

Shell to Sea Submission on Policing Reform – 31st January 2018

Shell to Sea has over a decade of experience of dealing with An Garda Síochána as they policed the Corrib Gas protests. The Corrib Gas protests are the single largest source of Garda complaints that GSOC have had to deal with although no Garda has ever been held to account for their law-breaking and abuse of powers.

To help in the quest on policing reform we have come up with a list of don'ts - followed by our observations on which our list of don'ts is based:

List of Don'ts

- Don't be surprised that after you promote violent Gardaí, that they use violence.
- Don't be surprised that after you promote Gardaí who have a tendency to lie, that they don't tell you the truth.
- Don't allow Gardaí claiming to be suffering from PTSD, to continue policing the people they say caused the PTSD.
- Don't waste alcohol breathalysers. If you need to bump up the figures, use them on Gardaí going to police early morning protests, use them on Gardaí going to police early morning protests.
- Don't exclude the possibility of arresting people at a protest situation – let at least one or two become martyrs. Invoke laws and charges instead of violence being your default position.
- Don't hold people under water when policing on water
- Don't accept (drink) bribes, especially on behalf of one party to a conflict that Gardaí are policing.
- Don't be passing drink from private companies to the Gardaí on the Athlone by-pass.
- Don't allow private security to set up their own road-blocks and be illegally detaining people they don't like.
- Don't use heavy equipment to "drive the f**kers into the sea"
- Don't talk about raping protestors you have just arrested.
- Don't use corporate facilities as processing and holding cells for protestors
- Don't collude between officers to copy and fix statements of events for court
- Don't lie in court.
- Don't rob bicycles off people.
- Don't have road blocks that are just for some people, depending on their political views.
- Don't collude with paramilitaries, security forces
- Don't be telling the media you're looking for fellows with balaclavas when they are right beside you.
- Don't be surprised that if you are sending signals to Gardaí that they have diplomatic immunity that they believe they can do what they want.
- Don't pull people off drill rigs at sea or protest occupations on land just to save time.
- Don't arrest people for fishing just because a company wants to lay some pipes while they are gone.
- Don't say to people "You are entitled to be a citizen but not here".
- Don't just deal with public order issues when there are other breaches of the law right in front of you.

- Don't allow undercover British police to come and monitor campaigners and then go off and sell information to private companies.
- Don't allow Gardaí to be prosecuting campaigners one week and then join private companies that the campaigners were opposing the next week.

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