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Type:	Web
Title of Submission:	Statecraft needed to manage policing - not mere cost-accountancy.
Comments:	<p>Given that this state is based on the rule of law, our way of governing ourselves is based on our 1937 written constitution which is clear that all powers of government are derived from us, as set out in Article 6.</p> <p>What concept of the state exists in the minds of the senior public service – elected and appointed – that they use their powers to stop recruitment to the only police force we have for four years? How do they expect to maintain a democratic state without sustaining the police force at an appropriate level?</p> <p>There must be a known level of retirements, deaths, members being invalided out and other departures.</p> <p>Surely our common good requires that the labour-intensive nature of policing is explicitly recognised by maintaining an appropriate number in our police force, taking account of demographic changes. It is simplistic management of public services to apply a public service-wide recruitment embargo on the police service, regardless of other issues involved in policing. Given the cycles of recruitment/retirals to the Garda starting with the foundation of the state, it seems that those who govern us do not recognise that statecraft requires more than a cost-accountancy view of policing. The status of police as civil servants of the state needs to be formally and explicitly recognised.</p>