

## **Introduction**

The Policing Authority is an independent statutory body, established on 1 January 2016 under the Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015. It is responsible for overseeing the performance by the Garda Síochána of its functions relating to policing services. The Policing Authority has a wide range of statutory functions including the promotion of public awareness of policing matters and supporting the continuous improvement of policing in Ireland. Further information about the membership of the Authority and its remit are available [here](#).

## **Statutory requirement to prepare a Strategy Statement**

Under legislation, the Authority is required to prepare a strategy statement every three years - the first to be prepared as soon as practicable after the establishment of the Authority. The Act specifies that this should:

- include the key objectives, outputs and related strategies of the Authority, including the use of its resources; and
- have regard to the need to ensure the most beneficial and efficient use of the resources of the Authority.

The legislation also allows for the Authority to:

- publish a draft of the strategy statement and allow persons 30 days to make representations in writing to the Authority with regard to it, and
- having considered and made modifications to take account of representations where appropriate, submit the strategy statement to the Minister who is required to lay it before each House of the Oireachtas.

## **Preparation of the Policing Authority's first Strategy Statement**

The Authority has carried out a planning process which considered a range of factors relating to its purpose and functions. It considered the environment in which it operates, its statutory remit and its stakeholders, in particular the citizen. Based on this, the Authority has drafted a strategy statement to guide its work for the next three years and which sets out:

- its objectives for the period 2016 to 2018;
- how it plans to achieve those objectives; and
- how success in achieving its objectives will be measured.

## **Invitation to make representations**

In pursuing our strategic objectives we are committed to serving the interests of citizens and in this context have prepared this strategy in a way that is mindful of the interests of the public and the citizen.

In this context, we are now offering the opportunity to individual citizens and interested organisations to contribute their views on the Strategy Statement. This offers you an opportunity to contribute your views about the content of the draft and to highlight issues that you consider should be prioritised by the Authority as it establishes its independent role.

A link to the draft Strategy Statement is available [here](#).

### **Who should contribute?**

We would like to hear from a diversity of people - individuals, groups and organisations who are interested in and concerned about policing services including:

- Members of the public;
- Non-governmental organisations concerned with criminal justice, victims, human rights and related matters;
- Trade unions, staff representative associations and other business, professional and social organisations; and
- Public bodies such as Government Departments, local authorities, education bodies, Health Service Executive etc.

### **How to make a written submission.**

Representations should be received no later than 3 July 2016.

Please forward your response to [info@policingauthority.ie](mailto:info@policingauthority.ie). Alternatively submissions may be forwarded by post to:

The Policing Authority  
90 North King Street  
Dublin 7  
D07 N7CV

Please note that the submissions received may be published at a later stage in this process. Submissions from private individuals will have the names and contact details redacted in advance of publication. If you believe that your submission, or part of it, should not be published (e.g. because it contains personal or confidential information) please highlight this. Information received will also be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.