



Garda Representative Association

Floor 5, Phibsboro Tower, Dublin 7 Tel: (01) 830 3533   @gardarep  mail@gra.ie

LETTERKENNY SHOOTING INCIDENT FEBRUARY 22, 2020:

STATEMENT BY GARDA BRENDAN O'CONNOR, VICE PRESIDENT

OF THE GARDA REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATION (& DONEGAL DIV. REP)

“The terrifying evidence given in court surrounding the circumstances that unfolded on February 22, 2020, have given the public an insight into the daily dangers that Gardai face on an ongoing basis.

“This incident unfolded with no warning in a small rural town and there is no doubt that the courage and bravery displayed by Gardai on the night brought the incident to an end without injury to any person.

“The Gardai on the night were fired upon with a high powered hunting rifle and came within inches of losing their lives. Their bravery and selfless acts on that night put the safety of the public ahead of their own, and for that we will forever be grateful.

The people of Donegal and the country are very fortunate to have officers of this calibre protecting them on a daily basis and our colleagues within the organisation take comfort in knowing that they can depend on people like this at their time of greatest need.

“Members of the Garda Representative Association in Donegal and other divisions have consistently expressed concerns about the availability of armed back up and this incident has demonstrated how legitimate and well-founded those concerns are.

“These members who faced the very real prospect of not coming home from work to their families that night have asked that the GRA seek a comprehensive review to explore what steps can be introduced in order to improve how such incidents are responded to in order to improve the safety of members, better protect communities and provide better post incident support to our members.”

Any queries, contact Des Gibson, GRA Director of Media Relations 0872807571 or at desgibson99@gmail.com