

Status Report as of 31 December, 2012 on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Fifth Report of the Garda Inspectorate –“Missing Persons Review and Recommendations”

	Recommendation	Recommendation: Accepted (A); Accepted with Modification (AM); Rejected (R)	Comment and Current Status	Original Target Date for Implementation	Revised Target Date for Implementation	Responsibility
5.1	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Missing Persons Bureau continue to advise and assist in high-risk missing-persons cases leaving direct, day-to-day responsibility to district superintendents and their personnel in local police districts.	A	The Garda Missing Persons Bureau continues to provide advice and assistance in high-risk missing-persons cases. The Bureau expertise is readily available to all requests from district superintendents and their personnel. District Officers are assigned responsibility for all missing-persons cases within their Garda District. They are also responsible for coordinating, as necessary, with the Garda Missing Persons Bureau.	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
5.2	Inspectorate recommends that Garda Síochána management supplement the current resources of the Garda Missing Persons Bureau with a limited number of additional personnel, including sworn police officers and non-sworn administrative and analytical staff.	A	An additional Sergeant was appointed to the Missing Persons Bureau in February 2010 and a non-sworn member was allocated to the Bureau on 28 June, 2010. The Missing Persons Bureau now utilises the services of the Garda Síochána Analysis Service (GSAS) to analyse data relating to missing persons.	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security

5.3	<p>The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána designate personnel in each police district who will be responsible for all missing-persons cases and coordinate as necessary with the central Garda Missing Persons Bureau and external partners.</p>	AM	<p>Responsibility for missing-person cases rests with district superintendents who appoint personnel to deal with aspects of missing-person cases as appropriate.</p> <p>Liaison sergeants have been appointed to monitor reports of children missing from care facilities, which account for 50% of all missing-person reports. The sergeants pro-actively liaise with managers of residential care homes and monitor cases where children-in-care are reported missing. These Sergeants are the point of contact for staff from care facilities and report directly to their district officer.</p> <p>In addition, each divisional officer recently nominated two sergeants from their divisional search team to provide a new skill set in advising Senior Investigating Officers on available search services and performing a co-ordination role when such services are utilised. The skill sets of these members will be further developed with the introduction of search management courses at the Garda College. The members are also responsible for coordinating as necessary with the Garda Missing Persons Bureau.</p>	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
5.4	<p>The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána develop specific missing-persons procedural guidance for call takers, front-line officers and supervisors.</p>	A	<p>Development of a guidance manual for call takers, front-line officers and supervisors has been completed.</p>	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security

5.5	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána provide detailed instructions to front-line officers and supervisors on their responsibilities when new agreements regarding missing persons are reached with partner organisations.	A	Joint Protocol between the Garda Síochána and Health Service Executive (dealing with children in care) was signed and implemented in April 2009. The protocol was published on the Garda Intranet and supported with the issue and publication of a comprehensive HQ Directive. The Missing Persons Bureau coordinated the delivery of the detailed instructions on the operation of the protocol and directive to front-line officers and supervisors.	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
5.6	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Missing Persons Bureau continue to invest in training its personnel to ensure they remain subject matter experts on missing-persons issues.	A	The investment in training continues with Bureau staff pursuing a degree in psychology. Staff also completed a Family Liaison Officer Course and a Specialist Child Interviewer Course. Staff visits with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, attendance at international conferences and ongoing contacts with the UK Missing Persons Bureau are important in this regard.	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
5.7	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Missing Persons Bureau work continually with the Garda College to develop updated training on the subject of missing persons for new students, in-service and specialist personnel.	A	<p>The Missing Persons Bureau is continually working with the Garda College in order to identify opportunities to enhance training materials and to improve the integration of the Missing Bureau expertise and the training function relating to missing persons.</p> <p>An example of such collaboration is the involvement of the Missing Persons Bureau with the Garda College in developing a training package on search management for selected Garda personnel.</p>	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security

5.8	<p>The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána develop joint training with its partners, including the Health Service Executive, Civil Defence, Irish Mountain Rescue Association, sub-aqua and other voluntary search organisations, non-governmental organisations, and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.</p>	A	<p>In conjunction with the newly appointed Health Service Executive (HSE) Training Liaison Officer, the Garda Síochána has agreed it will introduce joint training related to the Missing Children from Care Protocol and the Children First Guidelines.</p> <p>The Garda Síochána is continuing to liaise with the PSNI to collaborate on best practice experiences in both police services.</p> <p>The Garda Missing Persons Bureau has met with the Mountain Rescue Ireland, Missing Person Helpline, Irish Underwater Council, Irish Coast Guard, Civil Defense, Irish Red Cross Association and the Irish Cave Rescue Organisation in order to enhance relations, develop an understanding of the service they provide, and develop joint training initiatives. It was agreed to hold an information seminar in August, 2010 at the Garda College.</p>	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
5.9	<p>The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána expedite the release of enhancements to its PULSE information system that will improve the quality of its missing-persons incident records and introduce the online risk assessment tool.</p>	A	<p>An on-line risk assessment tool and enhanced information capabilities were implemented as part of a PULSE update in June, 2009.</p>	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security

5.10	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána make the Garda Missing Persons Bureau responsible for both official missing-persons web pages. The Inspectorate further recommends that the Garda Síochána improve these web pages to increase the ease with which they can be found and understood by the public.	A	<p>The Bureau is now responsible for both external websites and the Garda intranet.</p> <p>Missing persons are now given more prominence on the Garda website (www.Garda.ie) as a result of recent site improvement work.</p>	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
5.11	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána ensure that missing persons technology allows for collaboration and coordination with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and other police services across Europe.	A	<p>Current technology for collaboration on missing persons includes Ireland's participation in the International website for missing kids developed by the International Association for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC). All European countries have access to and most European police forces actively participate on this website by uploading details of missing children. In addition to this, an international portal was developed, by ICMEC in February, 2011, enabling all participating countries to upload any relevant information regarding missing persons in their respective country. This includes information on missing persons and the policy & procedures utilised in each participating country of which ten are European.</p> <p>With regard to cross border alerts for abducted children and subsequent collaboration and coordination with other police forces, An Garda Síochána participated as an observer to a cross border alert on 15th September, 2010. This involved Belgium, France, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Ireland's participation focused on identifying the optimum technology required to support effective collaboration,</p>	3 rd Quarter, 2010	Deferred	Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security

			<p>coordination and communication with other police services.</p> <p>The PSNI developed an alert system for abducted children in March, 2011. Representatives from the Garda Síochána met with the PSNI in October 2011 to observe their alert system for child abductions. The PSNI utilise established systems which are exclusively available to police forces in the UK to manage call taking and information gathering. These management systems are not available to the Garda Síochána.</p> <p>There are no immediate plans to update the current missing persons technology. However the introduction of any new system would take into account the issues of improved collaboration and coordination with other police services. Implementation of this recommendation is deferred until new technology is under consideration.</p> <p>The Garda Inspectorate acknowledges the current position on technology and the impact that it has on the implementation of this recommendation.</p>			
5.12	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive expedite the Joint Protocol that clearly defines arrangements for addressing the issues of children in care who go missing.	A	<p>The Joint Protocol was signed and implemented between both organisations in April, 2009.</p> <p>The protocol was communicated within the Garda Síochána by way of a comprehensive Headquarters Directive (74/2009) and publication on the Garda intranet.</p>	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security

5.13	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána expedite agreements with Civil Defence, Irish Mountain Rescue Association, sub-aqua and other voluntary search organisations.	AM	<p>The Garda Síochána has received legal advice on the question of entering into formal agreements with the voluntary search and rescue agencies. As it has been determined that there may be legal and insurance consequences to such arrangements the Garda Síochána has addressed the relationships with these agencies in other ways.</p> <p>The Garda Síochána has met with representatives of the Irish Mountain Rescue Association, the Irish Underwater Council, Irish Civil Defense, Irish Coastguard and the Missing Person Helpline. An information seminar was held at the Garda College on 11th August, 2010. Two members of Sergeant rank have been appointed at Divisional level to liaise with these agencies on an on-going basis.</p>	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
5.14	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána explore developing a more active relationship with Missing in Ireland Support Service (MISS) and other non-governmental organisations dedicated to missing persons.	A	Personnel from the Missing Persons Bureau have met with representatives from Missing in Ireland Support Service (MISS). The Service participated in the information seminar scheduled for the Garda College in August, 2010. The Garda Síochána continues to liaise with other non-governmental organisations to explore the development of more active relationships.	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
5.15	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána work with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and their respective partners to establish a cross-border working group on missing persons. This could lead to an all-island approach to missing persons.	A	The Garda Missing Person Bureau holds regular meetings with the Missing Persons Section in the PSNI. Both services are committed to working together to service the needs of missing-persons investigations which have a cross-border dimension. The most recent meeting with the PSNI was on 27 th May, 2010 at Garda HQ. The main agenda item of this meeting related to the management of missing-person investigations and included a case study. The Missing Children from Care Protocol was also discussed.	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security

5.17	<p>The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána develop an alert system for missing children that includes strict criteria and provisions for international collaboration. The Inspectorate recognises that this is a challenging task that will require the support and participation of many government agencies, NGOs and private sector representatives.</p>	A	<p>On 25th May 2012 the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and the Minister for Justice and Equality launched Child Rescue Ireland (CRI) Alert. CRI Alert is a system that enables An Garda Síochána to seek the assistance of the public where a child has been abducted and there is a reasonable belief that there is an immediate and serious risk to the health or welfare of a child.</p> <p>There are strict criteria for launching a CRI Alert, which are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The child is under eighteen (18) years 2. There is a reasonable belief that the child has been abducted 3. There is a reasonable belief that there is an immediate and serious risk to the health or welfare of a child 4. There is sufficient information available to enable the public to assist An Garda Síochána in locating the child. <p>To date, the following external agencies have partnered with An Garda Síochána for CRI Alert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Roads Authority • The Health Service Executive Dublin Bus • Railway Procurement Agency • Dublin City Council • Iarnród Eireann • The Emergency Call Answering Service <p>Most European Countries, including the UK and Northern Ireland have a similar child abduction alert system in place. In all cases with an International Dimension, the services of INTERPOL will be utilised.</p>	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
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5.18	The Inspectorate recommends that the Garda Síochána explore the opportunity to partner with Northern Ireland to develop an all-island alert system.	A	The PSNI have an established Alert System in place which functions on the basis of utilising communication systems available to all police forces in the United Kingdom. These communication systems are not available to An Garda Síochána for CRI Alert. Therefore, an all –island alert system is not achievable at this time. However, both police forces have agreed to notify each other, via primary communication centres, in the event of an alert being issued in either jurisdiction and if necessary a countrywide approach will be operated.	Implemented		Assistant Commissioner, Crime & Security
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