

Force protester groups get €400,000 subsidies

Martin Frawley

THE two garda associations involved in protest actions over proposed pay cuts are getting more than €400,000 a year from the government towards their administration costs.

According to the most recent accounts from the Department of Justice, the Garda Representative Association (GRA) received €103,000 in 2011 to pay for the salaries of two gardai who were seconded to work there. The GRA is currently led by general secretary PJ Stone and deputy general secretary John Healy.

The GRA also received €31,484 to cover the cost of phones and postage and €92,958 towards renting offices in Phibsboro, north Dublin. Its total subvention was just under €228,000.

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) received €117,305 to cover the cost of two sergeants assigned to

work there. The AGSI, which represents about 2,000 sergeants and inspectors, is led by secretary-general John Redmond and John Jacob, his newly appointed deputy.

The AGSI also received €15,099 to cover postage and phones and €46,613 towards rent, also in Phibsboro Tower, bringing its total to €179,017.

The Department of Justice also pays €58,000 each to two other garda associations representing superintendents and chief superintendents. The total state subvention to the four associations is €523,000.

Last week the department said it had “no comment” as to whether it was considering withdrawing some or all of the funding given the protests being mounted by the two main associations.

GRA and AGSI officials, including Stone and Redmond, protested outside Leinster House last week. Officials also picketed outside the Croke Park II pay talks last month. Alan Shatter, the justice minister, has said

the picket could “discredit the force in the eyes of many people”.

Jacob said the AGSI was not aware of any threat to its state funding. “We would be very disappointed if that were the department’s reaction,” he said.

AGSI members are continuing to engage in protest action including refusal to use their personal laptops, mobile phones and cars on duty. They are also refusing to volunteer to police sporting events and concerts.

Gardai cannot participate in any form of industrial action or join a trade union. Jacob said the current protest represents “passive resistance” to the Croke Park proposals. “We would never encourage members to disobey direct orders,” he said.

Stone said the GRA was trying to “keep a lid” on the situation but its members are annoyed. Under Croke Park II, a garda on an annual salary of €54,954 stands to lose €2,400 or 5% while a sergeant on €62,123 would lose €2,400 or 3.5%.





Concern . . . Redmond

Gardai vote on pay deal

By **BRIAN HUTTON**

MIDDLE-RANKING gardai are gathering today to decide if they will reject the public sector pay deal.

The fall-out from the Croke Park 2 agreement is to be discussed at the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors annual conference in Sligo.

AGSI general secretary John Redmond said: "Our members are in limbo and there is a deep sense of worry and concern around pay and allowances, so much so that it will totally dominate the conference."

He added that delegates would be looking to guest speakers Justice Minister Alan Shatter and Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan to alleviate some of their anxiety.



GARDAI **Minister to** **face anger** **of officers**

By CATHAL McMAHON

MID-ranking gardai will come face-to-face with Justice Minister Alan Shatter tonight in what is expected to be a frosty exchange.

The under-fire minister is due to address the annual conference of the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors in Sligo.

A number of delegates have slammed the decision to invite Mr Shatter to the event and he is likely to be greeted with silence after his speech.

AGSI general secretary John Redmond said: "Some weren't happy he was invited. However, it is tradition we invite the minister."

Mr Redmond added Mr Shatter and Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan needed to get a feeling for the anger among members.



COPS TO SHATTER: 'YOU TOLD US LIES'

AGSI conference fury over station closures

By STEPHEN BREEN in Sligo

UNDER-FIRE Justice Minister Alan Shatter was last night accused of "lying" over the closure of Garda stations across the country.

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors launched a stinging attack on the Fine Gael TD during their 35th annual conference at Sligo's Clarion Hotel yesterday.

AGSI official Larry Brady addressed Mr Shatter – who was seated awkwardly beside the union's general secretary John Redmond.

In a speech from the AGSI President Tim Galvin, delivered by Mr Brady, he told Shatter: "Twelve months on and nothing has changed. Your words were lies. One hundred stations were earmarked since then

and despite numerous requests to Garda management and you Minister, we find out what stations are closing on the Garda Portal system while you stand in the Dail making the announcement."

Destroyed

He added: "Station closures have destroyed the bedrock of this association. We are different than any other police force in Europe. We live and work within the communities we serve, and this link is now going to be destroyed."

Referring to a number of recent attacks on gardai, he said: "Since we spoke to you we have had our colleague Adrian Donohoe shot dead, a number of colleagues shot at, a young garda in Tallaght slashed in the face and another member in Store Street (Dublin) beaten and the private car of a member torched in the car park of a station in Clare.

"Do you Minister really care about your employees? Or is it lip

service?" Members of the Carlow/Kilkenny AGSI branch walked out as Mr Shatter addressed delegates.

The senior politician said: "The reality is that a reduction in the public service pay and pension bill must form part of the solution to our financial and economic difficulties."

"I sincerely wish this Government had not inherited such a disastrous economic legacy – but we have. I know this is not a popular message, but it is reality."

The Minister said it was not possible to consult with every individual in relation to station closures which he described as an operational decision made by the Garda Commissioner which he would not second guess.

Commissioner Martin Callinan will address delegates later today.
stephen.breen@the-sun.ie



TAOISEACH TACKLED

AN outraged garda slammed the Taoiseach for cutting public sector pay as he canvassed yesterday.

Fine Gael chief Enda Kenny was approached in Ratoath ahead of the Meath East by-election by the man who identified himself as an officer.

The garda fumed: "My daughter was

taken into hospital St Patrick's Day. We went over to Tallaght Hospital.

"She was seen by doctors, seen by nurses. The cleaning staff were in the hospital and also the food had been served.

"Now you're turning around to cut those people's wages."



Seating arrangement . . Minister Shatter & AGSI general secretary Redmond



Cool reception . . Fine Gael Deputy greeted with wall of silence by delegates





We've had enough . . members of Carlow/Kilkenny branch exit the room



Minute's silence for slain Adrian

By **CATHAL McMAHON** GARDAI last night held a minute's silence for their murdered colleague Adrian Donohoe.

Speaking at the opening of the AGSI conference, General Secretary John Redmond said: "I want to mention the terrible tragedy of the murder of our colleague."

"We all know the dedication he had to his family and his community."

Det Gda Donohoe was gunned down as he carried out a cash escort at Lordship Credit Union in Co Louth on January 25.

Thousands of officers attended the dad-of-two's funeral in Co Louth.

Mr Redmond explained that everyone in the force was "taken aback" by the first murder of a serving member in 17 years.

Justice Minister Alan Shatter also paid tribute to the fallen officer.

He said: "Detective Garda Adrian Donohoe was the victim of a brutal, callous and cowardly murder by thugs who have no respect for human life."

"I know his loss was devastating and traumatic for his family and for members of the force."

"I believe that it is right that I acknowledge his bravery and sacrifice and wish all of those engaged in the investigation into the dreadful events at the Lordship Credit Union success in bringing those responsible to justice."



▲ **SHOT** Adrian Donohoe



AGSI CONFERENCE

MINISTER 'LIED' OVER CLOSURES

Gardai told Shatter's consultation vow was a sham

BY **CATHAL McMAHON**
Crime Reporter
news@irishmirror.ie

A TOP garda rep has accused Justice Minister Alan Shatter of lying over station closures.

Tim Galvin said his members were left in the dark about downsizing.

The minister was met with a wall of silence as he addressed the annual conference of the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors in Sligo last night.

While Mr Galvin was unable to attend the conference, his speech was read by colleague Larry Brady.

He said they were assured by

the Government the lack of consultation of the first series of station closures would not be repeated.

Mr Brady said: "Your words were lies. We find out what stations are closing on the Garda Portal system while you stand in the Dail making the announcement.

"Worse than that is the fact the president and general secretary are called to a meeting to be updated on the plans and while the information is available on Twitter.

"We are different than any other police force in Europe.

"We live and work within the communities we serve and this link is now going to be destroyed and we believe that the consequences will not be seen for a number of years."

Mr Brady also took attacked the Minister's handling of the pay talks.

He added: "This is not about Ireland PLC or An Garda Siachana, this is about survival, survival for themselves and their families.

"Enough is enough. I stand here prepared to fight more cuts to my pay packet and those of my colleagues."

Referring to a number of recent attacks on members of An Garda Siachana including the murder of Det Gda Adrian Donohoe, delegates were told officers are not protected.

He said: "Since we spoke to you we have had our colleague Adrian Donohoe shot dead, a number of

colleagues shot at, a young garda in Tallaght slashed in the face and another member in Store Street beaten and the private car of a member torched in the car park of a station in Clare.

"Do you minister really care about your employees? Or is it lip service?"

But Mr Shatter last night hit back at garda groups claiming they have "lost their way".

He insisted he was doing all he could, in the current economic climate to

protect the force.

However, the minister claimed that the bodies which represent gardai are doing a "disservice to members of the force".

Mr Shatter said: "Just last week, members of both the GRA and AGSI had a protest outside Leinster House.

"I believe both bodies have lost sight of the specific purposes for which they were formed.

"They seem to be under the belief that by presenting themselves as some sort of protest movement they are acting in the interest of members of the force."

He said it would have been better if their

members had been at the negotiation tables for the Croke Park II talks.

Mr Shatter also slammed unnamed individuals within the garda representative groups "who show no respect for authority or the rules they should abide by".

He added: "I will, as Minister, continue to defend the Force and its members from unfair criticism and false allegations made either inside or outside the Dail but I will not disregard wrongdoing."

Mr Shatter defended recent station closures and claimed that these had not been made for political gain.

Referring to a recent controversial



decision to close Stepside station in South Dublin the politician slammed criticism.

He said: "Even if you take a cynical view of politicians, in fact especially if you take a cynical view, the fact that the largest station closed this year is Stepside in my constituency must surely support my contention that the public interest, and not any individual interest, must be paramount."



We find
out about
closures as you
make statement
in the Dail

TIM GALVIN



**LEGAL
NOTICES**

IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACTS 1963-2012.
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF
RECEIVER AND MANAGER.
CERTAIN PROPERTY OF

BLOODSTONE DEVELOPMENTS
LIMITED (In Receivership).

KBC Bank Ireland, p.l.c. having
its registered office at Sandwith
Street, Dublin 2 ("the Bank"),
with reference to Bloodstone
Developments Limited ("the
Company"), a company
incorporated in the State, hereby
gives notice that on the 20 March,
2013, Mr. Brian McEnery of BDO,
Four Michael Street, Limerick
accepted an appointment as
Receiver and Manager under the
powers contained in the Mortgage
dated 1 August 2007, held by
the Bank over certain property of
the Company mortgaged and/or
charged by the said Mortgage.

Dated 26 March 2013.

MacSweeney & Company,
Lismoyle House, Merchants Road,
Galway, Solicitors for KBC Bank
Ireland Pic.



Senior gardaí walk out during Shatter's speech

By Darragh Murphy

GARDAÍ last night staged a walkout during a speech by Alan Shatter.

The Justice Minister was stonewalled throughout his address at the opening of Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors' three-day conference last night.

He rounded on gardaí for missing the chance to argue their case in the public sector pay talks, criticised representative bodies for picketing the talks, and hit out at them for staging a protest outside the Dáil.

In turn, the Carlow-Kilkenny branch walked out during the speech, which was met by silence.

Mr Shatter said: 'I believe both bodies have lost their way, lost sight of the specific

purposes for which they were formed and seem to be under the belief that by presenting themselves as some sort of protest movement they are acting in the interest of members of the force.'

'I believe the approach taken is a disservice to members of the force.'

Mr Shatter's wide-ranging address to the AGSI conference in Sligo also referred to the leaking of information and garda abuse of power – a pointed reference to officers wiping penalty points, a report on which is due to be handed to the minister shortly.

He also revealed that he has asked

Commissioner Martin Callinan to examine officers' access and use of information on the internal Pulse System, which logs investigations.

He said: 'It should in no circumstances be used as some sort of social network to be accessed out of curiosity by members of the force in circumstances in which such access has no real connection with their duties or work in which they are engaged.'

Mr Shatter also rejected criticism of the closure of 100 garda stations, noting that Steapside station, the largest to close, is in his Dublin constituency and three miles from Dundrum station. The AGSI had accused Mr Shatter of telling lies about the closures. But

he said it was impossible to consult every individual in relation to an operational decision which was made, in any case, by the Garda Commissioner.

In relation to pay cuts, he said it was wrong to say AGSI and the Garda Representative Association had been sidelined in talks.

He said: 'Great efforts were made to protect the core pay of lower to middle-

paid workers, but the point is the place to make any such argument was at the negotiating table.'

A minute's silence was held for Detective Garda Adrian Donohoe who was shot during a raid on a credit union robbery in Louth in January.

