



GSOC ref: 870260-06-17
Your ref: S1457 PAC33

Ms Sarah O'Farrell
Clerk to the Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

16 November 2023

GSOC investigation into alleged financial irregularities associated with the Garda Síochána College, Templemore.

Dear Ms O'Farrell,

Thank you for your recent letter.

Pursuant to 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 our letter dated the 4th September, 2023, we detailed the complexity of this investigation, with multinational and jurisdictional dimensions. Having regard to this, the GSOC investigation was required to await the completion of separate investigation into the matter by the European Union Anti-Fraud Office, known as OLAF, over which GSOC had no control. The subsequent securing of essential evidence required further engagement with both EU and Belgian authorities. This engagement was, by its nature, a protracted process.

A further issue was that of resourcing. The Committee will – at the risk of my rehearsing the broken record I and my predecessors have in the past articulated to your members - be aware that GSOC continues to experience serious challenges with respect to resourcing, which has and continues to have a significant impact on our capacity to deal with an ever increasing caseload and on the duration of investigations.

In response to additional questions raised, the secondment periods of the 5 Garda officers are as follows:

- 1) 29/08/2017 - 29/05/2020
- 2) 28/08/2017 - 03/03/2020
- 3) 28/08/2017 - 03/05/2020
- 4) 29/11/2017 - 03/03/2020
- 5) 15/12/2017 - 02/12/2019

Coimisiún Ombudsman an Gharda Síochána, 150 Sráid na Mainistreach Uachtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 FT73
Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, 150 Upper Abbey St, Dublin 1, D01 FT73

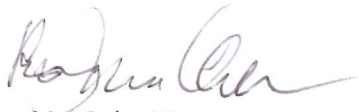
While these seconded Garda officers did not work on any other GSOC case, during their secondments they were still required to address some investigative and court matters connected to their ordinary prior duties.

When the secondment ended and before the completion of the investigation and while material from the European Commission was outstanding, GSOC investigators, who had not previously been involved in the investigation, progressed and completed the investigation. They generated a report that was considered by the Commission.

In relation to your second question, on completion of our investigation, a report was prepared subject to s101 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, as amended, and, following consideration by the Commission, the matter was forwarded to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The DPP is independent in its functions, pursuant to section 2(5) of the Prosecution of Offences Act, 1974, and we await a decision. Please note that, as is the case with analogous investigative files produced by other agencies, including An Garda Síochána, a report produced under s101 of the Act is not a public document. It attracts legal professional privilege and cannot, therefore, be made available.

If there are any matters outstanding, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will endeavour to provide whatever information I can.

Yours sincerely,



Rory MacCabe SC
Chairperson