

Donegal Joint Policing Committee submission to the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland

Background

The Donegal Joint Policing Committee was established in 2014. Membership of the JPC is made up as follows:-

- 15 Local Authority Members.
- Cathaoirleach as an Ex-Officio Member.
- Chief Executive Officer as an Ex Officio Member and his nominee.
- 5 Members of the Oireachtas.
- 2 Garda Officers
- 7 Persons from the Community & Voluntary Sector.

The JPC meet a minimum four times per year. Sub Groups have been established from the membership of the Committee to address specific issues as follows:-

- Drugs Sub Group
- Rural Isolation and Community Policing
- Public Order and Anti Social Behaviour
- Cross Border Crime
- Road Safety

At their most recent meeting on 22nd January, members agreed to make a submission to the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland which is appended below.

Donegal Joint Policing Committee Submission to the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland

- That Gardaí should be encouraged to reside in the area/Districts that they work in, by means of an extra benefit in pay or extra days holidays.
- That a means ie dedicated Garda Radio programme in each Garda Division should go out each week on local radio to inform elderly people on crime trends and to give advise on crime prevention/safety.
- Rural citizens must feel as valued by Gardai as urban dwellers. Gardai must ensure they have a presence and participate in the lives of rural communities to ensure that this happens.
- Youth Services in Donegal have a good relationship with the Gardai. Important to ensure that the Gardai continue to build up a good relationship with young people through Community Policing and arranging/attending events for young people to allow them to meet the Gardai in a non crime related situation.
- Request the Gardai to increase the numbers of Gardai assigned to rural areas to ensure that there is an adequate presence – currently Gardai are assigned to the larger towns with only a couple of Gardai left to cover large rural areas.

- Regarding the allocation of personnel, what allocation model is utilised with regards to the allocation of personnel to border divisions, particularly with regards to Donegal, which is in close proximity to 2 large urban areas in Northern Ireland.
- What allocation model is used regarding the allocation of probationer Gardaí to Divisions.