Dear Sir/Madame,

Here are my suggestions for reform of the policing system in Ireland.

-Proper civilianisation of key garda posts - which has been talked about for decades but never fully implemented

-A proper garda rostering system which is designed in the best interests of the public and gardai themselves

-A new IT system which allows every garda to have an email and every station to have an email. It would allow crimes to be reported online and photos attached. And it would allow Gardai to deliver updates to the public on any progress in investigations

-New use of technology by Gardai, including drones to track criminals, and homing devices on garda-owned bikes left in public places (so that criminal gangs taking bikes and shipping them abroad can be tracked)

-An opening up of the Garda Siochana's communications channels so that information on investigations is given out freely to all media reporters, rather than emerging from just a handful of crime correspondents. This is done in other countries, such as Britain and the USA. This would protect against the danger of Garda management being able to keep scandals and embarrassing incidents under wraps because they can wield the threat of cutting off the daily information flow to any reporter who steps out of line (as appears to have happened in many instances over recent decades)

-A merger of two supervision bodies into one - the Policing Authority and the Garda Inspectorate. While they are both doing good work, it is wasteful to have them operating separately.

-A quota system to ensure that 10 per cent of Garda recruits come from disadvantaged communities and another 10 per cent come from minority communities. In a changing Ireland, this would help to ensure the Gardai continue to represent a broad swathe of society which gives the force its legitimacy and also its community knowledge.

Best wishes with your important work.

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