



## **Minutes of Code of Ethics Committee**

**Date: 16 February 2016**

**Venue: 90 North King Street, Dublin7**

### **Attendance**

**Authority:** Pat Costello (Chair), Judith Gillespie, Vicky Conway, Bob Collins

**Secretary:** Darragh Stapleton

**Executive:** Helen Hall; Catherine Pierse

No conflicts of interest were declared in relation to any of the matters for discussion.

### **The following matters were considered and discussed as set out in the agenda:**

- 1.1 Terms of Reference
- 1.2 Legislation – Section 17
- 1.3 Consultation Process
- 1.4 High Level issues
  - Principles/ Rules
  - Speaking Up
  - Link to Disciplinary Regulations
- 1.5 Background Papers
- 1.6 Identify Further Research
- 1.7 AOB

## **2. Actions and matters of Note**

- 2.1 The Committee discussed the process for preparing the Code of Ethics and agreed that it would seek to consult as broadly as possible, although having regard to the statutory time limit of 12 months set down in Section 17 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 (“the Act”). It was proposed that views should be sought in advance of commencing the draft of the Code as well as when the Code was at a draft stage. It was proposed that the Authority

would seek the views of the public and Garda members as well as the stakeholders set out in Section 17(2) of the Act.

- 2.2 The Committee expressed the view that the Code should seek to put in place a set of expectations in relation to at all levels of the organisation including Garda management. In addition, the Code should serve to inform the public regarding what they can legitimately expect from their police force.
- 2.3 The Committee proposed that the Code should apply not only to Garda members but also to Garda Reserve members and to civilian staff.
- 2.4 The Committee proposed that the final version of the Code would be written so as to include, as its main section, the outline of ethical principles and requirements together with an explanatory section that would elaborate on and contextualise them
- 2.5 It was proposed that the tone of the Code should be positive and should place emphasis on policing being an honourable profession.
- 2.6 The Executive were asked to conduct certain further research, to prepare a draft timetable and to consider the various possibilities for resourcing the work of the Committee.
- 2.7 It was agreed that the next meeting would be on the morning of 7 March at 10 a.m.