

GARDA SÍOCHÁNA OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION  
PRESS RELEASE

10 September, 2014  
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## Report of a fact-finding investigation into the possible disclosure of confidential information from within GSOC

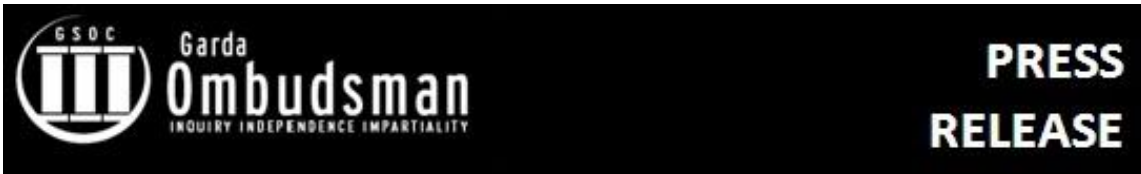
The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission has received the report of a fact-finding investigation into the circumstances in which confidential information relating to a security sweep process conducted on the Commission's behalf and the follow up actions taken by the Commission, may have been disclosed to a third party.

The investigation was conducted by Mark Connaughton SC. The report details a thorough examination of the facts. The information which appeared in the public domain was compared with all possible source documents, to establish what specific documents and data seemed to have been available to the journalist and what documents were not; and who may have had access to the documents containing information gleaned by the journalist, internally and externally. The investigation included interviews of any current and previous GSOC staff that the senior counsel saw fit (he records that he received co-operation from all). He also had access to e-mail correspondence; photocopier logs; CCTV recordings; documentation pertaining to investigations; internal policies and procedures; and technical analysis of any mobile phones requested (service provided by a specialist firm).

The report was unable to establish individual responsibility for any disclosure, either on the part of an employee of GSOC or any other party. It concludes that it is difficult to identify what additional information could usefully advance matters, short of obtaining the co-operation of the journalist in question, who declined the invitation.

It is the Ombudsman Commission's view that proportionate measures to try to ascertain the facts have been taken. The Commission agrees with the conclusion that it is difficult to identify any further useful measures. In these circumstances, no further action is intended.

The Ombudsman Commission has taken this matter very seriously and has put in place several measures internally to enhance security of information in relation to GSOC's business, since the emergence of this issue. These include both policy and practice and technical measures.



GSOC has forwarded a copy of the report to the Minister for Justice & Equality, Frances Fitzgerald. GSOC does not intend to publish the report because it contains personal data which is impossible to redact effectively.

ENDS

**Lorna Lee**  
**Head of Communications, Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission**