



Statement Re: Budget Announcement Of 800 Additional Gardai in 2022

Brendan O'Connor, Vice President, The Garda Representative Association

"The Garda Representative association will always welcome the allocation of funding for the recruitment of new members.

"While we welcome the commitment to recruit 800 gardai, it must be kept in mind that this figure will only lead to an actual increase in frontline members if the level of recruitment exceeds that of retirements and resignations.

"We will need to see the proposed timeframe and the commitment actually delivered before it's contribution to frontline policing can be fully assessed.

"It is important also to acknowledge the length of time between a member being recruited and them becoming a fully qualified and autonomous member of An Garda Síochána.

"Furthermore, there are a large number of gardai involved in the competition for promotion and these positions will need to be filled in addition to any promised new recruits.

"We also need reassurance that continuous training and professional development for existing staff is not a casualty as resources are concentrated on new entrants."