

Dear CEC,

As you are aware, the GRA Officer Board met with the Minister Simon Harris at The Department of Justice earlier today in what can only be described as a productive and engaging meeting.

The following issues were discussed at length:

- **Rosters:** The Minister sought clarity on the main issues regarding the ongoing Rosters issues and heard our disappointment at the recent actions taken by the Commissioner. It is fair to acknowledge that the Minister now has a clearer understanding of the complexities of recent negotiations and developments
- **Recruitment & Retention:** The Minister accepted there are certain 'pinch points' within the recruitment process but has been assured by the Commissioner that the promised target of 1,000 new recruits for 2023 will be achieved
- **Suspensions:** The Minister heard our serious concerns regarding the operation of the suspension policy and process.
- **Pensions:** The Minister committed to engaging with DPER regarding issues raised and suggested then convening a dedicated meeting to progress this issue.



The Board then discussed the formation of a Specialist Task Force to examine and resolve issues that have led to the increased incidence and violent nature of assaults on our members. The GRA position communicated is that we require consultation to ensure the GRA has a presence on the taskforce and agree the Terms of Reference of such a unit. While he did not rule out the idea of such a task force, we sought prompt engagement to avoid delays in making our members' workplace safer. The Minister committed to further engagement to reach a 'Shared Understanding' of the main issues affecting policing welfare and safety before any decision is made.

Finally, the Minister took the Board through his statement earlier today where he expressed his intention to bring forward legislation to increase the maximum sentencing for attacks/assaults on Gardaí and other frontline workers. We expressed our view that there should also be a 'minimum' sentence included in any such legislation. The Minister said he would welcome a Submission from the GRA on the matter before our ADC in April, and confirmed his attendance. The Minister also pledged continued engagement with the Association in the months ahead.

We will send further updates as soon as they happen.

Regards,

Philip McAnenly, Interim General Secretary