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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY



Ms. Katherine Nicholls,
A/Senior Staff Officer,
Housing Administration,
South Dublin County Council,
Town Centre,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Minister's Reference: 0226160450

23 March, 2015

Dear Ms. Nicholls,

I am directed by the Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, T.D., to refer to your letter dated 24 February 2015 regarding resources in the Tallaght area.

By way of background, the Garda Commissioner is responsible for the detailed allocation of resources, including personnel and transport, throughout the organisation and the Minister has direct function in the matter. This allocation of resources is constantly monitored in the context of crime trends, policing needs and other operational strategies in place on a District, Divisional and Regional level to ensure optimum use is made of Garda resources and the best possible Garda service is provided to the public.

The Minister is advised that local Garda management within the Tallaght District are aware of recent crime incidents and of difficulties being experienced by local residents as a result of anti-social behaviour and related issues. The Minister is assured that Gardaí are working closely with the community in the areas referred to in relation to these issues.

Tallaght District is patrolled by uniform and plain clothes units, Community Policing Units, the Street Crime Unit and the Drugs Unit, supplemented as necessary by the Divisional Traffic Unit and Crime Task Force. The Community Police Units have lead responsibility for policing in this area and have developed a partnership approach to problem solving with the community. Local Garda management has put in place targeted proactive measures, including increased patrols and checkpoints, which will focus patrols on the most vulnerable areas.

Specifically in relation to the Dublin Metropolitan Region (D.M.R.) South Garda Division there are 544 Garda assigned to the Division of which 169 Gardaí are

assigned to Tallaght Garda station. There are also 11 Garda Reserves and 12 civilians attached to Tallaght Garda station. All Divisional resources are further augmented by a number of Garda National Units such as the Garda National Drugs Unit, the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB), the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and other specialised units.

Decisions in relation to the provision of Garda vehicles are a matter for the Garda Commissioner in the light of her identified operational demands and the availability of resources. Responsibility for the efficient deployment of official Garda vehicles in each Division is assigned to the Divisional Officer, who may allocate vehicles throughout the Division as required by operational circumstances.

In that context, I am advised by the Garda authorities that Tallaght District is part of the DMR South Division. As of 26 January, 2015 the number of vehicles allocated to Tallaght Garda station is as shown in the following table:

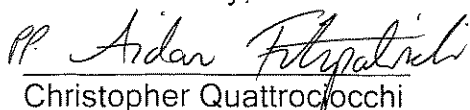
DMR South Division January 2015		
	TOTAL (incl. new cars)	New cars allocated in 2014 & to 26/01/15
Tallaght	32	3

You will be aware that the Minister recently secured an additional €10 million for investment in the Garda fleet, €7 million of which was made available in 2014, with the remaining €3 million being provided in 2015. The additional investment of €7 million enabled An Garda Síochána to purchase 370 new vehicles towards the end of last year. These vehicles will be allocated to Garda Divisions in line with the Garda Commissioner's operational requirements. I am advised by the Garda authorities that the needs of the Tallaght area will be fully considered when these vehicles are being allocated.

The Minister is also advised, that Garda management will continue to appraise the policing and administrative strategy employed in the DMR South Division with a view to ensuring an effective Garda service is maintained and when additional resources next become available the needs of the Division will be fully considered within the overall context of the needs of Garda Divisions throughout the country.

I trust this clarifies the position for you.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Quattrocchi
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice and Equality