



GRA STATEMENT

RANDOM DRUG TESTING OF MEMBERS

02.06.2021

“The Garda Representative Association is 100% committed to a zero-tolerance policy on drug-taking by any members of the Force.

“We are at the front line and have seen first-hand the devastation and damage that drugs and the associated criminality inflict on communities.

“As such, we do not oppose random drug testing of our members but we must ensure that any such policy would be carried on in a fair, measured, balanced and appropriate manner without infringing on members’ individual rights.

“Our main concern is with the manner in which this issue has come to light. There has been no finalised document seen or agreed with the GRA regarding Random Testing of An Garda Síochána, nor has the Association been aware that a Policy Document was at such an advanced stage.

“In fact, the GRA were not even informed that yesterday’s press conference launching these policies was scheduled which, we believe, is disrespectful to frontline gardai and our representation.

“As stated, the GRA is not against drug testing with genuine cause and is willing to work with random testing of its membership up to a fair and balanced level.

“But this was never about testing every member of the Force and Garda staff as a matter of course and we would have severe concerns regarding the privacy, confidentiality and the welfare and wellbeing of all members of An Garda Síochána.

“We are seeking consultation with Garda management as a matter of urgency before commenting any further.”

Frank Thornton, GRA President

Any further enquiries: Des Gibson, GPM, 0872807571