

# CCBS – LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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18 May 2018 – 25 May 2018



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly was dissolved at 00:01 on Thursday 26 January 2017.



Wednesday 23 May 2018

Department For Justice and Equality

Niamh Smyth asked the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality the position regarding the ongoing allocation of additional gardaí in counties Cavan and Monaghan; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**Charlie Flanagan:** As the Deputy will appreciate, it is the Garda Commissioner who is responsible for the distribution of resources, including personnel, among the various Garda Divisions and I, as Minister, have no direct role in the matter. Garda management keeps this distribution of resources under continual review in the context of crime trends and policing priorities so as to ensure that the optimum use is made of these resources.

I am informed by the Commissioner that the strength of Cavan/Monaghan Division on 30 April 2018, the latest date for which information is readily available, was 344. There are also 11 Garda Reserves and 38 Garda civilian staff attached to the Cavan/Monaghan Division. When appropriate, the work of local Gardaí is supported by a number of Garda national units such as the National Bureau of

Criminal Investigation, the Armed Support Units, the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau and the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau.

The Deputy will also be aware that there is close and ongoing cooperation between An Garda Síochána and the PSNI on all aspects of policing, with a particular focus on combatting security threats and cross-border crime. The Commissioner and the Chief Constable of the PSNI, who are responsible for operational policing cooperation, have repeatedly emphasised the scope and the value of the close and high quality cooperation between the two police services in combating crime, protecting community safety and saving lives. The two police services operate a joint Cross-Border Policing Strategy which has as its aims to improve public safety throughout Ireland, to disrupt criminal activity and to enhance the policing capability of both police services on the island.

I can assure the Deputy that this Government is committed to ensuring a strong and visible police presence throughout the country in order to maintain and strengthen community engagement, provide reassurance to citizens and to deter crime. To achieve this the Government has put in place a plan for an overall Garda workforce of 21,000 personnel by 2021 comprising 15,000 Garda members, 2,000 Reserve members and 4,000 civilians. We are making real, tangible progress on achieving this goal.

Since the reopening of the Garda College in September 2014, just under 1,800 recruits have attested as members of An Garda Síochána and have been assigned to mainstream duties nationwide including 53 to the Cavan/Monaghan Division, 13 of whom were allocated from the most recent attestation of new Gardaí in March. Garda numbers, taking account of retirements, increased to 13,551 at the end of 2017 – a net increase of over 600 since the end of 2016.

I am pleased that funding is in place to maintain this high level of investment in the Garda workforce to ensure that the vision of an overall workforce of 21,000 by 2021 remains on track. This year a further 800 new Garda Recruits will enter the Garda College, some 400 of whom have already done so. In total, 800 Garda trainees are scheduled to attest during the year which will see Garda numbers, taking account of projected retirements, reach 14,000 by the end of this year.

In addition, a further 500 civilians will also be recruited to fill critical skills gaps across the organisation and to facilitate the redeployment of Gardaí from administrative and technical duties to front-line operational duties. There are plans to strengthen the Garda Reserve with new Reserves expected to commence training in 2018.

This focus on investment in personnel is critical. The moratorium on recruitment introduced in 2010 resulted in a significant reduction in the strength of An Garda Síochána and its legacy is still having an impact. We are now rebuilding the organisation and providing the Commissioner with the resources needed to deploy increasing numbers of Gardaí across every Division, including the Cavan/Monaghan Division.

**Source** <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-05-23a.51&s=cross+border+2018-05-18..2018-05-25#g56.r>

Thursday 24 May 2018

Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Eamon Ryan asked the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment the quantity of ammonia that was emitted to the atmosphere in each of the past five years here as a result of the importation and spreading of animal manure from Northern Ireland.

**Denis Naughten:** Ireland's national ammonia inventory does not include emissions from manures or slurries originating in Northern Ireland. Neither my Department nor the Environmental Protection Agency collects statistics on the volumes of manure or slurry crossing the border. However, I understand from my colleague the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, that his Department collects these statistics and that the volumes are very small, being in the order of less than 7,000 tonnes in either direction for each of the last two years. In the context of the roughly 45,000,000 tonnes of manure generated within the country each year, any such figure from Northern Ireland will have minimal impact on total ammonia emissions to air.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-05-24a.522&s=cross+border+2018-05-18..2018-05-25#g524.r>