

Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality invite submissions on the effectiveness of the legislation relating to oversight of An Garda Síochána

The Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality (hereinafter the “Committee”) is inviting written submissions from interested groups/individuals on the effectiveness of the legislation related to oversight of An Garda Síochána. The Committee will consider the effectiveness of the provisions of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 (the “Act”), and regulations made thereunder, insofar as they relate to the oversight of An Garda Síochána, including, in particular, the powers and remit of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission.

Written submissions should be sent electronically by email (PDF/MsWord or equivalent) and should be received not later than **3pm on Friday 4th April 2014** at the following e-mail address **only: Gardareview@oireachtas.ie**

It is essential that submissions are concise and to the point. Submissions should be set out on a “Section by Section” basis as they arise in the Act and should not contain any unnecessary or superfluous material that does not relate directly to the Act. **Submissions on limited parts or individual sections of the Act would be welcome and it should be made clear that comments on parts or individual sections of the Act will be accepted.** If reference is made to other publications, a link to this publication is sufficient and it is not necessary to send these as separate attachments. **Pages in the submissions should be numbered.**

The text of the Act can be accessed via the link at the end of this document.

Submissions and communications should only be sent to the email address above and **not** to individual members of the Committee. Please note that the Clerk will ensure that all members of the Committee receive, in due course, copies of all submissions and communications received. To avoid confusion and duplication, please **do not** forward hard copies of submissions made electronically.

In a **separate** document from your electronic submission, please include a covering letter outlining in brief why you are making a submission. The covering letter should include your name, your postal address, email address and contact telephone number. **You should also indicate in your letter if you would be prepared to appear in public session at any Committee meeting.**

The Committee will consider any **suitable** written submissions received and may decide to invite a number of contributors to public hearings should it be considered necessary.

IMPORTANT

- (i) **The Committee will not consider submissions which deal with individual cases**
- (ii) **Submissions sent to any other e-mail address may not be accepted**
- (iii) **Anonymous submissions cannot be accepted and will be rejected**
- (iv) **Petitions and Form letters may not be accepted or published**
- (v) **Submissions made to a Committee may be published as received either as part of a Committee report, or separately, if the Committee decides to do so.**

Format of Submissions

As a general guideline, submissions should always consist of a separate document accompanied by a covering letter. Submissions should be presented as concisely as possible addressing each point individually and suggest amendments to the Act including the rationale for each. The covering letter

should contain your name and contact details (phone number and postal address and, if available, an email address). If the submission is on behalf of an organisation, you should indicate your position in the organisation.

The main document should contain the following information:

- (i) A brief introduction, for example, explaining your area of expertise;
- (ii) Any factual information that you have to offer from which the Committee might be able to draw conclusions, or which could be put to other parties for their reactions;
- (iii) Any recommendations to the Committee which should be as specific as possible and should be summarised at the end of the document; and
- (iv) An executive summary of the main points made in the submission, if your document is more than 10 pages long.

As already indicated, submissions should, where possible, be made by electronic means and it is **not** necessary to also forward a hard copy of your submission.

Making a submission is a public process

The Committee is not obliged to accept your document once it has been submitted, nor is it obliged to publish any or all of the submission if it has been accepted. However, the operations of a parliament are a public process, and you should be aware that any submissions made to a Committee **including your identity** may be published either as part of a Committee report, or separately, if the Committee decides to do so.

A more detailed document outlining the guidelines for making a written submission is available from the Clerk to the Committee or by clicking [here](#) and accessing document number 5.

The text of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 can be accessed by clicking [here](#)

Members of the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality
Deputies: David Stanton [Chairman] Anne Ferris [Vice-Chairman] Niall Collins, Marcella Corcoran Kennedy, Alan Farrell, Seán Kenny, Pádraig MacLochlainn, Finian McGrath and John Paul Phelan
Senators: Ivana Bacik, Martin Conway, Tony Mulcahy, Rónán Mullen, Denis O'Donovan and Katherine Zappone.

Closing Date

The closing date for receipt of submissions is ***Friday 4th April 2014 at 3p.m.***

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact

Alan Guidon
Clerk to the Committee
01 618 3899