



Mr. Bob Collins
Chairperson
The Policing Authority
90 King Street North
D07 N7CV

By email

29 November 2023

Dear Bob,

I am writing to you following the shocking riots in Dublin city centre last Thursday to request the assistance of the Policing Authority.

My continual priority is to ensure that An Garda Síochána has every support necessary to deal as effectively as possible with serious public order incidents, in order to ensure the safety of the public and Gardaí, and to safeguard property.

I have made clear to the Garda Commissioner that he has the full support of Government to source any further equipment or structural changes and I think it is important that he proceed quickly with any measures he might deem necessary in that regard.

I am aware of the Authority's longstanding commitment to this work, demonstrated in your commissioning the Garda Inspectorate to conduct an inspection and report on Public Order Policing in 2019. I very much welcome the Authority's ongoing engagement with the Commissioner in relation to the implementation of the Inspectorate's recommendations.

In the context of that work, I would appreciate if you could, having regard to the changed environment post-Covid, along with the growth of social media, advise me as to what else might enhance policing performance and support the Gardaí in the exercise of their lawful powers in situations such as arose last Thursday. In particular, the Authority might look again at the steps already taken by the Garda Síochána to implement the Garda Inspectorate report including questions



as to whether additional equipment, ICT, vehicles or training are needed, and if any changes to policies, procedures, or indeed the law are required.

Given its previous involvement, I expect that the Inspectorate will be in a position to assist you in progressing this work.

I am, as always, grateful for your dedication and commitment and very much appreciate the Authority's assistance with this matter and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards,

Helen McEntee TD
Minister for Justice