

GARDA SÍOCHÁNA OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 28th July 2011

15:00 hours

GSOC forwards report on incident during Corrib gas pipeline protests to Minister for Justice and Equality

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC), on 27th July 2011, forwarded a report to the Minister for Justice and Equality under section 80(5) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. The relevant sections are quoted below.

The report concerns an Investigation by GSOC concerning alleged comments by Garda members on March 31st 2011 relating to female protestors arrested at a “Shell to Sea” demonstration at or near Aughoose, Erris, Co Mayo.

The Public Interest Investigation initiated on April 5th 2011 is not yet concluded. The Commission has received an interim progress report from the Designated Officer assigned to investigate this matter.

Certain matters that have arisen are the subject of continuing investigation. The Commission is of the view that these matters should be investigated fully and has directed the Designated Officer to continue.

The Commission is satisfied that the interim report has provided as complete a picture as possible of what happened at or near Aughoose, Erris, Co Mayo, on March 31st 2011.

In the context of considerable public anxiety surrounding this incident, the Commission has furnished the Minister with a report outlining the progress to date.

ENDS

Section 80 the Garda Síochána Act 2005:

(5) The Ombudsman Commission may make any other reports that it considers appropriate for drawing to the Minister’s attention matters that have come to its notice and that, in its opinion, should, because of their gravity or other exceptional circumstances, be the subject of a special report to the Minister.

(6) As soon as practicable after receiving a report under this section, the Minister shall cause a copy of the report to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas.