

# An Garda Síochána

Oifig an Choimisinéara  
An Garda Síochána  
Páirc an Fhionnuisce  
Baile Átha Cliath 8  
Éire  
D08 HN3X





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CMR\_35-164949/14

Deputy Sean Fleming TD  
Chairman  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2



*Sean Chairman*

I wish to advise you I am in receipt of correspondence dated 6 June 2019 from Ms Éilis Fallon, Committee Secretariat seeking an explanation of the circumstances which led to incorrect information being given to the Committee.

Further to my correspondence of 20 May 2019 wherein I advised I was aware that a complaint had been made to GSOC and I was of the mistaken belief that the complaint referred to matters then in the public domain. I can further advise I was aware of the complaint from office briefings received in a context other than preparing for the PAC meeting.

As you will be aware I received correspondence from your Committee dated 28 March 2019 inviting me to attend a meeting on 9 May 2019 to assist the committee in its examination of two (2) matters;

- **Appropriation Accounts 2017:**  
Vote 20 - An Garda Síochána
- **Report on the Accounts of the Public Service 2017:**  
Chapter 7: Management of overtime expenditure in An Garda Síochána

The invitation further states, "The Committee expects you to be in a position to provide answers to all relevant questions on the day in relation to the meeting topic".

I was not advised in any communication from your Committee that the subject matter of this correspondence would be raised or discussed in any manner at the Committee and was in that respect endeavouring to assist the Committee as best I could from my own, albeit mistaken, understanding of the matter.

I endeavoured to provide answers on a topic which I had received no prior notification would be discussed. In responding to a question from Deputy Cullinane and speaking from recollection, I provided a response which was not accurate. In order to correct the record, I wrote to you on 20 May 2019 setting out that I was mistaken in my comment and I cannot put the matter any further other than to reiterate that there was no intention to mislead the Committee.

I would also like to state that my comments to the Committee on 9 May 2019 did not impact in any way on the investigation or arrest of the persons involved.

I have now been notified that the matter has been referred to GSOC and I do not intend to make any further comment in those circumstances.

Yours sincerely



**J A Harris**  
**Commissioner**  
**An Garda Síochána**

*17* June 2019