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Type:	Web
Title of Submission:	Don't reinvent the wheel
Comments:	<p>I have listened with dismay recently as commentators have suggested with glee that a "Kerry Babies" type scandal could reoccur within AGS. On foot of this scandal and the Morris report its suggested that Human Rights must now become the central focus of policing in Ireland.</p> <p>████████████████████ in AGS. Human Rights are already central to policing in this country and for it to be suggested otherwise is an insult. So where would I like to see the future of policing? Firstly, will this commission or any of the other well resourced oversight bodies for AGS actually establish how many Gardai are actually required to police the country? The recruitment embargo caused huge damage and the numbers coming out of the Garda college are simply not enough.</p> <p>Secondly, training. I have not received first aid training since I left the Garda college. I have attended the scenes of serious assaults, stabbings and other horrors, what turned out to be fatal RTCs and have been almost incapable of providing first aid. Despite policing a district with a serious problem regarding stolen vehicles nobody has advanced driver training. Very few have stinger training.</p> <p>Lastly, equipment. Why are we wearing a stab vest that's out of date? Why is our uniform so unsuitable and why is it taking so long to get a new one? When the NYPD transformed in the 1990s it achieved partial success by getting buy in from the officers and getting feedback on a new uniform. Simple but effective. Why does "modernisation" mean the rollout of a "cad" system that's close to 40 years old and completely unsuited to modern policing but we are not having a conversation about arming our officers with tazers? Will the future of policing in this country see more air support outside the capital, or more dog units? Will we have proper patrol cars? Will we have access to afis or continue to take fingerprints the same way we did 100 years ago?</p> <p>Policing is expensive, policing on the cheap is disastrously costly.</p>