

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like the Commission to consider that a separate independent body should oversee and make promotional appointments at all levels of An Garda Síochána and not just from Superintendent up. This is to ensure no individual favouritism or nepotism occurs at the first opportunity of promotion. I would also like the Commission to consider that all new Gardai spend designated time in all aspects of policing and not left to literally walk the beat for years on end without having work experience of other sections of policing.

I would like the Commission to set up an independent anti-corruption and procedures unit with An Garda Síochána. The unit is given extensive powers of investigation and employment authority over all ranks. This unit should be recruited with outside recruits and internal recruits of only the highest calibre of professionalism and honesty. This is to ensure all Gardai have a body with the corporate to be answerable to with proper powers of discipline and sanction and to see that proper policing procedures and best practices are carried out at all times.

I would request that the Commission put police training on a statutory footing and that continuous professional development be deployed to all ranks and assessed on a regular basis. This is to ensure that any future cutbacks or rationalisation never again effects necessary police training which has showed to be detrimental to the professionalism and image of the force.

Lastly, I would like the Commission to effect a name change to An Garda Síochána as its corporate image and more importantly, its public image and confidence have been quite badly damaged in light of all the current difficulties the force now faces. May I suggest An Seirbhís Políní Náisiúnta na hÉireann? The term Civic Guard should be assigned to history in my opinion and in doing so give young Gardaí and new recruits a new sense of purpose, image and pride in a new beginning for our custodians of public law and order.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission and may I wish the Commission well in its valuable work.

Kind regards,

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Private Citizen.