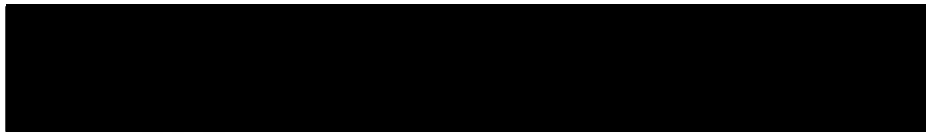


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Commission on the Future of
Policing in Ireland



Friday, 27 October 2017

Ms. Kathleen O'Toole
Chairperson
Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland
C/O Department of Justice
51, St Stephen's Green,
Dublin D02 HK52

Dear Ms. O'Toole

I am interested in the work of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland.

I believe that the job that any Commissioner of An Garda Síochána has been expected to do is simply impossible. The numbers and width of responsibilities are too great.

Having thought about the structure, I believe that the police force should be divided in four:

- One force would be responsible for national security and organised crime and report to the Taoiseach.
- The second force would be responsible for all criminal investigations leading to possible jail sentences and report to the Minister for Justice
- The third force would be responsible for all motor vehicle enforcement and be part of a Motor Vehicles Agency incorporating the Road Safety Authority and similar transport related bodies. He or she would report to the Chief Executive of the Motor Vehicles Agency who, in turn, would report to the Minister for Transport. (Many of the difficulties in the force have concerned motor vehicle issues which, while important, are much less important than National Security and organised crime).
- Finally, a fourth force would be responsible for all civil enforcement where custodial sentences are not normally applied, including regulatory enforcement and report also to the Minister for Justice.

Some of the activities, such as property related services, should be transferred from the Department of Justice to other Departments such as the Housing and Local Government Ministries so that the Department could be more focussed on justice and policing issues such as the Courts, the prison service, law reform and, of course, policing.

Each force would have its own identity and be headed by a Commissioner. Each force would have an administrative capability including accounting expertise. It was ridiculous that the Commissioner had to report to, and be questioned by, politicians on activities at the Garda Training College in Templemore. It is essential that the Commissioners not spend a high proportion of their time on administrative activities.

The Garda College in Templemore could supply recruits and training to each of the forces. The College should be able to award degrees and be a recognised college of one of the Universities. The head of the College should be responsible for its budget and be accountable.

I believe that a fundamental reform of the type I have outlined above is needed. It is not simply a question of appointing a new commissioner.

Yours sincerely

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