

6 January 2016

Policing Authority – Process to identify and recommend persons for appointment

The Public Appointments Service wishes to put on record the process used to identify and recommend persons for appointment to the new Policing Authority. This is in response to recent media commentary.

In mid-2015, and in keeping with the provisions of the Garda Síochána (Policing Authority and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2015 which was then proceeding through the Oireachtas, the Public Appointments Service (PAS) was requested by the Government, via the Minister for Justice & Equality, to run the process to identify and recommend suitably qualified and experienced people for consideration for appointment to the Policing Authority.

The process was run fully in line with the provisions of the draft legislation, and was independent, robust and competency-based.

A notice seeking expressions of interest in being considered for appointment was placed on the State Boards website on 26 August 2015. This notice included an explanatory Information Booklet which set out clearly the requirements for appointment to the Authority. Applications closed on 16 September 2015 and a total of 97 expressions of interest from members of the public came forward into the assessment process.

PAS put in place an Assessment Panel to assess the expressions of interest against the published criteria. The Panel was constituted as follows:

Chairperson: Prof. Kevin Rafter
Associate Professor of Political Communication, DCU

Panel Members: Ms Josephine Feehily
Chair (Designate), Policing Authority

Mr Joe Brosnan
Consultant on Public and European Affairs and former Member of the
Independent Monitoring Commission

Prof. Monica McWilliams
Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster

Mr Tom Arnold
Chair, Constitutional Convention and former CEO of Concern Worldwide

Following a detailed review of all of the applications on 6 October 2015, the Panel met individually with a shortlist of potentially appointable candidates to finally determine those whom PAS would recommend to Government as suitable for consideration for appointment.

As part of the overall assessment process, PAS also carried out verification checks in relation to the applications submitted by the shortlisted candidates. Each shortlisted candidate was also required to submit a Statutory Declaration attesting to the completeness and accuracy of their application and declaring that they did not fall within any of the exclusions stated in the relevant Bill.

At the conclusion of the foregoing process, PAS recommended 17 people for consideration by Government for appointment to the Policing Authority. These names and relevant details were sent to the Minister for Justice and Equality for onward transmission to Government. All of the people designated on 30 December 2015 for appointment by the Government were from among the names forwarded by PAS.