



Statement

Jim Mulligan, President Garda Representative Association

GRA calls for D'Arcy to apologise for blaming frontline gardaí over Cavan/Monaghan policing

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GRA president Jim Mulligan has called for an apology from Minister of State Michael D'Arcy for his blaming frontline gardaí over the response to threats to Quinn Industrial Holdings executives.

Mr Mulligan hit out at Minister D'Arcy's comments on RTE's *The Week in Politics* saying he was attempting to shift blame for policing the Cavan/Monaghan border from everyone at the top.

"Mr D'Arcy absolves the people who allocate funding and determine resources of any blame, while the people who risk their lives on the ground with insufficient resources are, according to the Minister, at fault.

"These comments are not just chronically ill-informed; they are shockingly elitist. It's like blaming bank clerks for the bank crash," Mr Mulligan said.

"The GRA has repeatedly raised the issue of under-resourcing on the border. The recent and welcome announcement of 45 new personnel and establishment of a new Armed Support Unit in Cavan Town proves our point.

"Indeed, the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner have already distanced themselves from Minister D'Arcy's comments, which shows just how inappropriate they were.

"Minister D'Arcy's comments could be dismissed as just nonsense but for the fact that it is disheartening for members to hear such baseless criticism – especially when they are trying to police such a volatile and violent situation.

"Minister D'Arcy must withdraw his comments and apologise immediately," Mr Mulligan added.