



Mr. Martin Hughes,
Clerk to the Committee of Public Accounts

By email only: pac@oireachtas.ie

Our Ref: DJE-SG-00002-2022
Your Ref: S0709 PAC33

21 January 2022

Dear Mr. Hughes,

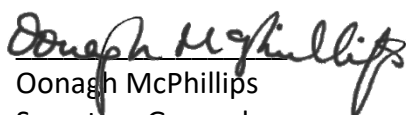
I refer to your letter of 10th January, 2022 in relation to reports of unofficial action by senior officers and its impact on Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) investigations.

As the Committee will be aware, both the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) and the Garda Commissioner are independent in their respective roles under the Garda Síochána 2005 in relation to complaints concerning members of An Garda Síochána. Section 94 of the Act provides a mechanism for the referral of complaints by GSOC to the Garda Commissioner for investigation.

The Department is of course concerned at any impact of the dispute referred to on the management and investigation of complaints referred under this section and is engaging with Garda management, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, and the relevant representative associations with a view to its resolution.

I can advise the Committee that the Labour Court held a hearing in relation to the claim from the two associations in question and recommended further engagement under the auspices of the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) on the matter. A further meeting between the parties at the WRC is scheduled for 26th January 2022, and it is hoped this will assist in resolving this question.

Yours sincerely,


Oonagh McPhillips
Secretary General