



Statement

Jim Mulligan, President Garda Representative Association

Garda Labour Court agreement cannot be unpicked

10.05.19

The suggestion that gardai could no longer receive pre-tour briefings with a consequent loss of pay would involve unpicking a recommendation by the Labour Court agreed by Government, Garda Representative Association President Jim Mulligan has said.

Mr Mulligan also pointed out that the decision to reintroduce pre-tour briefings was pursuant to the repeated recommendation of the Garda Inspectorate.

Mr Mulligan said: “Gardai have every right to receive, and be paid for, pre-tour briefings. The pitfalls of not having these briefings have been written about extensively by the Garda Inspectorate.

“The 15-minute period allows gardai coming on duty to be updated on criminal activity and other information from the previous shift. It also facilitates intelligence-sharing and working in coordination across the district and the division.

“The Garda Inspectorate and the Commission on the Future of Policing (CoFPI) both regard pre-tour briefings as an important element of good policing practice.

“Pre-tour briefings, incorrectly referred to as ‘parading time’, existed previously in An Garda Síochána. It was discontinued in 1988 and it is accepted by Government and management that its abolition impacted negatively supervision and service cohesion.

“The reintroduction of pre-tour briefing formed a central part of the 2016 Labour Court recommendation which was accepted by Government. Our members signed up to the deal in good faith and would vehemently oppose any attempt to unpick the agreement.

“The GRA is fully committed to constructive engagement on the implementation of the CoFPI recommendations.

“However, any attempt to seek to dilute the terms of the Garda Labour Court recommendation would augur badly for industrial relations, particularly as we move towards engagement on the implementation of the CoFPI recommendations on policing reform.

“If the public and the Government want to see these reforms implemented, then proper funding and resourcing will be required.”

ENDS