**M84550**

Dear Ms. Conroy,

Thank you for your recent correspondence dated 16 October 2024 to the Minister for Justice, Ms Helen McEntee TD regarding policing resources in South County Dublin. I am responding on the Minister's behalf.

At the outset I must make it clear that the Garda Commissioner is operationally responsible for the allocation of Garda resources under the provisions of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 (as amended). The Minister has no role in these independent functions and cannot seek to direct, or influence, the Commissioner in these matters.

Minister McEntee engages regularly with the Commissioner to ensure our Gardaí have the resources they need.

The Minister is committed to building stronger, safer communities and strengthening An Garda Síochána is at the core of that. This is reflected in the unprecedented allocation of over €2.35 billion in Budget 2024, up 25% since 2020, demonstrating the Government’s commitment to ensuring An Garda Síochána has provision for the equipment, technology, facilities, fleet and personnel it needs to carry out vital policing work.

A visible Garda presence is important to deter and detect crime and to help people feel safe in communities. There are currently around 14,000 Garda members across the country. There was strong interest in the recent Garda recruitment campaign, with almost 6,400 applications received, which will provide a steady pipeline of new Gardaí in the coming years.  In September, 108 new Gardaí were attested, and passed out of the Garda college. So far this year, 430 new Gardaí have attested from Templemore, the highest number since 2020.

I am informed that at the end of June 2024, the latest date for when figures are available, there were 533 Garda members assigned to the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR) South Division. Of the 430 new Probationers attested this year 44, or just over 10%, have been assigned to the DMR South Division.

Recruitment into An Garda Síochána has accelerated following the forced closure of the Garda College to new intakes due to public health restrictions, with 746 trainees entering Templemore last year. This is the highest intake into Templemore since 2018. A further intake will enter in December of this year.

I hope this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Emma McHugh

**Private Secretary to the**

**Minister for Justice**