



REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF POLICING 18/09/18

The Garda Representative Association warmly welcomes many of the findings of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland - particularly as they relate to both the physical and mental supports for our members and also with regard to accountability, governance and training matters. The Commission's Report will now be presented to the Association's Central Executive Committee for further analysis and discussion next week.

The GRA submitted a detailed 70-page submission last year to the Commission on matters of particular relevance to our membership. Our submission covered a broad range of issues including recruitment, training, supervision gaps, diversity, culture and ethos, systems failures, transparency, governance and physical and mental well being supports for our members - to name but some. The GRA now applauds the Commission's positive responses to these and other submissions made by this Association.

One area of critical concern to Frontline gardaí is the lack of mental and physical supports available to them. A Well Being Report this year commissioned by the GRA, stated that up to a third of our members were the "walking wounded." A solutions pathway has now been identified in this Report where it is recommended that dedicated funding be made available to support our members Well Being.

Additional physical supports are also essential for our membership. As incidents last week in Dublin showed, the issue of independent verifiable evidence is critical when gardaí interact with the public in confrontational circumstances. In this regard, the GRA has been calling for Body Worn Cameras to protect our Members for some time on the basis that they are the true record of any incident. In this regard, we note that the Report states that these cameras should now be rolled out to gardaí.

The Association is also very encouraged to note that the Commission has recommended making improvements with the recommendation of mandatory training and CPD for our Frontline – something they note has been all but absent in recent years.

The GRA wishes to make clear however that the Commission's Report will gather dust on a shelf if the recommended changes are not adequately funded and resourced. In the past, various Reports have made similar findings and yet adequate financial backing was not provided to implement many of these recommendations. In this regard we welcome the key emphasis on how those changes will be implemented. Funding to the organisation still however remains key.

This Association regards the Commission's Report as a blueprint for policing in Ireland in to the future. While the implementation of the Report is not without its challenges, we look forward to working with government, the Garda Commissioner and Garda management to ensure that the key findings and recommendations of the Report's recommendations may be implemented.