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Organsation:	
Type:	Web
Title of Submission:	AGS and the Irish DNA Database
Comments:	<p>Forensic evidence, in particular DNA evidence, is a common feature of modern policing. The Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014 gave legislative footing to the Irish DNA database, a new investigatory tool which An Garda Síochána can utilise for investigative purposes. The Irish DNA database is managed by Forensic Science Ireland rather than An Garda Síochána. It is therefore crucial that proper channels of communication are put in place between the bodies when it comes to the adding or removal of DNA information from same. Given the importance of adequate and effective information systems, there must also be appropriate structures and resources agreed by both bodies which allow for the effective and proper management and use of this investigatory tool. This could be ensured through a well resourced coordination office, coupled perhaps with smaller dedicated points of contact which could communicate information between both bodies. Reviews of same could also be conducted over regular intervals.</p> <p>Related to this, it is important to ensure that there is adequate training and education for garda members not only in terms of the DNA database and the operation of same, but also for the collection and management of all forms of forensic evidence, particularly for crime scene examiners. As new and updated technologies and forensic methods become available to An Garda Síochána, it is important that education in this area continues to be updated to ensure that garda knowledge and skills reflect these changes and allow for such advances to be best utilised. To ensure each and all of these recommendations are achieved, An Garda Síochána and Forensic Science Ireland must be properly resourced.</p>