



**GSOC Ref:** CEPS-020-19  
**Your Ref:** S0188 PAC33

Ms. Éilis Fallon  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee of Public Accounts  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

30 March 2021

**Re: Request for Update**

Dear Ms. Fallon,

I refer to your letter dated 17 February 2021 concerning the investigation regarding EU funds for training purposes in relation to the Garda College, Templemore. On behalf of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, I wish to apologise to the Committee for the delay in responding to your correspondence. Under the provisions of section 81 (4) (a) (x) of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 (as amended), I wish to make the following information available to the members of the Committee of Public Accounts in response to your request.

As the Committee is aware, there are two separate strands to the GSOC investigation, both of which originate from the concerns expressed by the Head of the Garda Internal Audit Section. Your request refers to the strand concerning the administration of funds, largely sourced from the European Union, for a number of policing programmes. These funds received from the European Union were to allow the Garda Síochána, through various units within the organisation, to run seminars and conferences. These seminars and conferences related to criminal matters affecting European Union states and were designed to see if solutions could be brought forward to combat same.

GSOC's investigation is a criminal investigation undertaken in the public interest, and as highlighted in previous correspondence to the Committee, GSOC is limited in what information it can release at this time, to avoid potentially prejudicing the criminal investigation. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unforeseen delays, which has regrettably impacted on the timeline for completion of the investigation. The GSOC Senior Investigator in charge of the investigation has informed me that the investigation is now at an advanced stage, with some final statements being arranged. GSOC is working to conclude this investigation as rapidly as possible, however I am unable to provide a definitive date as to when the investigation will conclude.

The Commission would like the Committee to note that GSOC has an investigation team for its offices in Dublin, Cork and Longford of less than 40 people. You will note from our 2019 Annual Report (the 2020 Annual Report will be with the Minister on 31 March) that in 2019 there were 40 referrals under section 102(1) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, with 485 criminal investigations being opened in 2019. It is likely an increased number of criminal investigations will be reported in the 2020 Annual Report as complaints of all types increased during last year. Some criminal investigations are more complex than others, such as the aforementioned investigation, but for all the complainants and gardaí involved, their cases are the most important to be investigated by GSOC.

Our investigation teams are also involved in non-criminal investigations (disciplinary), over 250 of which were opened in 2019. Many criminal and non-criminal investigations are carried over from one year to the next having regard to when in the year the complaint/referral was made as well as the complexity of a given investigation. Please find enclosed an overview of the investigative process under the Garda Síochána Act 2005 in diagram form to assist in understanding the legislative process currently in operation.

We would hope from the above numbers alone you will see the challenge an oversight body with less than 40 investigators has in dealing with complaints of various complexity in relation to a Garda service of approximately 15,000 members.

We will keep you updated of any further progress but if you require any other information, please do not hesitate to contact our office at the details below.













Yours sincerely,



Ms Justice Mary Ellen Ring  
Chairperson

E: [Secretariat@gsoc.ie](mailto:Secretariat@gsoc.ie)

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Action	
Decision/option	
Initial stages & Admissibility	
S102 origin cases	
S106 Examination	
Informal resolution	
Criminal Investigation (s98)	
Disciplinary Investigation (s95)	
Disciplinary Investigation (s94(5) Supervised)	
Disciplinary Investigation (s94(1) Unsupervised)	
An Garda Síochána Process	
D,P,P. Process	
GSOC Process	