

On behalf of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission

It is with deep regret that the Commissioners and staff of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission learned this morning of the unexpected death of our Chairman, Mr. Justice Kevin Haugh.

Mr. Justice Haugh was appointed as the first Chairman of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission in February 2006. GSOC was established by the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and became operational on 9th May 2007.

Educated at Castleknock College, UCD and King's Inn, Mr. Justice Haugh was called to the bar in 1966. For 30 years he practiced as a Barrister, becoming a Senior Counsel in 1983. He was elected a bencher of the King's Inn in 1994.

Mr. Justice Haugh was appointed as a judge of the Circuit Court in 1996. Later that year he was also appointed to the Special Criminal Court.

In March 1998, he was nominated to the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations. He served two four year terms based in New York and Geneva.

On the 4th of October 2005 the cabinet nominated Justice Haugh for appointment to the High Court.

He oversaw the setting up of our office and ensured that the operation of the Commission and oversight of policing in our society was established on a professional, independent, accountable footing. He took great care to ensure compliance with the law. The staff of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission is proud to have had him as Chairman and is saddened by his death. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and many friends.

29 January 2009