



GARDA SÍOCHÁNA OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION
PRESS RELEASE

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GSOC welcomes publication of Garda Síochána (Amendment) Bill

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission welcomes the move, in the Bill published today by the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, to encourage the use of mediation and other informal means of resolution, where appropriate, in handling complaints about the conduct of garda members received by the Commission.

It has been the experience of the Garda Ombudsman that people submitting complaints are, in some cases, happy to try to resolve issues informally, because they above all want a solution to be found and not necessarily a garda member to be formally disciplined. GSOC believes that such methods can be a better way to resolve certain types of issues than a lengthy disciplinary process.

Enabling non-adversarial means of seeking resolution of problems, as an alternative to an exclusive focus on sanctions for misconduct, was among the recommendations for legislative change made by GSOC in its submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence & Equality in April*. To do so will be a step towards improving the capacity of the Ombudsman Commission to provide efficient and effective oversight of the policing system in Ireland. GSOC will give the provisions of the Bill careful consideration.

ENDS

Lorna Lee
Head of Communications, Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission

Note to Editor:

GSOC's full submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence & Equality is available here:

http://www.gardaombudsman.ie/docs/publications/20140417_SubmissionOnLegislation.pdf