



IFA Submission to the Commission on the Future of Policing

MAY 2018



IRISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF POLICING MAY 2018

The following document is sent to the Commission on the Future of Policing, IFA has examined the priorities and have put forward recommendations for consideration.

Thefts of valuables from rural homes and of livestock and machinery from farms continues to be a real concern to the farming and rural communities.

IFA is working through its 946 branch and county network with An Garda Síochána on a number of initiatives such as Crimestoppers, Community Text Alerts and Theftstop.

The following areas highlighted by IFA represents a real concern to our membership.

- **Confronting Crime**
- **Community Policing and Public Safety**
- **Roads Policing**
- **Organisational Development and Capacity Improvement**

Confronting Crime

Cross Border Crime

There continues to be an increase of thefts as many studies have shown of livestock, machinery, tools and equipment in the first quarter of 2017 as published by NFU Mutual for Northern Ireland, corresponding Agri Crime reports in certain areas of Ireland show an increase in the first half of 2017 also. Cross border crime continues to be a major part of this. Recovered items by An Garda Síochána in Ireland have come from the UK and Northern Ireland. Items stolen in Ireland have been intercepted on route to Northern Ireland.

IFA recommends additional support in the form of a more streamline crime reporting system, immediate sharing of intelligence and information exchange would increase the level of visibility and awareness, particularly where agricultural crime has been reported in border areas.

IFA believes that greater inter agency cross border cooperation between Dept. of Agriculture /Ministry of Agriculture, Customs/ HM Customs, An Garda Síochána and PSNI would be instrumental in tackling this type of cross border crime.



Confronting Crime

Brexit Preparedness

In the lead up to Brexit all of the following areas need to be reviewed with a view to implementing effective operational structures. Should border controls for trade and immigration be reintroduced as part of Brexit this will require additional resources (eg) an increase in manpower, vehicles, aircraft and technological equipment such as CCTV systems for vehicle and facial recognition to observe/ monitor and manage all of the border crossings by the Garda Síochána in conjunction with other agencies.

Confronting Crime

Cybercrime

As seen recently both at home and internationally of Cyber Crimes, the level of sophistication of these crimes and the devastating economic effects gives great concern to all communities. IFA believe it is important for An Garda Síochána to be fully resourced on all aspects of the risks associated with Agricultural Payment systems and specifically the increasing volume of farm business that is been carried out online.

Community Policing and Public Safety

Crime Prevention

IFA has been proactive in this area with numerous joint initiatives with An Garda Síochána such as Crimestoppers, Community Text Alerts and Theftstop. IFA believes and recommends that An Garda Síochána should engage with the rural communities more frequently to promote a greater awareness of Crime Prevention, in particular having a clear communications plan and community engagement. These would be consistent reminders to the public. A national and local communications plan would have TV, radio and newspaper advertisements with particular emphasis on rural and farm crime preventative measures, updates on current crime trends and highlighting successful preventions, convictions and prosecutions. Continued engagement with communities around meetings, events, shows etc would also be seen as



proactive. Additional Community Policing and Crime Prevention Officers will be required to have a meaningful effect.

Roads Policing

Preventing Criminal the use of Roads

The recent success of Operation Thor is proof that intense patrolling of National Primary Routes is vital in the fight against crime. The identification of road networks used by criminal elements and the ease by which they can travel from city to city in short periods must be curtailed.

IFA are recommending the greater use of Community CCTV Schemes supported by the Department of Justice in giving An Garda Síochána greater coverage of specific areas with Remote Visual Monitoring and In - station viewing will be another effective tool in combating crime. A clear national strategy around community visibility and supports available to local communities need to be developed.

Organisational Development and Capacity Improvement

Modernisation and Renewal Programme

IFA recommend that An Garda Síochána be given regular training support on the nature, structure and profile on farming, agriculture and rural life.

During existing training courses from Garda Recruit, Crime Prevention Training, Technical, Cybercrime and Senior Management courses and as part of the general and refresher training various industry leaders make presentations at the National Garda College on the structures, backgrounds and operations of their respective organisations which enhances the educational programs.

IFA could assist with support on the development of this module.



IFA