering process, to Advanced Computer Software Group Ltd for the provision of the meeting management service using the Decision Time application.

Members noted the recent publication of a Report on Comparing Migrant Integration in Ireland and Northern Ireland by the Economic and Social Research Institute in which the issue of racial profiling at immigration checks is raised. This is an issue on which the Authority had recently engaged with the Garda Síochána and it was noted that it is likely to continue to be a matter to be considered within the lifetime of the Authority and future PCSA.

The Chief Executive apprised Members that the venue for the Authority meeting in April will be the Laurence O'Toole Recreation Centre in Sherriff Street, Dublin 1 and a number of meetings with both local Gardaí and with community groups will be arranged for the day before.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
A_119_05	Circulate the date for the UBUNTU briefing to Members once agreed	ASAP	Chief Executive
A_119_06	Copy of letter to the Minister assessing Garda Síochána performance in the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Garda Inspectorate Report on Child Sexual Abuse to be shared with the Garda Inspectorate	ASAP	Chief Executive
A_119_07	Convene a working group of the Authority to discuss the GRECO recommendation relating to the Code of Ethics	ASAP	Chairperson

5. Garda Síochána Appointments

Members were provided with the outcomes of the clearance process in respect of the appointment of two candidates to the rank of Superintendent. The Authority was satisfied to appoint the candidates to the rank of Superintendent, with effect from the date on which the candidates take up the positions they are assigned by the Garda Commissioner.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
A_119_08	Notify the Commissioner of the appointment of two candidates to the rank of Superintendent in the Garda Síochána and notify the candidates of their appointment.	Immediate	Chief Executive

6. Committee Updates

6.1. Garda Appointments Quality Assurance and Selection Governance Committee

The Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Authority.

6.2. Garda Organisation Development Committee

The Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Authority.

6.3. Policing Performance and Strategy Committee

The Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Authority.

6.4 Audit and Risk Committee

The Committee Chair provided Members with an update in relation to the meeting of the Committee that had been held on 21 March at which a new Committee Member – Ms. Geraldine Smyth – had attended. The Committee Chair acknowledged the expertise and significant contribution that the recently appointed external members brought to the work of the Committee.

Members were apprised of a number of issues addressed at the Committee meeting, these included:

- Annual Review of Policing Authority Risk Register – The Committee Chair advised that the Committee had reviewed the register in detail and a small number of modest changes were made. The updated draft risk register was provided for Members’ consideration and feedback.
- Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statement – The Committee Chair also advised that the Committee had reviewed a draft updated Risk Management Policy and the Risk Appetite Statement. The Committee had accepted all the proposed updates to the Risk Management Policy which was provided to the Authority as a reference document. The Committee Chair advised that the Committee had suggested some further changes to the Risk Appetite Statement and a revised version of this will be brought to the next Audit Committee meeting, after which it will be recommended for approval by the Authority.
- Internal Audit – The Committee Chair advised that the Committee had reviewed the internal audit plan for 2023 and that a number of minor adjustments had been made - specifically that the last internal audit of the year would examine the issue of governance and lessons learned in the context of the transition to the PCSA. The Committee Chair advised that the Committee had also looked at the progress made against recommendations in previous audits and was satisfied that progress can be made to clear what is a modest number of remaining recommendations. The Committee Chair also advised that the outcomes of the internal audit into financial controls were positive with no high risk items identified.
- Review of Board Effectiveness – The Committee Chair advised that the Committee had reviewed the material received as part of the review and noted that it is an item for consideration by the Authority at this meeting.

7. Audit and Risk Management

Annual Review of Policing Authority Risk Register - Members considered the draft risk register as presented and were satisfied- that the changes reflect current risks and that no further additions were needed at this time to approve the amendments made.

Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee - Members noted the Annual Report of the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) 2022 prepared in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (the Code). The Authority noted that the Committee is satisfied with:

- the assurance provided by internal and external audit;
- the Committee’s own work in the oversight and review of financial, control, risk and governance matters;
- engagement with management during 2022;
- the assurance provided in relation to the internal control systems in place in other organisations which provide financial, payroll, HR and ICT services on behalf of the Authority, including where available, independent internal audit reports; and accordingly

- the ARC is assured that there were adequate risk management and internal control systems in place in the Authority for 2022 which can be relied on to give assurance to the Authority and the Accounting Officer.

The Chairperson thanked the ARC for its work during the year.

Review of Board Effectiveness: Members considered a report setting out the results of the annual Authority and Committee self-assessments noting that at a high-level results continue to be positive with reoccurring themes regarding concerns including in respect of the provision/volume of papers. In keeping with previous years, the Committee results will be placed on the agenda for the April meetings of the PSP and ODC in addition to their annual consideration of their respective terms of reference, with any resultant suggested amendments provided to the Authority for consideration at its April meeting. The proposed amendments to the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, agreed by the ARC at the February meeting, will be provided to this meeting also. It was also agreed that the results, taken in tandem with the outcomes of the Chairpersons engagement with Members, would form the basis of a reflection session to be scheduled around the April or June Authority meetings.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Action point</i>	<i>By Date</i>	<i>By Whom</i>
A_119_09	Reflection on results of Effectiveness Review to be scheduled in either April or June	ASAP	Secretary
A_119_10	Committee results to be placed on the agenda for the April meetings of the PSP and ODC in addition to their annual consideration of their respective terms of reference, with any resultant suggested amendments proposed to the Authority for consideration at its May meeting.	30 April	Committee Chairs

8. End of Year Assessment of Policing Performance 2022

Members considered the draft report on the End of year Assessment of Policing Performance 2022. The report is the result of engagement at Authority, Committee and Executive level to identify the main items for attention and the culmination of oversight activity taken with the Garda Síochána and through the stakeholder outreach activity over 2022.

In keeping with the approach taken in previous reports, the Policing Priorities 2022-2024 were used as the lens through which performance was considered, with considerable but not sole focus given to the Policing Plan 2022 targets that support each Priority allowing for a wider commentary on key aspects of performance not expressly laid out in the Plan.

Members identified a small number of amendments and additions to the format and content of the report, in particular recommending that some additional detail regarding recruitment and retention be included. Members were satisfied that the Report was an accurate reflection of performance in 2022 and were satisfied to approve the finalisation for publication of the assessment by the Chairperson and Chief Executive, subject to edits and amendments as necessary, in April.

No.	Action point	By Date	By Whom
A_119_11	Chairperson and Chief Executive to finalise the Performance Report 2022 for publication.	Immediate	Chairperson and Chief Executive

9. Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill-Implementation Update

Legislation Implementation: Members noted that the fourth and final debate on the PSCS Bill was presented to the Oireachtas for the Second Stage on 23 March with the Committee Stage scheduled for 25 April and 9 May. Government and Department amendments will be circulated to all stakeholders in advance and it is anticipated that amendments tabled by the opposition will materialise mainly in the week prior to 25 April.

The Chairperson advised that in discussing the legislation with the Minister at a meeting on 28 March, consideration was given to the likely benefits of routine engagement between the Chairs of the Garda Board, PCSA and the Garda Commissioner and Minister in the first year of the new structures as a sensible means and forum in which ways of working might be established. Members discussed the likely impact on the Garda Síochána and the preparatory work needed within the organisation to ensure readiness for enactment of the legislation.

PCSA Transition: The Chief Executive provided an update of the work being undertaken to prepare for and give effect to the transition to the PCSA. This included the ongoing work with PA Consulting and attendance by a number of the Executive and Chief Executive at the Department of Justice Programme Board and work stream meetings. The Chief Executive also advised that a meeting between Members and PA Consulting would be organised and that potential dates would be circulated.

No.	Action Point	By date	By whom
A_119_12	Potential meeting dates for an engagement between PA Consulting and Authority Members to be circulated and a date agreed.	ASAP	Chief Executive

10. Preparation for meeting with the Garda Commissioner

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

The Chief Executive notified Members of two documents received from the Garda Commissioner in the course of the meeting. The first was a document setting out draft milestones to accompany the Garda Síochána Policing Plan 2023 targets. This Executive will review the draft and it will be considered at the PSP Committee. The second document was a copy of a letter from the Garda Commissioner to the Secretary General of the Department of Justice regarding homeless families presenting at Garda stations, expressing the view that given the risks associated with the operational environment of a Garda station, they are wholly unsuitable as an environment for homeless families. It was agreed that the matters raised would be addressed with the Commissioner under the relevant agenda items.

Documents for Noting by the Authority – March 2023

The following documents were noted by the Authority:

<i>Document</i>		<i>Action Required</i>
D_119_01	National Action Plan against racism	For noting
D_119_02	Overview of Baroness Casey Report findings and extract from Baroness Casey report (pages 1-25)	For noting
D_119_03	Final report of the Independent Review Group - Defence	For noting

Part B – Authority Meeting with the Garda Commissioner in private

Attendance

Authority and Executive: Bob Collins (Chairperson), Moling Ryan, Shalom Binchy, Donal de Buitleir (Items 11-16), Valerie Judge, Paul Mageean, Elaine Byrne (items 11-15), Helen Hall, Cormac Keating, Margaret Tumelty (Secretary).

Garda Síochána: Drew Harris (Garda Commissioner), Shawna Coxon (Deputy Commissioner), Joe Nugent (CAO), Yvonne Cooke (Acting Executive Director), Eimear Bourke (Executive Director), Denis Ferry (Chief Superintendent), Monica Carr (Principal Officer), Niamh O’Hara (Assistant Principal).

At the outset of the meeting, the Chairperson welcomed the Garda representatives and invited the Garda Commissioner to make any opening remarks.

The Commissioner briefly set out the current situation with regard to the issue of Garda rosters. The Chairperson acknowledged receipt of the Commissioner’s correspondence setting out the financial implications of the cost per shift pattern as between an eight hour and twelve hour day in the context of annual leave practices. The Commissioner indicated that the practices for counting annual leave in days has a significant impact that reduces available policing hours by the equivalent of approximately 585 Garda members each year. While there has been awareness of this matter, it has and continues to be considered in the context of the negotiations around rosters ongoing for the last number of years.

11. Garda Resources: workforce planning quarterly report

Members acknowledged recent materials received from the GS concerning workforce planning, namely the workforce planning quarterly progress report and the HR annex to the Policing Plan 2023. There was discussion regarding the approach to the development of the workforce plan and specifically the degree to which crime and societal trends were informing the assessment of what resourcing levels would be required over time. Members were advised that work has commenced to engage with the Assistant Commissioners and Executive Directors in terms of assessing the likely resourcing need over the next 10-25 years and that external support was also being commissioned to assist in this work.

The challenges in relation to recruitment and the current employment market were discussed in relation to areas such as cyber and economic crime. Members sought the Commissioner’s assessment of the existing capacity within Garda HR to address these challenges. Members were advised that while significant progress has been made and some additional resources provided - including a dedicated analyst - more resourcing is needed in this area. Members were also advised that additional resourcing was being sourced through external partners and that this was contributing to the capacity to undertake a number of initiatives. These included the clearing house structure to expedite decision making around Garda staff positions and clinics with Chief Superintendents assessing resourcing needs within the operating model and Garda units and bureaux. Members were also informed that it is expected that a Workforce Plan will be completed by the end of Quarter 2 this year.

Members sought the Commissioner’s view as to when the Garda Síochána expected to have a Human Resource Information System (HRIS) in place. Members were advised that the HRIS has now been moved

to a priority status within ICT planning and that a number of meetings of a HRIS Steering Group have been held, with ongoing work to review the operation of these type of systems in services in other jurisdictions. The likely timeframe for implementation of a HRIS was given as two to three years. Members indicated that further discussion on the progress being made would take place at the next ODC meeting in April.

There was a brief discussion regarding the new recruitment campaign for Garda Members. Members also sought clarity as to whether exit interviews are conducted with those who chose to leave the organisation and were informed that this process is now being developed in the context of a full retention strategy. There was a brief discussion on the changes in the employment market which can impact on the mobility of employees across all sectors, including in policing and it was noted again that the Garda Síochána finds itself in a more positive position than other services in terms of levels of attrition.

12. Engagement, effectiveness and impact of Performance Management of Garda Members and Staff

In the context of the Authority's focus in 2023 on the operation and efficacy of systems – both disciplinary and performance management – to deal with expressions of dissatisfaction arising from outside and within the Garda Síochána organisation, Members sought the Commissioner's view with regard to the effectiveness of the current performance management processes in place for both Garda Members and Garda Staff. With regard to the PALF system (Performance and Learning Framework) for Garda Members, Members were advised that the emphasis in 2021 - which was the first full 12 month cycle of the system - was on encouraging Members and supervisors to engage with the process. Engagement rates were given as 89% with the emphasis in 2023 on ensuring that Members and supervisors completed all three elements of the annual process – objective setting, half year and full year reviews. The system was developed at the time as one not linked to promotion and there is currently no policy around how identified underperformance is managed. Members were informed that there is an ongoing review of policy around the PALF process which is looking at the range of issues that arise.

In contrast, the PMDS system for Garda Staff was described as a well settled process used across the Civil Service. Issues had arisen however in its usage within the Garda Síochána relating practically to the ability of the relevant computer system to work within the Garda ICT environment. A second issue concerned the application of the system in instances where Garda staff reported to Garda Members and vice versa. Members were advised that these are issues that require and are receiving further attention in 2023.

13. Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill - GS transition arrangements

Members sought the Commissioner's views on the degree of change and associated work to be completed to give effect to the legislative changes contemplated in the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill. The Commissioner referenced the position of Garda staff and the potential for differential sets of terms and conditions – as yet undefined - for those employed pre and post January 2024. This was contributing to some apprehension among current Garda staff but it was also felt that this could dis-incentivise future candidates from applying for Garda staff position. The key role played by Garda staff in the functioning of the organisation was emphasised.

In terms of preparation for the establishment of the Garda Board, Members were advised that a readiness assessment is currently being done within the Garda Síochána to identify the various work streams to be undertaken and this is likely to be completed in May. Given the underlying work to be undertaken, including in relation to the Board Members and support staff, the view was expressed by the Garda

representatives that an incremental approach to the enactment of some of the legislative provisions might be prudent.

There was some discussion regarding the delineation of roles within the legislation. The Commissioner referenced correspondence he had sent to the Department around matters of accountability within the legislation. The Chairperson informed the Garda representatives of his view, expressed to the Minister earlier in the week, that opportunities for the Garda Commissioner and the Chairs of the PCSA and Garda Board to meet with the Minister quarterly in the first year of the legislation being enacted would be important in working through the implementation of the various provisions.

No.	Action Point	By date	By whom
A_119_13	Commissioner to share a copy of correspondence sent to the Department of Justice concerning matters of accountability within the Bill.	ASAP	Garda Síochána

14. Policing Performance

Members engaged with the Commissioner in relation to the approach taken by the Garda Síochána to the assessment and reporting of policing performance. Members discussed information provided regarding the benefits and challenges of the relatively recent move to quarterly reporting on Policing Plan performance and the challenges presented by a lack of resourcing in the Strategic Transformation Office.

Notwithstanding these challenges Member reaffirmed the requirement for the provision of timely, accurate information to inform and facilitate the Authority in its performance of its statutory function to oversee policing performance. Members reiterated the view that the Authority is satisfied to receive the reporting complied for the Garda Síochána Senior Leadership Team that inform its assessment and management of performance rather than receive reporting that is specifically created for the Authority. The importance of timely information – even if it is operational rather than finalised data – was emphasised.

In terms of the approach taken to reporting on performance in 2022, Members expressed the view that the revision of targets mid-year had perhaps in hindsight allowed for a presentation of performance that did not reveal the real challenges with resourcing that has been experienced in the organisation and that in future a preferred approach would be to leave targets unrevised but clearly identify the impact of resourcing challenges on the pace and achievement of commitments in the Policing Plan. Members expressed the view that the non-achievement of targets in any year is not synonymous with a lack of focus or work or an indictment of the organisation or person responsible for that area. However, separating out resourcing challenges from the assessment of performance against individual targets risks presenting an incomplete picture as to the impact of those challenges on the ability of the organisation to provide and improve the policing service provided.

15. Quality of Service to Victims of Crime

Members engaged with the Commissioner on a number of matters relating to the policing service to victims. A key focus was on the manner and the degree to which the data available to the Garda Síochána through the CSO, Garda Public Attitudes Survey and recent work completed in relation to understanding the victim offender relationship feeds into the continuing revision and development of policing policy and

practice. The Commissioner advised that this is happening and that responsibility for this work lies with the Assistant Commissioner Organised and Serious Crime. He outlined work ongoing to include additional questions in the public attitudes survey that will give greater understanding as to what elements of service contribute to victim satisfaction and dissatisfaction. The survey outcomes will be capable of disaggregation to divisional level and the Commissioner clarified that while responsibility for subsequent amendments to policy rests centrally, regional Assistant Commissioners and Divisional Chief Superintendents have responsibility for responding to the information provided regarding victim satisfaction in their divisions and regions. Members were advised that work is also ongoing with the Garda Victims Services offices and Divisional Protective Services Bureaux to elicit feedback from them as to how the service to victims can be improved. Work to develop an app to facilitate victims of crime in sending and receiving information regarding their incident from PULSE is also being developed.

Members sought the Commissioner's views regarding the Garda Síochána Outcomes Project to expand the information available to the organisation on detected and non-detected crime, specifically in terms of how the information is being used to assist crime prevention and improve the service to victims. The Commissioner advised that the information is very useful in identifying the prevalence of certain categories of reasons as to why a crime remains undetected, for example victim withdrawal from the process or the alleged perpetrator having left the jurisdiction. This allows for an organisational response. Members indicated that they look forward to receiving a presentation on the results from the outcomes project at an early juncture.

16. Policy on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Members sought the Commissioner's views as to the potential impact of the enactment in February 2023 of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Act 2022 on the work of the Garda Síochána in relation to the safeguarding vulnerable adults. The Commissioner advised that the organisation is currently examining the range of criminal offences that emerge from the legislation. He referenced the considerable work currently undertaken with older and vulnerable adults, much of which has continued beyond the pandemic. Members sought clarity as to where in the Garda Síochána responsibility for the development of policy, practice and training rests in relation to safeguarding and vulnerable adults and it was clarified that this rests with the Assistant Commissioner for Serious Crime and in particular with the National Protective Service Bureau.

Other Business

There was a brief discussion regarding the potential impact on policing of the end of the ban on evictions and the role of the Garda Síochána. The Garda Commissioner informed Members that guidance had issued to all Garda Members clarifying the role of the Garda Síochána in this regard, to maintain the peace and public order. The Commissioner referenced recent correspondence to the Secretary General of the Department of Justice which he had shared with the Authority regarding the risk that families who are homeless may be encouraged to attend at Garda stations. He emphasised that the risks associated with the operational environment of a Garda station make it a wholly unsuitable and unsafe environment for families and Members agreed with his concerns

There was a brief discussion regarding recent protests at the Airport and the work of serious case review in the context of the 'Kerry Babies' case.