

Wednesday, 18th April, 2007. 16.00hrs.

Press Release

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) announced today, Wednesday 18th April, that four senior personnel have joined the organisation on two-year secondments from An Garda Síochána. This is in line with section 74 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and has the consent of the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána, Noel Conroy.

The four carry the rank of superintendent and bring a wide range of policing experience to GSOC. The four are

- Superintendent John Shanahan, formerly Crime, Policy and Administration at Garda Headquarters
- Superintendent James Mulligan, formerly District Officer, Templemore;
- Superintendent Liam Delaney, formerly of Portlaoise station and
- Superintendent Raymond McHugh, formerly Garda Press and Public Relations Office.

They will work with GSOC investigations staff. They will report to the Commissioners through The Director of Investigations, Mr. Paul Buschini.

Mr Buschini commented

“These officers bring valuable skills and experience to GSOC. We have already drawn staff from other policing services in Australia, New Zealand, the UK as well as police ombudsman offices such as that of Mrs. Nuala O’Loan in Northern Ireland. These four

superintendents will add to the overall mix of skills as we approach the date when we become fully operational in a few weeks time”

Further information:

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Note:

- GSOC will become fully operational on May 9th, 2007.
- GSOC Headquarters will be located at 150 Upper Abbey Street, Dublin 1.
- GSOC will also have two other offices, one in Roscrea and one in Longford.
- The three Commissioners are The Hon. Mr. Justice Kevin Haugh of the High Court (Chairman of GSOC), Mr. Conor Brady (former editor of the Irish Times) and Ms. Carmel Foley (former Director of Consumer Affairs).
- The establishment of GSOC arose out of the terms of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005.
- The GSOC mission is to provide the Irish public with an independent and effective civilian oversight of policing, and deal with the public’s complaints concerning Gardaí fairly and efficiently so that everyone can have confidence in the complaints system.
- In cases involving death or serious harm to an individual as a result of Garda Operations, or while in the custody or care of An Garda Síochána, GSOC will carry out investigations.
- Any member of the public who is directly affected by, or who witnesses conduct by a Garda member that is alleged to constitute misbehaviour may make a complaint. A person may, with their consent, make a complaint on behalf of another.

A complaint can be made;

- To any member of An Garda Síochána at any Garda Station;

- To any member of An Garda Síochána at or above the rank of Chief Superintendent at a place other than a Garda station;
 - To the Garda Commissioner; or
 - Directly to an officer or member of GSOC.
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- GSOC currently has sanction for 81 staff, both administrative and investigative. GSOC investigating officers will in many cases have powers of arrest and seizure, similar to those of the Gardaí.
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- In addition to dealing with complaints, GSOC may issue a report on a practice, policy or procedure of An Garda Síochána for the purpose of preventing complaints.