

- 1 An in-depth examination of the Garda Structure including the number and distribution of senior management. At present there are 15 members of deputy and assistant commissioner rank for a total strength of 13000 staff. In the London Metropolitan Police with a total strength of 31478 staff there are 5 personnel of deputy and assistant commissioner rank. Greater Manchester Police which serves a population of 2.5 million with strength of 6900 police has only one chief constable and one deputy. It would appear the force is top heavy with senior staff. Moreover, all senior officers have a support staff that perhaps could be employed on front line policing
- 2 The role of the District Officer should be examined. At present a significant amount of the District Officers time is spent in the District Court prosecuting cases in mostly minor offences. The District Officers job is the managing a District
- 3 Undertake a scientific study to determine the optimum number of gardai required to provide a professional police service in this country together with a distribution model. The promotion, training and recruitment system should also be examined.
- 4 The garda crime technology is reported as 1990s and requires major investment to support the investigation of crime. The drastic cutbacks the gardai have undergone over the past six years has led to an under resourced, understaffed and under trained garda crime investigation capability.
- 5 The arming of the Gardai including the number required to carry firearms should be closely examined. May I suggest that the number of armed gardai be increased to at least 50 per region and a cohesive unit formed in each region with the capability of responding to and carrying out high risk operations involving armed robberies, hostage taking, searches and surveillance? These units should be trained to an extremely high standard, adequately and fully equipped and should operate full time with tight professional managerial control.
- 6 The next step should be a robust and rigorous investigative policy whereby all incidents, attempts at crime or suspicious activity be thoroughly investigated