

Policing Authority publishes draft Code of Ethics for the Garda Síochána for public comment

The Policing Authority has published its draft Code of Ethics for the Garda Síochána and is now calling for submissions on the draft code.

The Authority invited preliminary views on the Code of Ethics in April of this year. Following a period of research and consideration of the submissions received, the Authority has developed an initial draft Code which is now available on our <u>website</u>.

This call for preliminary views and comments is an important opportunity for interested members of the public, employees of the Garda Síochána, civil society organisations and relevant statutory bodies to offer their views on the draft Code. Responses to this consultation should be received no later than close of business on **Friday 23 September** 2016. After this date the Authority will, giving due consideration to all submissions received, proceed to finalise the Code of Ethics before the statutory deadline of 31 December 2016.

In addition, the Authority will be holding a consultation event on **Thursday 8 September 2016** at Chartered Accountants House, 47-49 Pearse St, Dublin 2. The morning session from 10.00-12.30 will cover the Garda Code of Ethics. The event will be designed to elicit as much feedback as possible from attendees and members of the public can register to attend the event using the <u>link</u> available on our website.

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Note to Editors:

The Policing Authority is an independent agency established to oversee the performance of the Garda Síochána in relation to policing services in Ireland. The Authority was established by the enactment of the Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 which amends the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

Section 17 of the Garda Síochana Act requires the Authority to establish a Code of Ethics for the Garda Síochána and provides that the Code shall include standards of conduct and practice for Garda members and provisions to encourage and facilitate the reporting of wrongdoing in the Garda Síochána. The legislation requires that this be done by 31 December 2016.

Section 17 further provides that in preparing this Code the Authority must have regard to certain matters including the standards in other EU states, the relevant recommendations of the Council of Europe and the policing principles. The policing principles state that policing services are to be provided:

- (i). independently and impartially,
- (ii). in a manner that respects human rights, and
- (iii). in a manner that supports the proper and effective administration of justice.

Further information about the Authority is available at www.policingauthority.ie