



An Garda Síochána

Policy Document

Acceptance of Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship

Effective Date	<i>11th June 2018</i>
Approved by	<i>Garda Executive</i>
Introduced by	<i>HQ Directive 032 / 2018</i>
Policy Owner	<i>Executive Director, Human Resources and People Development</i>

Purpose

This Policy and related Procedures set out the principles governing the acceptance of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship by garda and civilian staff.

For the purposes of this document the term 'civilian and garda staff' is utilised to reference members of An Garda Síochána, Garda Reserves and civilian staff.

This policy, when read in conjunction with the relevant procedure document, fulfils the dual role of:

- a) ensuring actions/decisions of garda and civilian staff are made in the public interest;
- b) protecting garda and civilian staff from accusations of improper behaviour.

It supports compliance with the Code of Ethics for An Garda Síochána, the Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour (civilian staff), the Garda Síochána (Discipline) Regulations 2007, as amended and the Garda Síochána Code Volume I (members of An Garda Síochána). This Policy and related Procedures seek to ensure that the actions of garda and civilian staff are ethical, above reproach and do not give rise to any actual or potential conflict of interest.

Scope

This Policy and all associated documentation apply to members of An Garda Síochána and civilian staff. It also applies to Police Officers from the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) seconded to An Garda Síochána in accordance with Section 53, Garda Síochána Act 2005.

Policy Statement

The acceptance of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship must not influence, be seen to influence or perceived to influence the discharge of official duties, nor to influence, be seen to influence or perceived to influence garda and civilian staff in their dealings with any person, organisation or group holding or seeking to obtain a contract with An Garda Síochána. Garda and civilian staff may not accept any gifts, gratuities, favours, discounts, subscriptions, hospitality or sponsorship, which might be seen to compromise them, now or in the future. Garda and civilian staff will not solicit gifts or hospitality, directly or indirectly.

The overarching principles of transparency, accountability and perception are paramount in decisions made regarding the acceptance of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship. All decisions regarding same must be reasonable and justified.

Compliance

Compliance with this Policy and accompanying associated document(s) is mandatory for all members of An Garda Síochána and civilian staff.

Related Documents (if relevant/appropriate)

1. Acceptance of Gifts, Hospitality & Sponsorship Procedure
2. [Code of Ethics for An Garda Síochána](#)
3. [Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour](#)
4. [Garda Síochána \(Discipline\) Regulations 2007, as amended](#)
5. [Data Protection Act, 2018](#)

Legal & Human Rights Screening

This Policy has been legal and Human Rights screened in terms of the respective obligations placed on An Garda Síochána for the subject area concerned.

Ethical Standards & Commitments

Every person working in An Garda Síochána must observe and adhere to the standards and commitments set out in the [Code of Ethics](#) for An Garda Síochána and uphold and promote this Code throughout the organisation.

Policy & Procedure Review

This Policy and associated documents will be reviewed 12 months from its date of effect and every three years thereafter.

Disclaimer

This document is not intended to, nor does it represent legal advice to be relied upon in respect of the subject matter contained herein. This document should not be used as a substitute for professional legal advice.

Data Protection Act, 2018 (No. 7 of 2018)

In respect of the personal data processing activities associated with this procedure, a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation.