

Title:	Mr
Given Name:	██████
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Organisation:	Monaghan County Council - Sinn Fein
Type:	Web
Title of Submission:	Serving the community not the corporations
Comments:	<p>Over the last decade or so, there has been a focus on the Gardai and the way they deal with the general public when it comes to infrastructure projects and peoples' opposition to them. Examples: The Shell to Sea campaign, Irish Water meter fittings, home repossessions etc where the Gardai were effectively on hand to act as security for private business against the public. While there are cases where the Gardai are required in order to keep the peace, I have seen where the Garda Personnel have been heavy-handed and cruel to those protesting. At present we have a proposed North-South Interconnector (project run by Eirgrid) where massive Pylons are proposed to be fitted on lands where the owners and the public do not want them (they have requested that the interconnector be undergrounded) - many of these landowners and their supporters (including public representatives) have stated that they will not allow access onto these lands - if the Gardai continue to be seen to work on behalf of the corporations, instead of the public, they will continue to lose the support, trust and respect of the public. I would suggest, in cases like the ones I have mentioned above, these corporations hire private security in future.</p>