



## Budget should put more boots on the ground and more tyres on the tarmac

*Statement GRA President, Jim Mulligan*

**13.10.2020**

The Garda Representative Association has said the increased allocation of funding for An Garda Síochána will put more boots on the ground and more tyres on the tarmac.

GRA President Jim Mulligan said funding to increase the Garda fleet and communications technology would be particularly welcome and should improve the safety of members and the effectiveness of policing.

Mr Mulligan said: “The purchase of 70 new vehicles shows a lesson has been learned about the value of mobility for gardaí.

“The hiring of over 200 cars for policing the pandemic back in March showed that with better resources, our members can be more responsive and provide even more community support.

“Mobility devices have been of huge benefit to roads policing during the pandemic, so the €7 million allocated for these will be of benefit once they are provided.

“They reduce time spent in the station on paperwork and improve operational coordination, so they will be valuable long after the pandemic is gone. These measures will help put more boots on the ground and more tyres on the tarmac, which should improve the safety of members and the public.”

The GRA President also welcomed the funding for recruitment and tackling domestic violence.

“As the crime figures show, domestic violence has increased during the pandemic so the additional funding to combat domestic abuse and sexual violence is both necessary and welcome.”

“There has been a long-standing commitment to increase the size of the Garda organisation to 21,000 by the centenary of An Garda Síochána, in 2022. We welcome the Minister’s commitment to implementing the plan as evidenced by the continued recruitment programme,” Mr Mulligan said.