

## Barbara Reilly

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**From:** INFO <info@justice.ie>  
**Sent:** 25 February 2019 17:54  
**To:** Barbara Reilly  
**Subject:** correspondence reply

breilly@SDUBLINCOCO.ie

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-00536-2019

Dear Ms. Reilly,

I am writing about your recent correspondence to the Minister for Justice & Equality, Mr Charlie Flanagan T.D. concerning motions passed at the Lucan Area Committee Meeting.

The manner in which the resources of the Garda Síochána are deployed is solely a matter for the Garda Commissioner and his management team, and the Minister has no direct role in this regard.

Garda management keeps this distribution of resources under continual review in the context of crime trends and policing priorities so as to ensure that the optimum use is made of these resources. The Minister is informed that the strength of the DMR West Division (which includes the Lucan District) on 31 December 2018, the latest date for which information is readily available, was 709. There are also 26 Garda Reserves and 57 Garda civilian staff attached to the DMR West Division.

When appropriate, the work of local Gardaí in DMR West is supported by a number of Garda national units such as the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the Armed Support Units, the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau and the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau.

The Government has increased the budget for An Garda Síochána to €1.76 billion for 2019, which includes provision for the recruitment of up to 800 Gardaí this year. The Commissioner has now informed the Minister that he plans to recruit a total of 600 trainee Gardaí in 2019 and, in addition, it is his intention to recruit a net 600 Garda Civilian Staff. This Garda Staff recruitment will allow the Commissioner to redeploy a further 500 fully trained Gardaí from administrative duties to frontline policing in 2019. The Minister believes that the injection of this large number of experienced officers into the field, along with the new recruits, will be really beneficial in terms of protecting communities. This and on-going recruitment will clearly provide the Commissioner with the resources needed to deploy increasing numbers of Gardaí to deliver a visible effective and responsive policing service to communities across all Garda Divisions including the DMR West Division.

The Garda Commissioner has confirmed that the Government's commitment to increase the overall strength of An Garda Síochána to 15,000 Garda members will be achieved by the target date of 2021. The Government fully supports the Commissioner's management decision which will ensure that increasing numbers of Gardaí are available for frontline duties in the prevention and detection of criminal activity in all our communities.

Working with communities to tackle public disorder and reduce anti-social behaviour remains a key priority for An Garda Síochána. This approach includes a strong focus on quality of life issues and collaboration with local authorities to help address the causes of anti-social behaviour.

Garda resources are deployed in response to changing crime trends, which may include directing resources at areas designated as "hot-spots" for anti-social behaviour. Local Garda management in the Lucan Garda District remains resolute in its determination to act against all forms of criminal activity and will work with the community to prevent and detect crime in the area.

I hope the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Cleary

Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice and Equality

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