

# An Garda Síochána

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Luaigh an uimhir tagartha B.N.G. a leanas le do thoil /  
Please quote the following N.V.B. Ref. No: **GNVB TH\_31-7768/22**

**Ms. Sharon Conroy,  
Senior Executive Officer  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall,  
Tallaght,  
Dublin 24.**

**RE: Clondalkin Area Committee Meeting South Dublin County Council held on 20<sup>th</sup>  
October, 2021**

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**Dear Ms. Conroy,**

I refer to your correspondence dated the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to the Garda Commissioner and I wish to advise, that your correspondence has been forwarded to me today, for my attention.

The provision of Homeless Services are not specifically identified as “relevant work or activity” at Schedule 1 National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016. This being the case, there is no legal basis to support that all staff working in homeless services are required to be vetted.

It is accepted, that there are definitely some roles in the provision of homeless services that fall within the definition of “relevant work or activities”, notwithstanding that there is no provision in Schedule 1 National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 to conduct vetting in respect of persons, where those persons are not engaged in “relevant work or activities”.

When vetting is being conducted by a relevant organisation, the Act provides that an organisation can only conduct vetting in respect of persons conducting relevant work and there are a number of reasons for this.

For instance, at section 11(n) National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016, in order for an individual to be included in the register of vetted persons that persons application must detail the “relevant work or activity” being carried out by the vetting subject.

In addition, Section 14(1) National Vetting Bureau (Children & Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 only provides for the Garda National Vetting Bureau (GNVB) to receive applications concerning “relevant work or activities”.

Homeless services must consider each role in their organisation vis-à-vis compatibility of the roles being vetted with Schedule 1 of the NVB Act. We have previously and will continue to process, all vetting requests from Organisations in your sector who provide rationale for “relevant work or activities” that fall within the parameters of the NVB Act,

The NVB Acts are currently being reviewed by the Department of Justice.

In tandem with this review process, the GNVB have been proactively engaging with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the last number of months regarding vetting in the homeless services sector. In this regard, we recently provided a collaborative workshop with Dr Eamonn Waters DHLGH to the Homeless Services sector, to assist organisations with the decision making process of establish which roles require vetting and which roles do not.

In addition, we have also offered DHLGH a dedicated *Information Training Seminar* for “Liaison Persons” working in the Homeless Services sector. The vetting “Liaison Persons” from the various county and city councils, along with NGO’s operating in Homeless Services will be invited to the seminar.

Albeit, that the vetting “Liaison Persons” have previously attended training in relation to their role as a Liaison Persons, this session will be bespoke training in respect of Homeless Services.

The GNVB is very happy to assist organisations in their understanding of the vetting legislation and its parameters, and I believe this Information Seminar will be beneficial in resolving the concerns raised in your correspondence.

Forwarded for your information.

  
**Ceannfort / Superintendent**  
**Niall Featherstone**

6<sup>th</sup> January 2022