

Deputy John McGuinness  
Cathaoirleach  
Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and  
Reform, and Taoiseach  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2  
D02 XR20

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Your ref: JFPERT-I-0320

RE: PRE-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY OF THE GENERAL SCHEME OF THE PROTECTED DISCLOSURES  
(AMENDMENT) BILL 20201.

Dear Deputy McGuinness

I refer to your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> of June last seeking a submission on the above General Scheme.

You will find attached with this letter the relevant submission in the required form with attachments.

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) has developed experience in the area of the receipt, assessment and investigation of protected disclosures since 2014. You will note from the submission that we have also been part of a European wide organisation expressly monitoring the implementation of EU Directive 2019/1937 over the last two years. It is planned to have this international organisation meet in Dublin in the days before the 17<sup>th</sup> of December when the Directive takes effect, subject to COVID restrictions in place at that stage.

We have also been liaising with personnel in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform about the Directive and practices adopted by GSOC in dealing with the legislation. At the end of June 2021 in an email to county councils, local authorities and other bodies from officials in DPER it was noted that

The [annual reports published by GSOC](#) are a good example of the format of a protected disclosures annual report.

We thank you for this opportunity to address a number of matters raised in the General Scheme. Two concerns would centre on the proper provision of resources and training on the new provisions along with clarity on data sharing which protects the Discloser but allows for efficient investigation and efficient processing of a protected disclosure.

I trust this will be useful for your Committee's deliberations and please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information.

Yours sincerely

Mary Ellen Ring

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Ms. Justice Mary Ellen Ring

Chair

Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission

Encl.