Ms. Sharon Conroy

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Ministers Reference: DJE-MO-04169-2022

Dear Ms. Conroy,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 21 April 2022 to the Minister for Justice, Ms Helen McEntee, T.D. and I have been asked by the Minister to respond to you on her behalf. I would like to apologise for the delay in replying to your letter.

I hope you can appreciate that the Garda Commissioner is responsible for the effective and efficient allocation and use of the resources available to An Garda Síochána, including the distribution and stationing of An Garda Síochána throughout the State and for the opening hours of Garda stations. The Minister has no role in these independent, operational functions.

The Minister is advised that Garda management keeps the distribution of resources under continual review in the context of policing priorities and crime trends, to ensure their optimum use. I understand that it is a matter for the Divisional Chief Superintendent to determine the optimum distribution of duties among the personnel available to them, having regard to the profile of each area within the division and its specific needs.

I am advised by the Garda authorities that the current staffing of Rathcoole Garda station consists of one Inspector, two Sergeants, and eighteen Garda. I understand that the station is open to the public from 8am to 12.15pm and 1pm to 4pm, Monday to Friday and on Saturdays and Sundays when resources allow.

I am further informed that, in relation to community policing, a Garda member has been individually assigned to each of the following areas, Rathcoole, Newcastle, Saggart and City West.
The budget provided by Government to the Garda Commissioner continues to increase to unprecedented levels, with an allocation of 2 billion in funding for 2022,  which includes funding for the recruitment of up to an additional 800 Garda­ and a further 400 Garda staff. This increase in the number of Garda members and staff will deliver significant growth in operational policing hours nationwide and improved services to the public generally.

This funding also includes 12 million for investment in the Garda fleet, which will support more high-visibility policing in local communities. This continuing investment is intended to ensure that An Garda Sí­ochána has a modern, effective and fit-for-purpose fleet and that GardaÃ­ can be mobile, visible and responsive on the roads and in the community to prevent and tackle crime.

The new Garda Operating Model being rolled out by the Garda Commissioner will also support the redeployment of Garda­ from non-core duties to frontline policing across the country. The new model will create larger Divisions with more resources, increased Garda visibility in communities, a wider range of locally delivered policing services, and a strong focus on community policing.

You may be aware that a Garda recruitment campaign closed in March this year and I am advised that there was a strong interest, with over 10,000 applications received. The Department welcomes this significant response to the recent Garda competition. Further intakes into the Garda College over the course of the year will be comprised of individuals who are successful in the current recruitment competition, as well as a number of applicants who remain on the panel from previous competitions.

A detailed breakdown of the Garda workforce, including both Garda members and staff, is available on the Departments website at the following links:
[http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Garda\_Workforce](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.justice.ie%2Fen%2FJELR%2FPages%2FGarda_Workforce&data=05%7C01%7Cpbrennan%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cdc14ab36c150405083e808da4acacac4%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637904532081010916%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3xQTUqnp2d%2F7ZzYDWY7VBhnpUINBwlgWtExNLhBDWG8%3D&reserved=0)
[http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Garda\_Staff](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.justice.ie%2Fen%2FJELR%2FPages%2FGarda_Staff&data=05%7C01%7Cpbrennan%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cdc14ab36c150405083e808da4acacac4%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637904532081010916%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RskZZ3J%2FKV8ATIliMgGg%2FFE1kp0a7gx2NHE4Z3rDQkE%3D&reserved=0)

This information is updated every month with the latest data provided by An Garda Sí­ochána.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Emma McHugh**

Private Secretary to the Minister for Justice

*Please note that if the issue raised in your correspondence is deemed more appropriate to another organisation, such as another Government Department or Agency, your correspondence will be forwarded to that organisation for attention in accordance with the provisions of the Department of Justice Privacy Statement, which can be accessed* [*here*](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.justice.ie%2Fen%2FJELR%2FDOJ-Privacy-Notice-2022.pdf%2FFiles%2FDOJ-Privacy-Notice-2022.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Cpbrennan%40SDUBLINCOCO.ie%7Cdc14ab36c150405083e808da4acacac4%7C6a3c00c019d0492da8de95fad8fda1d4%7C0%7C0%7C637904532081010916%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NiZXGPFZZlHXCPAiLn%2BWinHWLBcrkh5an8lTrJJ2fz4%3D&reserved=0)*.*