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| Type: | Web |
| Title of Submission: | Garda Siochana Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) |
| Comments: | <p>By this point, one can argue that GSOC is essentially what is sometimes called a Provost - a law enforcement agency intended to oversee other security agencies. Military Police are the usual example of Provosts.</p> <p>Thus, it is important to ensure that GSOC is able to "police the police".</p> <p>GSOC must be able to adequately deal with whatever challenges its members might reasonably expect to face in the course of their duties. At the very least, GSOC members would likely need some training in securing and backing up documents and evidence for example.</p> <p>Thee also needs to be a mechanism to ensure that GSOC is itself discharging its duties correctly. A court case by the Police Ombudsman of Northern Ireland (PONI) collapsed in December 2017 because of an error in the investigation.</p> <p>I would suggest that the Policing Authority oversee GSOC as it oversees an Garda Siochana, though the Policing Authority should not be able to interfere with GSOC's day to day operations.</p> <p>The Policing Authority should be responsible for overseeing the strategic functioning of Irish policing as an organic whole.</p> |