

An Garda Síochána

Information Sheet



Joint Policing Committees

An Garda Síochána Act, 2005

An Garda Síochána Act, 2005 contains a broad range of provisions, which impact on the way policing services are delivered in the State. Section 35 of the Act provides for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees.

Establishment of Joint Policing Committees

The Act provides for the establishment of a Joint Policing Committee in each of the 114 Local Authority administrative areas. The operation of these committees is governed by guidelines and a code of practice issued on the 24th of September, 2008.

What are Joint Policing Committees (JPCs)?

Joint Policing Committees will operate in a manner that offers an opportunity to develop greater consultation, cooperation and accountability between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and elected local representatives, with the participation of the community and voluntary sector, on the management of policing and crime issues.

Membership of JPCs

Each JPC is made up of:

- (i) Chairperson – Local Authority representative
- (ii) Garda Officers nominated by Commissioner
- (iii) Local Authority representative
- (iv) Members of Oireachtas for area
- (v) Community/Voluntary sector representatives

Functions of JPCs

- Serve as a forum for consultations and discussions on matters of crime and policing within the Local Authority administrative area.
- Review levels, patterns of crime and any underlying factors.
- Establish/coordinate Local Policing Fora.
- Meet on a quarterly basis.
- Hold an annual public meeting.

Participation and Responsibilities

Each of the partners involved in JPCs has its own distinct perspective and inputs to offer, along with its own responsibilities in ensuring that society's needs are effectively met to maintain safe and secure communities.

Garda Input

An Garda Síochána is committed to full participation in the operation of JPCs and will engage with all stakeholders to ensure the development of a policing service which meets the needs and demands of the community.

Matters for Discussion by JPCs

Any matter relating to the functions of a JPC may be discussed, however cognisance must be taken of the following matters as set out in the act:

“matters relating to a specific criminal investigation or prosecution or matters relating to the security of the State.” (Section 36(4), Garda Síochána Act 2005)

JPCs may not discuss matters which may:

- Endanger security of individual(s).
- Relate to an individual.
- Expose information received in confidence.
- Prejudice crime prevention/detection.
- Prejudice a Garda operation.

Garda National JPC Monitoring Office

This office forms part of Community Relations & Community Policing, based at Harcourt Square. Its functions are as follows:

- Coordinate and advise on policy development.
- Provide information and literature.
- Manage a database of contact details and information.
- Organise meetings and seminars .
- Attend JPC meetings and other consultative fora.
- Monitor and review available information.
- Engage with other police services and agencies to establish best practices.

**Garda National Joint Policing Committees Monitoring Office
Community Relations & Community Policing**

www.garda.ie