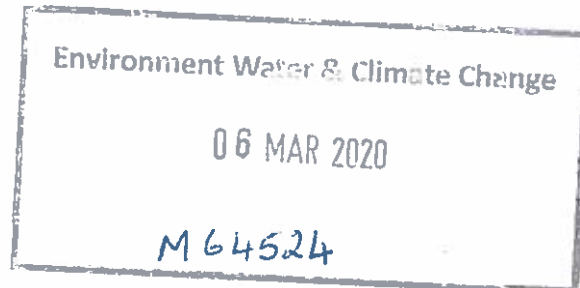




Mr. Michael McAdam,  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24



5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-07151-2019

Dear Mr. McAdam,

Thank you for your letter to the Minister for Justice and Equality, Mr Charlie Flanagan T.D., in relation to the motion recently passed by the Clondalkin Area Committee, requesting a 24 hour operational Garda Station in Rathcoole. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Minister hopes you will appreciate that in accordance with the Garda Síochána Act 2005, the Garda Commissioner is responsible for the management and control of An Garda Síochána and for the effective and efficient use of Garda resources. This includes responsibility for matters including the opening hours of Garda stations, allocation of personnel and deployment of resources. The Minister has no role in that regard.

However, the Minister is assured by the Commissioner that An Garda Síochána keeps the distribution of resources under continual review in the context of crime trends and policing priorities, to ensure their optimum use. Clearly, Garda visibility is very important in order to provide reassurance to the public and to deter crime. The resources provided to An Garda Síochána have reached record levels, with an allocation for 2020 of €1.88 billion. Very significant capital investment is also being made in An Garda Síochána. This level of funding is enabling sustained, ongoing recruitment of Garda members and staff and as a result, An Garda Síochána is a growing organisation. We now have approximately 14,300 Gardai nationwide, supported by over 2,900 Garda staff and these numbers are continuing to grow.

You may also be aware that the Commissioner in 2019 announced rollout of the new Garda Operating Model, in line with the targets set out in "A Policing Service for the

Future", the 4-year implementation plan for the report of the Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland.

The new Model is designed to reduce bureaucracy and move real power and decision making from Garda Headquarters to Chief Superintendents in the communities they serve. It will also result in more frontline leadership positions with Sergeants and Inspectors on the ground where leadership, supervision and mentoring is crucial. While new to Ireland, this model is the norm in other countries and the Commissioner is confident that the new structure will serve the Clondalkin and surrounding areas well, and lead to a more agile and responsive police service improving safety for the wider community you have referred to as well as more generally nationwide.

Finally and in light of the fact, as set out above, that the Commissioner is responsible for decisions in relation to Garda resources, I have arranged for a copy of your correspondence to be forwarded to An Garda Síochána for information.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



---

Conor Cleary  
Private Secretary to the  
Minister for Justice and Equality