

Fingal Joint Policing Committee Meeting – Friday 24th March 2023

Item 02 - Questions for Noting

1.	<p>Cllr Ann Graves</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask the JPC what measures are being put in place to tackle the issues of incitement of violence and hate speech at local rallies directed at immigrants and refugees. While I support the right to protest by members of our communities who have genuine concerns and questions – scenes at recent protests, where they have been taken over or organised by individuals with a particular agenda are causing major issues across our communities. Many of these individuals are known to the Gardaí</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>While we haven't had issues of this nature to date all protests are adequately policed in the R District. A policing plan is drafted for each protest and a protest return form is submitted for the attention of assistant commissioner DMR. Intelligence is gathered in respect of the numbers attending, the content of speeches.</p>
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2	<p>Cllr Ann Graves</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask the JPC for an update in relation to the establishment of a committee to deal with crime in Swords. I raised this at a meeting of the JPC in July 2020 and there was good discussion on establishing a Crime Task Force similar to forums that exist in other areas. While the introduction of community Gardaí in Swords have contributed greatly to a sense of safety for residents and they are actively involved with community groups, there are not enough resources to deal with a growing town with growing issues in relation to anti-social behaviour and crime.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The Gardaí in the Swords have established a dedicated Swords Community Response Unit. This Unit deals with areas that require a community response and areas with anti-social behaviour. This Unit provides high visibility in the Swords area and they provide patrols which cover all of the Swords and Malahide sub-districts. The unit are also involved in providing checkpoints in local areas to provide visibility. To date this unit has had a high success rate with public order arrests and tackling the issues of anti-social behaviour.</p>
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3	<p>Cllr Tania Doyle</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>Can An Garda Síochána confirm when cycle patrols will recommence throughout Dublin 15?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Garda pedal cycles are a constant resource available to An Garda Síochána and are used on a continual basis, however their use can be limited by inclement weather.</p>
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4.	<p>Cllr Tania Doyle</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>Can An Garda Síochána provide a breakdown in tabular format by Rank of the “Establishment Strength” versus “Net Actual Strength “ as of the date of this meeting and can An Garda Síochána confirm if the “Net Actual Strength” for 2023 is + or - that for the same time 2022?</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Please find K district strength return for the previous 3 years:</p>
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	Garda Members	Garda Staff
January 2023	309	46
January 2022	347	47

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5.	<p>Deputy Duncan Smith</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask the Superintendent to respond favourably to our request for a bike marking day for the general public in Swords and Donabate given the increase in cycling across these areas and given the number of bike thefts in recent months.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>An application for members from Swords Community Policing Unit to undergo training in the use of the property marking device has been forwarded.</p> <p>Once this training has been received, appropriate property marking /crime prevention days can be scheduled for a number of areas within the Swords Sub District.</p>
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6.	<p>Deputy Duncan Smith</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>To ask the Superintendent to report on his plans to increase Garda patrols on the Donabate peninsula especially leading up to the Easter period.</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>Consideration of allocating additional and dedicated Garda Patrols in particular named areas is a decision for local Garda Management based on specific key indicators which justify same.</p> <p>Donabate and Portrane have two dedicated community policing Gardai and the area receives regular patrols from both those members, in addition to regular uniformed mobiles, uniformed patrols from Roads Policing Unit as well as plain clothes members in unmarked vehicles. The area will continue to receive attention.</p>
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