



Dear Chair,

REF: Our Lady of Lourdes Community Services Group (OLOL CSG) Submission to the Joint Policing Commissions

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday 15th January, in Limerick City & County Council Offices. Further to this meeting, we would like to outline the following opportunities for An Garda Síochána going forward. Our views and experiences have been shaped by over 35 years working in the community and recent membership of Limerick's Joint Policing Committee (JPC). We have attached correspondence to Garda HQ over the past three years in relation to many of the below items through the West End Youth Centre, a service of OLOL CSG.

1. The development of a specific national strategy for community policing to include a cross section of society.
2. A national strategy group for community policing made up for members and non-members of the force.
3. Consistency of leadership with a responsibility for relationship building. The leadership role (Superintendent) in Roxboro Garda Station changed on average every 18 months between 2007-2016.
4. After a probationary period, the role of community Garda being a fixed three-to-five year position in a given community. Community policing is built on trust. Trust can only be built between people being present in person and with real involvement in community organisations.
5. The roll-out of Restorative Justice (RJ) in a meaningful way. Despite over five years of investment in Limerick City, its use is still restricted to one Garda station in the city.
6. An expansion of the role of the Garda Reserves/civilians for several routine and unskilled roles to free up resources and allow enhanced involvement in community work.
7. The re-evaluation of the website www.garda.ie

Eimear O'Connor
CEO