

Good evening,

I wish to make the following submissions in relation to the future of policing in Ireland:

As Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee on South Dublin County Council, I feel I have a very valuable insight into the current state of policing within our county.

And, as Area Co-ordinator for my own Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Knocklyon Woods, Dublin 16, I understand the concerns that citizens have in relation to Garda resources, or lack thereof.

We simply do not have enough Gardai on the streets and that is echoed at every public meeting I have attended over the past four years as a Public Representative and prior to that as a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

If we look at the Scottish model, which is closest to our own policing situation, we really need 15,000 Gardai in our force.

And I cannot overemphasise the value of Community Gardai to society. They have the local knowledge and community links which help to police an area more effectively.

It is invaluable to have a dedicated Garda for community groups or residents associations to link in with but in recent years, Community Policing Units have been decimated, to the detriment of our society.

And it is vital that there is adequate investment in the Gardai in terms of technology. Why do we need our Gardai to return to their local station to input data and information?

Why do they not have remote computer units in Gardai vehicles so that they can do their work on the go, as other police forces do?

The Gardai have had a difficult time recently, trying to do an impossible job with minimal resources and it is a credit to the membership that they continue to work so effectively, and that dedication is reflected in the support they have from our communities.

But they need more support and resources.

Yours sincerely,

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