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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Commissioner  
An Garda Síochána  
Garda Headquarters  
Phoenix Park  
Dublin 8  
D08 HN3X

30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Dear Commissioner,

I enclose herewith, for your information, a copy of my letter to the Chairperson of the Policing Authority in relation to the proposed review, under the Programme for a Partnership Government, of:

- both the boundaries of Garda districts and the dispersement of Garda stations in rural areas and in developing urban and suburban areas; and
- deployment and rostering arrangements with a view to enhancing community policing units.

As you will see, I have suggested that the Authority engage the Garda Inspectorate to undertake the review and that the Review should be completed within 12 months or so.

You will be aware that the Programme for Government also commits to the reopening of 6 Garda Stations on a pilot basis and requires that the results of pilot should inform the main review being undertaken on the part of the Authority.

While fully cognisant of your statutory responsibilities in relation to the distribution of Garda resources in the State, the Government has agreed that I would request you to reopen 6 stations for the purposes of the pilot scheme referred to above. The Government has also agreed that the following criteria might be of assistance to you in identifying appropriate stations for inclusion in the pilot scheme:

- the 6 stations should be a mix of urban and rural;
- regard to be had to population and crime trends in the geographical area that would be covered by the reopened station;
- reopenings should be limited to stations that are still in State ownership and which can be reopened with least delay; bearing in mind the need for the pilot to commence without delay;
- the impact on the delivery of policing services generally of any particular reopening;
- given its size, at least 1 station to be reopened in County Dublin (including Dublin City). In the event that you consider more than 1 station suitable for reopening in Dublin, at least 1 mainly urban and at least 1 mainly suburban station to be reopened;

- outside Dublin, stations identified for reopening would be a mix of urban and rural with a good geographic mix and at least one station selection would be a station that previously opened for reduced hours.

To that end, I would ask that you identify for reopening 6 stations that were closed under the Garda Síochána District and Station Rationalisation Programme and proceed with their reopening.

I would appreciate it if you would let me know in due course the stations you identify for reopening.

I can assure you of the support of my Department with this work and if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Yours sincerely



Frances Fitzgerald

Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality