



GARDA SÍOCHÁNA OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION  
PRESS RELEASE

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## GSOC welcomes publication of Garda Síochána (Amendment)(No.3) Bill

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission welcomes the publication today by the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, of the Garda Síochána (Amendment)(No.3) Bill 2014.

The Minister commented that “the Bill delivers key elements to strengthen the powers and remit of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC).”

The Bill will amend and update the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and other relevant legislation with the main objectives of:

- bringing the Garda Commissioner within the remit of GSOC for the first time;
- extending GSOC’s powers of investigation in relation to complaints involving suspected criminal behaviour;
- ensuring that the Garda Síochána provides information sought by GSOC for an investigation as soon as practicable; and
- providing greater autonomy for GSOC in examining the Garda Síochána’s practices, policies and procedures.

GSOC made a submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence & Equality in April, including numerous requests for legislative change, to strengthen GSOC’s effectiveness, efficiency and independence. The full submission is available [here](#).

This Bill addresses several of the concerns highlighted and it is a significant step towards improving the capacity of the Ombudsman Commission to provide comprehensive oversight of the policing system in Ireland, and contribute to public confidence in the system.

ENDS

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