

Dear Commission members,

My name is Niall Walsh and I attended the event last night in Wood Quay. This is a very brief submission but I would like to share my thoughts.

I am the manager of the Pathways Centre. We are an outreach initiative of the CDETB Education Service to Prisons. As a post release centre for prisoners and located in the North Inner City, I have regular contact with members of the Guards.

As there are good and bad teachers, prison officers ect. so too is the case with our police force. Due to all the recent recurring scandals, I feel there is a perception of unaccountability for our police force. I feel a lack of training in the area of dealing with mental health issues affects their ability to deal with the type of clients we have attending the centre. This is an area that we could improve greatly with little training.

An area that is under resourced is the Community Guard. We have a great local Community Guard, who we know his name, he stops to talk in the street and we would have no problem contacting him if we have an issue that requires a little sensitivity or understanding.

Not every issue requires an emergency 999 call. As there have been a lot of murders in the area, it is important that our staff, students and local community feel some semblance of safety. An effective local guard goes a long way to achieve this aim.

On final point I implore the Commission to recommend an outside appointment to the position of Commissioner. To change a culture it is essential that a fresh school of thought be instigated from

the top of
any organisation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my brief thoughts. I wish
you
well on your endeavour.

Regards

Niall Walsh

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Niall Walsh
Manager,
Pathways Centre,
1A Parnell Court,
Granby Row
Dublin 1.
01 8726499
www.pathwayscentre.ie