



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

7th May 2020

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-05028-2019

Dear Mr. McAdam,

I would like to thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Justice & Equality, Mr Charlie Flanagan T.D, containing a motion passed by the Clondalkin Area Committee of South Dublin County Council, seeking additional resources to tackle the level of crime in your area. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf. I sincerely apologise for the delay in issuing this response to you.

The Minister hopes you will appreciate that the allocation of all Garda resources, including personnel, is solely a matter for the Garda Commissioner and his management team and the Minister has no role in this regard. However, the Minister is assured by the Commissioner that An Garda Síochána continue to monitor all new and emerging crime trends in our communities to ensure that the best use is made of these resources.

Clearly, Garda visibility is very important and this Government remains committed to ensuring a strong and visible police presence throughout the city in order to provide reassurance to citizens and to deter crime. This is reflected in the Government's commitment to achieving an overall Garda workforce of 21,000 personnel by 2021 including 15,000 Garda Members. In this context, a very substantial budget of €1.882 billion has been allocated to the Garda Vote for 2020 which supports Garda activity to tackle these types of problems.

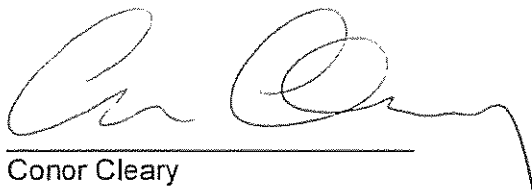
In addition, the Minister has welcomed the rollout of the new operating model of An Garda Síochána which is designed to reduce bureaucracy and move real power and decision making from Garda Headquarters to the Chief Superintendents leading Garda Divisions in the communities they serve. Importantly, it will also result in more frontline leadership positions with Sergeants and Inspectors on the ground where leadership, supervision and mentoring is crucial.

In delivering on this commitment, the Commissioner has listened carefully to experts and, crucially, to the voices of local communities who consistently make clear they want to see more Gardai available on the ground. While new to Ireland, this model is the norm in other countries and I am 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 of Clondalkin, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas.

I note that you have copied your correspondence to the Garda Commissioner and to the Superintendent at Clondakin Garda Station, and I am sure they will take account of this Clondalkin Area Committee motion. However, to be of assistance, the Minister has forwarded a copy of your correspondence to the Garda authorities directly for their attention and action.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conor Cleary', written over a horizontal line.

Conor Cleary
Private Secretary to the
Minister for Justice and Equality