

Status Report as of 30 June, 2009 on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Fourth Report of the Garda Inspectorate –“Roads Policing Review and Recommendations”

	Recommendation	Recommendation: Accepted (A) Accepted with Modification (AM) Rejected (R)	Comment and Current Status	Target Date for Implementation	Responsibility
4.1	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda National Traffic Bureau (GNTB) continue to serve at the core of the Garda roads policing initiative. Building on its success to date, the GNTB should execute a review of existing roads policing policy and procedures and design a modern framework for monitoring roads policing plans and evaluating the outputs and outcomes of roads policing operations.	A	GNTB is developing a Roads Policing Manual which will include policies and procedures in respect of all aspects of roads policing. The Manual will contain identified good practice and provide the basis for how the Traffic Corps will operate on the road network. It is intended to provide consistency, compatibility and collaboration across the Garda Síochána. The Policy Document will be completed in the 4 th Quarter 2009.	1 st Quarter 2010.	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.2	The Inspectorate recommends that Garda management bring greater clarity to the role of the GNTB, address the issue of dual reporting relationships at the district, divisional and regional levels and clearly define the responsibilities of the Traffic Corps relative to the responsibilities of the ‘regular’ Garda units.	A	In establishing structures for Garda Traffic many different systems were examined including best practice systems in other jurisdictions. Assistant Commissioner Traffic will carry out a further review to give effect to recommendation 4.2.	4 th Quarter 2009	Assistant Commissioner Traffic

4.3	The Inspectorate recommends that Garda management place greater emphasis on 'denying criminals use of the road' by developing tactical training segments for personnel and ensuring that traffic and regular units are more operationally linked.	A	<p>Links between traffic and 'regular' units are being facilitated by briefings provided to the traffic units by the detective inspector in each Garda division.</p> <p>A structured system of daily and weekly accountability meetings provides for regular briefing and operational interaction for all members as per HQ Directive 94/2006. HQ Directive 66/09 provides for the briefing of all personnel going on all duties.</p> <p>Garda Traffic members are being trained in drugs interdiction. Traffic members are continuously updated through continuing professional development with changes to legislation and Garda policies.</p> <p>The Garda Síochána has developed an automatic number plate recognition system which will be a core element of strategy to deny criminals the use of the road. (See recommendation 4.16.)</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <p>Implemented</p> <p>4th Quarter 2009</p>	<p>Assistant Commissioner Traffic</p> <p>Each Regional Assistant Commissioner.</p>
4.5	The Inspectorate recommends that Garda management consider dedicated accommodation for traffic personnel as part of a comprehensive facilities management plan.	A	<p>The Commissioner has established a Garda Accommodation Programme Board, under the chairmanship of the Chief Administrative Officer, to prepare a long-term accommodation strategy for the organisation. The report is to be finalised in the 3rd Quarter 2009.</p> <p>The Board is giving consideration to the accommodation needs of all Garda units, including the allocation of dedicated accommodation for the Garda Traffic Corps.</p>	3 rd Quarter 2009	Chief Administrative Officer

4.6	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána begin a comprehensive review of internal policy related to all aspects of roads policing. This should be done with a view to providing clarity to existing stated policy, identifying policy gaps and developing new policy where required. This work should include a particular focus on enhancing standard operating procedures, including safety policies on specific roads policing functions. The standard operating procedures and policy guidelines should be accessible to all members.	A.	<p>This recommendation is linked with recommendation 4.1 and will form part of the review.</p> <p>The Garda Portal, a new intranet facility in the Garda Síochána, will provide members with easy access to all operational procedures for traffic enforcement.</p> <p>The Director of Training has reviewed the operational procedures for all checkpoints. A training course will be rolled out in the 3rd Quarter 2009.</p>	<p>1st Quarter 2010</p> <p>Implemented</p> <p>3rd Quarter 2009</p>	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.7	The Inspectorate recommends that responsibility for the National Coordinator of Forensic Collision Investigation be assigned to the Garda National Traffic Bureau.	A	Superintendent GNTB has been assigned responsibility for the national co-ordination of forensic collision investigation.	Implemented	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.8	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána review the positioning of equipment based on the frequency of collisions and call-outs for forensic collision specialists and, to the degree possible, ensure that the equipment is issued personally to the investigators.	A	Forensic collision investigation (FCI) capability was introduced to the Garda Síochána in 2007 when FCI kits were purchased and distributed to each of the Garda regions. A process has commenced to purchase two further kits. GNTB will continue to review the distribution of the kits and the requirement for any additional equipment.	Implemented	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.9	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána develop a plan to improve all training relating to roads policing, including legal and policy changes, court presentation, standard operating procedures for checkpoints and traffic stops and use of road traffic equipment.	A	This recommendation will be advanced following development of the Roads Policing Manual, which will include polices and procedures (see recommendation 4.1).	2 nd Quarter 2010	Assistant Commissioner Strategy, Training and Professional Standards

4.10	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána urgently develop a comprehensive driver training programme and do away with the current practice of driving on ‘Chief’s Permission.’ If necessary, to expedite this recommendation, a vendor should be contracted to provide this training. Those currently driving on ‘Chief’s Permission’ should attend an abbreviated but effective driver training course.	A	A review is being undertaken to identify the best possible approach to providing police driver instruction with the twin aims of eliminating ‘Chief’s Permission,’ and training Gardaí for effective and safe performance of standard police driving duties, including emergency response. The review will take into account current financial and other constraints.	4 th Quarter 2009 for completion of review.	Assistant Commissioner Strategy, Training and Professional Standards
4.11	The Inspectorate recommends that all recruit applicants to the Garda Síochána be required to possess a valid driving license prior to employment and successfully complete a comprehensive police driving course during their probationer training.	A	A Working Group comprising representatives of Garda Human Resource Management and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform is reviewing the Garda Síochána Admissions & Appointments Regulations. The matter of holding a driving licence prior to entry will be considered by the Group. A report is expected to be presented in the 3 rd Quarter 2009.	3 rd Quarter 2009	Assistant Commissioner Human Resource Management
4.12	The Inspectorate recommends that a review be conducted of all ‘at fault’ on-duty collisions to determine if Gardaí involved should attend remedial driver training.	A	A study is being carried out to establish the criteria for review of ‘at fault’ on-duty collisions and referrals to remedial driver training.	3 rd Quarter 2009	Assistant Commissioner Strategy, Training and Professional Standards
4.13	The Inspectorate recommends that all driving instructors be required to possess and maintain a professional instructor qualification.	A	The superintendent at the Specialist School in the Garda College has initiated discussions with FETAC on the matter of accreditation for driving instructors.	4 th Quarter 2009	Assistant Commissioner Strategy, Training and Professional Standards

4.14	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána track and review the number, distribution and use of intoxilizer machines.	A	<p>The Intoxilizer machines are the property of the Medical Bureau of Road Safety (MBRS) and are distributed in Garda divisions. GNTB continuously tracks and reviews the number, distribution and use of intoxilizer machines in conjunction with the MBRS and requests for further machines are forwarded to the MBRS where a need is identified.</p> <p>The last review of the number, distribution and use of intoxilizer machines was conducted in the 4th Quarter 2008. A request for additional machines is dependent on the current Road Traffic Bill, which may impact the statutory drink driving limit.</p>	Implemented	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.15	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda National Traffic Bureau maintain a central record detailing the numbers and distribution of personnel trained on roads policing equipment, the positioning of road safety equipment, the locations where it is used and how often it is being used.	A	This database is maintained at the Garda College and at divisional continuous professional development schools. A process is now being put in place with a view to establishing a central record at GNTB giving effect to this recommendation.	3 rd Quarter 2009	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.16	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána develop a policy and plan for deployment of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR). The plan should clearly identify the organisational requirements, including 'back office' support and front-line operational guidelines and training.	A	<p>Phase 1: Installation of equipment into vehicles and computers into appropriate Garda Stations</p> <p>Phase 2: Operational Guidelines and Training and Installation of Back Office Facility.</p> <p>Phase 3: Installation of GPRS/3G.</p>	<p>3rd Quarter 2009</p> <p>3rd Quarter 2009</p> <p>4th Quarter 2009</p>	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.17	The Inspectorate recommends that, in considering the purchase of digital tachograph equipment, the Garda Síochána ensure that any such equipment or required training be compatible with that of the Road Safety Authority.	A	The Garda Síochána has liaised closely with the Road Safety Authority in regard to new tachograph equipment for which a procurement process is underway.	3 rd Quarter 2009	Assistant Commissioner Traffic

4.18	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána consider further extending vehicle seizure contracts to other Garda divisions. In doing so, the Garda Síochána should determine if any legal or policy changes and training are required to prepare commanders to exercise this authority.	A	<p>There is a rolling programme for the implementation of managed towing contracts. The following Garda divisions now have contracts in place: Cork City, Galway, Limerick and DMR Southern.</p> <p>Tender evaluations are in progress in Cork West, Westmeath and in DMR Northern divisions.</p> <p>Tender documents are being prepared in DMR North Central, DMR South Central, DMR Eastern, DMR Western, Louth, Kildare, Kilkeny/Carlow, Donegal divisions, DMR Traffic.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <p>Contracts to be placed 3rd Quarter 2009</p> <p>3rd Quarter 2009 for issue of tenders</p>	Executive Director of Finance
4.19	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána evaluate the Traffic Watch programme with a view to improving its long term utility. This should include an analysis of its current position in the Garda organisation, its linkages to GNTB and the benefits of data analysis in determining priorities for the future.	A	GNTB will review and evaluate the effectiveness of the Traffic Watch programme in association with the Garda Síochána Analysis Service.	4 th Quarter 2009	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.20	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána continue to develop road safety strategies that are outcome-focused, not simply output- focused.	A	<p>Corporate outcomes are set out in Strategic Goal 3 of the Garda Síochána Policing Plan 2009 i.e. <i>“To significantly reduce the incidence of fatal and serious injuries and improve road safety”</i>. The Garda Síochána is seeking to achieve these outcomes through enforcement outputs.</p> <p>The target outcome will be achieved principally by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater use of MAT (mandatory alcohol testing) checkpoints. • Full utilisation of speed detection equipment. • Rollout of the ANPR system. • Continuing efforts to improve public awareness. • Outsourcing of safety cameras • Continued development and implementation of National Roads Policing Strategy for An Garda Síochána 	2009	Assistant Commissioner Traffic

4.21	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána modernise its system for recording, collecting and analysing road traffic data. The system should be integrated with PULSE and provide user-friendly information to Garda management and those in the field.	AM	<p>PULSE is being updated to improve road traffic data:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Pulse was updated in November 2008 to ensure recording of data on breath testing at the scenes of collisions. (2) Since November, 2008, PULSE facilitates electronic transmission of information on summonses, bails, warrants and court outcomes between the Garda Síochána and the Courts Service. (3) The next release of PULSE will facilitate recording of comprehensive data on MAT (mandatory alcohol testing) checkpoints, including the dates, times and locations of checkpoints and the outcomes of alcohol tests. <p>GNTB with the aid of the Garda Síochána Analysis Service analyse PULSE data and provide Monthly Tactical Assessments to local management as an aid towards further enhancement of enforcement policies.</p> <p>GNTB is preparing a business case for a further increase in the data capture capability of PULSE in respect of road traffic activity, in such areas as heavy goods vehicles, roadside checks. It is planned to have this included in a PULSE release towards the end of the 1st Quarter 2010.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <p>Implemented</p> <p>1st Quarter 2010</p> <p>Implemented</p> <p>1st Quarter 2010</p>	<p>Assistant Commissioner Traffic</p>
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4.22	The Inspectorate recommends that the GNTB work with the partner agencies to develop integrated information systems incorporating the full range of roads policing activity including volumes of enforcement, interventions, detections, fixed penalties, prosecutions, convictions and other activity.	A	<p>The Garda Síochána is continually endeavouring to enhance the exchange of information with partner agencies. At this time the Garda Síochána exchanges information online with the Road Safety Authority, and receives information from the Irish Insurance Federation, the Department of Transport and the Courts Service.</p> <p>The Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority are developing an integrated information system on the enforcement of road transport legislation in respect of heavy goods vehicles.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <p>4th Quarter 2009</p>	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.23	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána closely monitor prosecution data to identify and correct impediments to successful court outcomes and, in so far as it is within their control, minimise delays in the prosecution process.	A	Superintendent GNTB has been given responsibility for actively monitoring prosecution data and in this role he is required to liaise with traffic superintendents. Any issues are managed by way of HQ Directive to the organisation or, where appropriate, are referred to the office of the Chief Prosecution Solicitor. Any issues identified that require changes to legislation are submitted to the Department of Transport.	Implemented	Assistant Commissioner Traffic
4.24	The Inspectorate encourages the Garda Síochána to continue strong road safety collaboration at the local, cross-border, European and international levels.	A	The Garda Síochána is committed to a number of European and cross-border initiatives and will continue such commitment.	Implemented.	Assistant Commissioner Traffic

4.25	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda National Traffic Bureau develop a database that captures best practices and documents programme successes and failures.	A	<p>GNTB has a database which captures good practices and opportunities for improvement within the organisation</p> <p>GNTB collaborates with the Road Safety Authority, Department of Social and Family Affairs, and Customs on multi-agency checkpoints. The practice of multi-agency checkpoints has been refined to ensure health and safety and enhanced enforcement.</p> <p>The Garda Síochána keeps up to date with policing practices and programmes across the European Union through its membership of TISPOL.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <p>Implemented</p> <p>Implemented</p>	Assistant Commissioner Traffic.
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