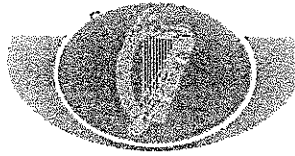


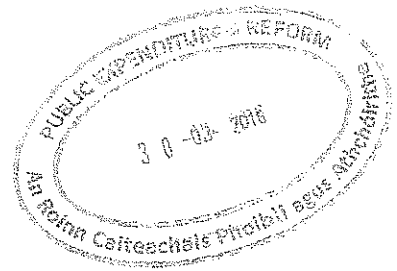
160003/PER



OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

21st March 2016

Brendan Howlin
Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform
Government Buildings
Merrion St. Upr.
Dublin 2



Supplementary Funding for the Garda Vót - International Counter Terrorism.

Dear Brendan,

You will recall that I wrote to you on 18 November 2015 in relation to a number of measures emerging in relation to Garda security operations, particularly in light of continued concern about the increased threat level in the European Union in respect of international terrorism, especially following the events in Paris on 13 November 2015. The attacks earlier this week in Brussels have highlighted starkly once again the persistent nature of this threat, the potential for mass casualty attacks and the urgent need to enhance our authorities capacity to prevent and respond to such events.

As you will know the threat to Ireland from this source is assessed as being moderate at present, that is to say that while an attack is possible it is unlikely. That said, we cannot afford to be complacent in any way – as an open and democratic state we cannot consider that we are immune from this threat. There are a number of persons of concern in this jurisdiction who are monitored on an ongoing basis by the Garda Authorities and our proximity to Britain requires a particular focus to be drawn on movement between these islands.

In the wake of the Paris attacks I asked the Garda Commissioner to review An Garda Síochána's capacity to deal with the threat from international terrorism. The Garda Authorities have reviewed their capability and on this basis and taking into account measures put in place following the recent organised crime gun attacks in Dublin have set out for me the scale of additional funding that is needed to enhance their capacity to prevent and to respond to any potential terrorist incidents.

I must emphasise in this context that there is a strong imperative on Ireland as a Member State of the European Union to respond in a timely and appropriate way to the implementation of the range of measures agreed by the Council of Justice and Home Affairs Ministers and the European Council at its meetings, particularly those in October, November and December 2015. Our commitment to these measures will require investment to enhance the operational and intelligence gathering and sharing capacities of our authorities not only to enhance their ability to safeguard the security of the State but also to fulfil obligations as part of the EU's collective response to ensuring the security of its citizens and interests.

SECRET

I must emphasise also that border security and co-operation with the UK authorities in managing the security of the Common Travel Area are integral aspects of safeguarding the State's security in the face of the threat from international terrorism. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is linked intimately to the conflict in Syria and Iraq and there is, sadly, a proven and deadly ability of groups such as ISIL/Da'esh to instruct and to carry out attacks in the Member States of the EU.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Implementation and integration with the Schengen Information System (SIS) is one among the principal requirements arising from measures agreed by the JHA Council in November and December 2015. It has long been identified as a key project to support An Garda Síochána's integration with EU-level information-sharing arrangements in respect of countering terrorism.

I want to acknowledge the additional allocation of €4 million in capital expenditure was provided for 2016 in respect of connection to SIS and the initial phase of implementation will allow Ireland to receive and broadcast terrorism-related alerts to and from the central SIS system in the coming months, subject to EU readiness to facilitate testing and connection, and work is underway in this regard.

SECRET

The current estimated total costs for implementation of the SIS are in the order of €19 million, with a timeframe for full implementation of 18 to 24 months.

The requirements for additional Garda resources to enhance the capacity to counter international terrorism that have been set out by the Garda Authorities arise under a number of headings and they are set out below with the overall costings in respect of each one identified.

[REDACTED]

In the aftermath of the recent organised crime shootings in Dublin the Garda Commissioner established a dedicated armed Regional Support Unit for the Dublin Metropolitan Region in order to augment immediately An Garda Síochána's armed response capability.

In addition [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Additional national urban patrolling

As you will be aware additional funding [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was agreed in February. The deployment of Garda armed units is directed at highly dangerous threats, whether from organised crime or terrorism. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Diversity Strategy Training

An Garda Síochána plans to deliver a comprehensive training programme in 2016 as part of its 'Diversity Strategy' in order to promote interaction, collaboration and exchange with people of different cultures, ethnicity and religion.

It is well-recognised internationally (at UN and EU level) that Ireland's community policing approach to its interaction with the Muslim community here represents best practice in the field.

That relationship needs to be maintained and developed as a matter of priority

It is also essential in order to seek to ensure that community as a whole can be best protected in what is currently a position of vulnerability.


Control of Points of Entry to the State

The Garda Authorities have clearly stated that the enforcement of immigration and security controls at our border with Northern Ireland is an operational imperative from an international counter- terrorism perspective.

It is considered simply essential to enhance An Garda Síochána's capability to perform immigration and security functions at the various points of entry to the State (ports, airports and the land border with Northern Ireland) in order to improve border security and to respond to evolving requirements in respect of management of the Common Travel Area with the UK authorities and demands at EU level.

It is essential that the momentum which has been established from the implementation of previous operations is built upon in order that a robust, co-ordinated policing approach can be deployed to ensure the integrity of points of entry into the State.

In the medium to long term it is intended to provide dedicated resources for this function.



The costs involved here refer to overtime and allowances payments.

Information sharing IT systems implementation

• ***Interpol's Mind/Find system connection***

Interpol's Mind/Find provides mobile and fixed connections for border control purposes to the Interpol Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) Database, in particular. It may also provide information on the status of a person or vehicle if it is linked to a passport or national ID card on the system. It is primarily aimed at securing borders and preventing illegal immigration by detecting the use of false documents. It is currently envisaged to engineer the linkage through the Garda National Immigration Bureau's information system.

Connection to Interpol's resource is another of the primary counter-terrorism information-sharing requirements arising from measures agreed by the JHA Council in November and December 2015 in order to counter terrorism, particularly the control and identification of foreign terrorist fighters and returnees from conflict areas who will likely use false documents and circuitous routes of return.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

• ***EU Automated Data Exchange Process (ADEP)***

On 4 December, 2015, I signed a letter of intent at the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting to facilitate An Garda Síochána's involvement in the pilot of an Automated Data Exchange Process (ADEP) between EU Member States. ADEP is designed to alert police or other law enforcement officers as to the state in which potential information may be sourced on a person of interest (this is as opposed to having to generate a query to all Member States in order to get the same information). ADEP is, therefore, an investment to bring efficiencies to the current systems in place.

[REDACTED]

The Garda authorities have set out these additional requirements as being essential to support immediate actions in the current circumstances. These requirements will, of course, be kept under review in light of the evolution of the international terrorist threat environment and how that impacts on Ireland.

A summary table beneath sets out these requirements [REDACTED]

In respect of Garda personnel, competitions are ongoing to fill resource gaps at the national and specialists units of An Garda Síochána with these resources to be drawn from operational uniformed units. While the filling of resource gaps in the national and specialist units is a necessity, it will result in between 500 and 550 personnel being drawn from frontline nationally but from the Dublin Metropolitan Region in particular. The filling of these critical vacancies gives rise to a pressing need to accelerate recruitment in excess of the proposed level already approved for An Garda Síochána in 2016. A significant proportion of the additional requirements set out here constitute overtime costs and these can be reduced as and when new recruitment comes on-stream.

SECRET

I know that you appreciate the gravity and urgency of what is at issue here and I look forward to reaching an early outcome in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Frances

Frances Fitzgerald T.D.
Minister for Justice and Equality

c.c An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D.

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Mr. Pascal Donoghue T.D.,
Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform,
Government Buildings,
Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin 2.

May 2016

Re: Additional Garda Resources 2016

Dear Pascal

I am writing to you, in relation to funding for the unprecedented level of policing activities of An Garda Síochána that have arisen, and will continue to be needed, this year.

In light of recent atrocities, particularly in the Dublin inner-city area, considerable Garda resources are currently being deployed to disrupt and investigate activities connected with serious organised crime gangs.

As you know, the Government has publicly committed to ensuring that An Garda Síochána will continue to have all necessary resources to tackle the recent upsurge in gangland crime and I believe that we must move quickly to deliver on this commitment. Accordingly, I have asked the Garda Authorities to let me have their best estimates as to level of funding needed to maintain the necessary policing response to the current situation and I have set out the position below.

I should note that, of the monies dealt with below, funding of €5m for policing in Dublin and [REDACTED] have previously been agreed at political level.

Organised crime gangs and associated crime [REDACTED]

You will be aware that, in February 2016, following my discussion with the Taoiseach, it was agreed that an additional €5 million would be ring-fenced to support concentrated policing measures targeting gang-related crime, including steps to establish a dedicated Armed Support Unit in the Dublin area. This funding was authorised on the basis that it would be available to spend immediately, and be reflected in the Estimates for 2016 in due course.

I am informed that maintaining the current level of Garda operations in Dublin and throughout the country will entail a [REDACTED] bringing the total [REDACTED]

These operations, while labour intensive, are clearly having an impact – both in detecting and interrupting the criminal gangs and in reassuring the public - and it is essential, in my view, that this funding be made available to enable them to be continued.

Operation Thor [REDACTED]

Operation Thor has involved more than 19,000 anti-crime patrols and some 23,000 targeted checkpoints nationwide and has achieved notable success. Funding for Operation Thor was initially provided to cover the period November 2015 to end March 2016.

In line with the Programme for Government commitment to building on the success of this Operation, An Garda Síochána proposes to extend the scope of Operation Thor over the entire year

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Commemorative events/visiting dignitaries - €9.45 million

The commemorative events arising from the 1916 celebrations are expected to give rise to additional costs of some €3.5 million. In addition, extra costs will arise in the context of necessary security arrangements related to the protection of visiting dignitaries. The costs associated with the recent visit of HRH Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall on 25 May 2016 are in the order of €0.95million. Vice-President Biden is scheduled to arrive for a 5 night visit next month and it is likely that some €5 million will be required to provide necessary security services.

Recruitment and reform

I have written to you separately in relation to the Programme for Government commitment to an accelerated programme of Garda recruitment designed to bring the strength of An Garda Síochána to 15,000 members.

As you are aware, the Programme also commits to doubling the strength of the Garda Reserve and increasing the level of civilian staff in An Garda Síochána to free up Gardaí to front-line policing duties. The Programme also references the extensive investment in Garda ICT systems, the Garda fleet and Garda Buildings and commits to working towards the implementation of significant reforms in An Garda Síochána.

In addition, the Government is committed to delivering on a programme of reform, modernisation and investment in An Garda Síochána particularly focussing on organisation, processes and systems. Indeed, the Capital Plan envisages investment of some €46 million in the Garda fleet and €205 million in Garda ICT.

The Garda Síochána Inspectorate report "*Changing Policing in Ireland - Delivering a Visible, Accessible and Responsive Service*", which I published last December will make an important contribution to the ongoing modernisation agenda. The Garda Commissioner has developed a 5 year modernisation and renewal programme for An Garda Síochána as a response to the findings of various internal and external reports, including previous reports of the Inspectorate. I understand that the programme addresses many of the themes covered by the most recent Inspectorate report and will also be sufficiently flexible to take on board any other agreed reforms.

I am confident that the implementation of the reform agenda will not only deliver a truly modern police service but will impact positively on the high overtime budget that is necessary to address current concerns.

In summary, it is estimated that [REDACTED] will be needed to cover additional expenditure incurred and to be incurred to support policing needs in the State for the remainder of the year while, at the same time, continuing the current enhanced efforts to tackle gangland crime.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

I believe that this figure should be reflected in the estimate for the Garda Síochána Vote and the Revised Estimates that are shortly to be put before the Dáil may be the most appropriate mechanism to put this additional funding in place. This would facilitate adherence to budgetary discipline within this increased funding.

I would welcome an early discussion with you in relation to the above.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Fitzgerald T.D.,
Tánaiste and Minister
for Justice and Equality

Additional Funding Garda Vote 2016- (position 3rd June 2016)

In order to bring this matter to a conclusion and provide some certainty to An Garda Síochána in relation to the financial resources available to respond to the unprecedented demand on policing resources, the additional requirement for the remainder of the year has been revised as follows;

Subhead	Amount
A1.(i) Overtime	50,938,000
A2.(ii) (i) Home Travel & Subsistence	2,648,000
A2.(iii). 4 Miscellaneous Expenses	226,000
A6.3 - Other Operational Equipment	2,139,000
Total	55,951,000

[REDACTED]

In addition, a review of the expenditure trends in the other votes in the Justice Group has been carried out. At this point in the financial year, it is difficult to pinpoint the scope for savings in many areas. However, in the interests of finalising this matter, the Department is prepared to give certain commitments in relation to the end of year expenditure position for the other votes which will offset, in part, the cost to the exchequer of the additional funding required for the Garda Vote.

Justice Vote – while it is difficult to pinpoint the subheads areas and specific amounts of savings between now and the end of the year, the Management Board in conjunction with the budget holders across the various agencies and organisations funded from within the Vote will commit to delivering savings of at least [REDACTED]

It is not possible at this point to specify where exactly these savings will arise as it depends on matters such as;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The main point is that the expenditure situation will be monitored closely and in so far as necessary, practical decisions taken at management level to deliver the committed amount of [REDACTED] by year end.

Courts and Prisons - you will be aware that both the Courts and Prisons votes have had no significant underspends in recent years other than modest surrender balances. This is likely to be the position this year also with the Courts Vote in particular having a particular difficulty in relation to its ICT Budget.

Turning to the Prisons vote, the only scope for savings is in relation to the capital buildings budget but the carryover provisions will need to be invoked to ensure that progress can be made on the much needed developments in Limerick and Portlaoise prisons in particular, next year.

However, notwithstanding the carry over commitment, it is proposed to commit to a saving of [REDACTED] in capital at year end.

The remaining smaller votes (**Policing Authority, IHREC, PRA and Valuation Office**) should be in a position to provide a combined saving of at least €2 million at year end. Again, similar to the Justice and Equality vote, it is not possible to say where these will arise specifically but in the case of IHREC and Policing Authority in particular, it is likely to be in the payroll side given that the recruitment process is somewhat slower than planned, mainly due to circumstances outside the control of the organisations concerned.

Finally, across the group it should be possible to generate additional appropriations in aid of at least €2 million thereby arriving at total offset savings of €15.5 million [REDACTED]

Therefore, in summary, the Garda additional requirement for 2016 has been reduced to just under €56 million with offsetting savings elsewhere in the Group of approximately €15.5 million reducing the exchequer requirement to additional funding of €40.5 million approximately.