



Garda Representative Association

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Uniform, Equipment and IT Sub-Committee

Uniform

A pilot scheme trialling a new uniform commenced in June of 2018 with members from three stations taking part: Henry St (Limerick), Tallaght and Bunclody. The subcommittee distributed a questionnaire to all participants of this pilot and is currently examining the results with a view to forming an accurate picture of the opinions of the members directly involved.

The GRA has also engaged a uniform and textile design expert to assist the sub-committee in three separate areas. Firstly, to conduct an evaluation of the current uniform worn by gardai and then to carry out an examination of the two garments being piloted in the abovementioned stations; and finally to produce an overview of the type of garments available in the marketplace that would be suitable to our needs.

Our recommendations will feed into the Uniform Working Group which convenes regularly – and on which the GRA has two nominees along with other staff associations, Garda Procurement, Health & Safety Section. The working group will report to the Commissioner, who supports the introduction of a new, modern uniform that creates a professional image for gardai. The Commissioner has set no restrictions other than that the uniform must be fit for purpose and look good. We are hopeful of positive developments in 2019.

Hijab and Turban

The subcommittee welcomes the introduction by the Garda Commissioner of the hijab and turban as part of the Garda uniform in order to encourage candidates from minority communities.

Beards

A GRA Conference motion 2017 unanimously adopted: “That Conference seeks that the current Garda Code regulations are amended to allow the wearing of a beard on duty”. This would be seen as serving members as a progressive step by the Commissioner. The subcommittee is optimistic that the Commissioner will allow the wearing of appropriate beards by gardai in line with other police forces in Western Europe.

Body-worn cameras

Body-worn cameras are an essential police tool for the protection of our frontline members. We await the introduction of legislation to allow the wearing of body-worn cameras which will then be procured and issued to members after funding is allocated.

Transport

The subcommittee has a nominee on the Transport Working Group which deals with fleet management.

Information Technology

The committee as a whole is also part of the working group set up for ICT Project in An Garda Síochána and make regular submissions to this group in areas such as RDMS, DVPLR and the current strategy recently proposed by management and adopted by the Garda Representative Association.

Research and requirements outstanding

- Tasers



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- Sat Navs for Garda vehicles
- Hold-all bags for carrying equipment while in garda vehicles