



## STATEMENT GRA PRESIDENT FRANK THORNTON

### GRA President urges early vaccination for gardaí

06.01.2020

GRA President Frank Thornton has called for gardaí to be among the high priority groups for Covid-19 vaccination.

Mr Thornton said: “The GRA is receiving numerous reports of gardaí who have contracted the virus or are self-isolating in the past week, which shows the danger of infection for gardaí as frontline workers in the battle against Covid-19 must be recognised by policymakers.

Gardaí have been to the fore in the national effort to suppress the virus from the onset of the outbreak and the level of infections and self-isolation is sky-rocketing.

“This shows the increased danger of exposure faced by our members and their families. It also points to the risk of resources being stretched at a time when the need for gardaí to police the pandemic has increased.

“With plans to vaccinate up to 135,000 people by the end of February, and a month-long lag in full efficacy, it is imperative that frontline gardaí are given the protection of the vaccine as soon as possible.

“Early vaccination will reduce the numbers of gardaí forced to isolate and ensure they remain available to protect communities around the country. It will also fulfil the employer duty of care to our members as working people.”