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CENTENARY EVENT - THE GRESHAM HOTEL



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA
MAY 24TH 2022



SCHEDULE



6pm – Start Time.

Light refreshments and wine / tea / coffee reception with music from the Garda Band.

7pm – General Welcome – Deputy Commissioner Anne Marie McMahon.

7.10pm – Opening Address – Commissioner Drew Harris.

7.20pm – Set the Scene – Sergeant John Reynolds.

7.30pm – Presentation on the Early Years – Dr. Liam McNiffe.

8.00pm – Anne Cassin - Panel Discussion commences.

9.15pm – Conclusion of Panel Discussion.

9.30pm – Close and presentation by Deputy Commissioner McMahon.



Commissioner's Forward



Colleagues, friends,

I am honoured to welcome you all here to mark this very special occasion.

In Room 85 of the Gresham Hotel, Dublin on February 9th, 1922 Ireland's National Policing and Security Service, 'The Civic Guard' or 'An Garda Síochána' was established during the inaugural meeting of the foundation committee as chaired by Michael Collins, then Chairman of the Provisional Government of Ireland.

This meeting, although in secret, was a seminal moment in Irish history and its outcome would eventually help lead to stability in Ireland. In this our centenary year, we recall the words of our first Garda Commissioner Michael Staines, *'The Garda Síochána will succeed not by force of arms or numbers, but on their moral authority as servants of the people.'*

This is the mission that continues at the very centre of all that we do. The evolution of our organisation over the past century has not been without its difficulties. In fact, we have encountered many challenges that we have overcome through our history, from the first and second generations of Gardaí to all those policing a very modern Ireland today.

This evening we are here to commemorate our colleagues who came before us and established our service. Our event also presents us with a unique opportunity to examine if we have lived up to the ideals of those who met here 100 years ago by reflecting on the past, assessing the present, and considering the future role of An Garda Síochána in keeping the people of Ireland safe.

Le meas agus buíochas,

JA Harris
Garda Commissioner



THE POLICE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 1922



Introduction

The foundation of the Civic Guard / An Garda Síochána in February 1922 was a momentous event in Irish history and helped to bring peace and stability to a country ravaged by conflict during the War of Independence. Over 500 policemen were killed and a policing vacuum had existed since the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) had effectively ceased to function as a civil police force.

Following the truce of July 1921 and subsequent Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 1921, bitter and divisive debates took place in the Dáil before deputies voted on 7th January 1922. The treaty was ratified by a small margin of sixty-four votes to fifty-seven. However, the refusal to accept that result by a significant section of TD's and IRA volunteers caused the fledgling new Irish Free State to move inevitably towards Civil War.

The Police Organising Committee

The task of founding, recruiting, training and deploying a new police force with Civil War looming was arduous. From February 1922, the formal disbandment of the RIC operated in parallel with the efforts of the provisional government to find thousands of recruits to replace them. Michael Collins convened a meeting to form a Police Organising Committee which took place in Room 85 of the Gresham Hotel on Thursday 9th February 1922 at 7.00 pm.

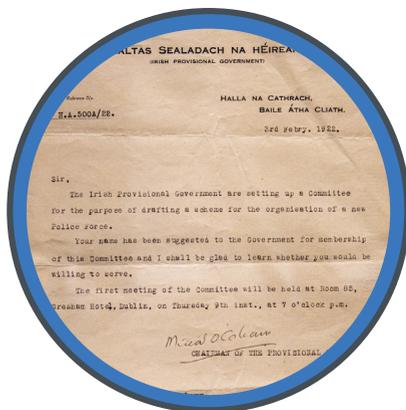


Collins needed experienced, professional policemen to train recruits for the new force, given that it would initially be made up almost entirely of IRA volunteers with no previous policing experience. The majority of the Police Organising Committee were serving policemen from the Royal Irish Constabulary and Dublin Metropolitan Police.

These policemen had been selected by Collins or recommended by local IRA commanders as they had shown nationalist sympathies during the conflict, had actively worked for Collins supplying intelligence to the IRA, or were regarded even by their enemies as decent and honourable Irishmen, dedicated to doing their duty as policemen.

The Police Organising Committee recommended that the Civic Guard should have a strength of 4,300 men and be commanded by a Commissioner answerable to the government. Significantly, while the Civic Guard would have a new uniform, rank structure and insignia, the force would differ little from the RIC in structure, training or deployment. At that stage it was intended that the Civic Guard would be 'lightly armed' and carry revolvers.

Michael Collins requested of UK Minister Winston Churchill that the complete disbandment of the RIC would be delayed to give sufficient time for the Civic Guard to be established.





Recruitment

Recruitment began immediately and the commanding officer of each IRA brigade was asked to recommend suitable volunteers from their ranks as potential recruits. A large training facility that could accommodate up to 4,000 recruits was urgently needed, but the Phoenix Park Depot was still occupied by the RIC. The director of the RDS in Ballsbridge offered those premises, which were accepted following an inspection by Commissioner Staines. Remarkably, only twelve days after the Police Organising Committee had its first meeting at the Gresham Hotel, recruits began arriving at the RDS and were entered in the Civic Guard register as the first members of the new force.

On 5th March 1922 Collins made the first public reference to the new police force during a speech at College Green in Dublin, saying that he wanted *'the support of the people for the new police we are forming ... it will be a people's guard for the protection of all classes and parties.'*



ATTENDEES AT THE POLICE ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael Collins
Richard Mulcahy
Eamon Duggan
Michael Staines
Eoin O'Duffy
Eamon Broy
Patrick Walsh
Jeremiah Maher
Joe Ring
Thomas J. McElligott
Edmond Prendiville
James P. Foley

James Brennan
Patrick Riordan
Patrick Harte
Patrick Brennan
John A. Kearney
Matthias McCarthy
Martin Lynch
John Galligan
Michael McCormack
Michael Kelly
Thomas Neary





THE GARDA BADGE

The badge of An Garda Síochána was designed by a technical school teacher of art in Blackrock, Co. Dublin and friend of Commissioner Michael Staines, John Francis Maxwell (1880-1948).

The badge takes in the form of a Celtic high cross, with 4 sets of Celtic knots, representing the four provinces of Ireland. On the centrepiece are the ornate and intertwined letters G.S, the initials of 'Garda Síochána'. The outer ring carries the inscription, 'Garda Síochána na hÉireann', which translates as 'Guardians of the Peace of Ireland'.

This unique and distinctive insignia contains elements from ancient Irish manuscripts and represents the aspirations and patriotism of the men who founded An Garda Síochána and the Irish Free State in 1922.





THE GARDA BAND

The Garda Band was established shortly after the foundation of An Garda Síochána. It gave its first public performance on Dun Laoghaire Pier on Easter Monday, 1923. So great was its impact that it was invited to play at various functions and events throughout the country. Under the direction of the first Bandmaster, Superintendent D.J. Delaney, a céilí band, pipe band and dance orchestra were formed from within its ranks.

In 1938, the Dublin Metropolitan Garda Band (which was based at Kevin Street) and the Garda Band amalgamated. The new band was based at the Depot in the Phoenix Park. In 1964 the Band toured the USA and Canada under Bandmaster Superintendent J. Moloney. The Band was disbanded the following year but was re-established in 1972 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of An Garda Síochána.

Besides providing music for official Garda functions (such as graduation ceremonies at the Garda College) the Band undertakes a heavy community-orientated programme each year performing at schools, festivals and sporting events. It has a long association with Lansdowne Road for rugby and soccer internationals, the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin and the Rose of Tralee Festival.

The Band has travelled to many international events and has represented the country on a number of occasions at police festivals and concerts in Switzerland, Germany and Northern Ireland.





MODERATOR / MC

Anne Cassin
RTÉ Presenter

Anne Cassin has been a presenter with RTÉ's flagship 'Nationwide' programme for the past 10 years giving voice to communities and stories from all over Ireland. She spends a lot of time on the road – showcasing the best of Ireland, whether it is culture, business, tourism or the natural world. At this stage she has a story from every county. Recent trips include 30 years of the Irish Landmark Trust, Sligo with singer Tommy Fleming, a potted version of 'Ulysses', and the Clew Bay Bike Trail.

She is especially proud that 'Nationwide' never stopped filming during the pandemic, providing stories and content to the Irish people.

Anne's career in RTÉ started as continuity announcer in 1988, before transferring to the newsroom where she covered politics, the North, European affairs and the Olympic Games. She then became a sportcaster and then newscaster.

Anne's television presentation career includes 'Capital D' and 'Crimecall', which she presented for five years meeting many members of An Garda Síochána in the course of her work.

She lives in Dublin with her husband and has three children. She is interested in running, reading and heritage.





PANEL SPEAKER

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris An Garda Síochána

Career Highlights: Commissioner Drew Harris, a native of Belfast Co. Antrim, had 34 years' policing experience with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) before joining An Garda Síochána. In his current role as Commissioner of An Garda Síochána he has responsibility for both Policing and State Security for Ireland. An Garda Síochána comprises approximately 18,000 personnel which includes over 14,500 sworn Garda members, approximately 400 Reserve Garda members and over 3,000 Garda staff working in administration and support roles.

He was previously Deputy Chief Constable of the PSNI where he was specifically responsible for performance and change management. He was also previously responsible for the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Crime Operations Department and is recognised as a national expert in dealing with high-risk covert policing operations and critical incidents. He was appointed in 2013 as a high-level expert to a European Parliament Committee reporting on organised crime and corruption. He held the UK's Association of Chief Police Officers Hate Crime portfolio for eight years where he has led on improving the criminal justice response to victims, improving detection rates and improving data collection. As an Assistant Chief Constable, Drew also led on PSNI initiatives where he took responsibility for the management of sex offenders and the introduction of Public Protection Units.

In 2002, he completed a two-year secondment in the rank of Superintendent to Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Scotland. He is married to Jane and they have four grown children. He was awarded an OBE in 2010 and a Queen's Police Medal (QPM) in 2019.

Qualifications:

- BA (Hons) Degree in Politics and Economics, Open University (1997)
- Masters in Criminology, University of Cambridge (2007)
- Strategic Command Course (2004)
- Leadership in International Counter Terrorism Course (2006)
- FBI's National Executive Institute programme for senior law enforcement officers (2010)



**PANEL SPEAKER****Sergeant John Reynolds**
An Garda Síochána

Sergeant John Reynolds is a serving Garda sergeant and founded the Garda College Museum in 2001. He holds a PhD in History from the University of Limerick and is the author of a number of journal articles and two books, '46 men dead, the Royal Irish Constabulary in County Tipperary 1919-22' and 'The Templemore Miracles, 1920'.

**PANEL SPEAKER****Dr Liam McNiffe**
Historian, Author & Teacher

Dr Liam McNiffe, a native of Ballinamore Co. Leitrim, is an historian, author and teacher. He has an MA and PhD from NUI Maynooth and a Masters in Educational Management from TCD. Following his retirement as Principal of St. Patrick's College Cavan, he published 'Pounding, Praying and Playing' (2014), a personal account of his time as a student there in the 1970s. He has published a number of other books, including the first academic study of the Force, 'A History of the Garda Síochána' (1997). Since retirement, he lectured part-time for a few years to post-graduates in the Education Department of Maynooth University. He has worked with Meath County Library and Meath Travellers Workshop and he published 'Traveller Genealogy, A Course Manual' in 2020. He also lectures in art history, local history and centenary commemoration events. Liam is living in Kells with his family for over forty years.



**PANEL SPEAKER****Nóirín O'Sullivan**
Former Garda Commissioner
(2014 to 2017)

Nóirín O'Sullivan is an accomplished executive leader in the international law enforcement, intelligence, and global safety and security environment.

In 2014 Nóirín made history when she was appointed the 20th Garda Commissioner, the first woman to hold the position. Having joined An Garda Síochána in 1981, she rose through the ranks working operationally in the field of drugs and organised crime, becoming the first woman to serve in Detective branch in each rank up to and including Chief Superintendent. In 2009 she was the first woman to be appointed as Assistant Commissioner with responsibility for Security and Intelligence, and in 2011 made history as the first woman to be appointed as Deputy Commissioner with responsibility for all national and international policing and security operations.

Following her retirement in 2017, Nóirín successfully competed for and was appointed as United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Safety and Security based in New York (2018-2021). The department was responsible for providing risk-based solutions and professional security advices to ensure the safety and security of UN personnel, premises and assets in some of the highest risk, complex and challenging environments around the world.

Nóirín is a graduate of the FBI National Executive Institute (NEI). She holds a BA in Police Management and a Master of Business Studies from the Michael Smurfit School of Business, UCD. She is recipient of numerous awards, including the UCD, Foundation Day Alumni Award in Business. Nóirín was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the University of Ulster for Distinguished Public Service.

She served two terms on the Governing Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. She is a member of the North American Advisory Board of the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, and serves on the Board of the National Maternity Hospital. She currently acts as an independent consultant and adviser. Nóirín is married and has three sons.



PANEL SPEAKER

Nora Owen
Former Minister of Justice
(1994 to 1997)



Nora, a native of Dublin, was a member of Dail Eireann from 1981-1987 and 1989-2002. She has held several political positions during her 20 years in politics, including Deputy Leader of the Fine Gael Party (1993 - 2000) and Minister for Justice (1994-1997).

Nora has spent time in Rwanda as a volunteer with Concern in 1994 and has taken part in parliamentary training in Africa, Asia and Europe with NDI (USA) and AWEPA. She served on the board as Vice-Chair of Concern Worldwide. She holds a BSc in Chemistry and Biochemistry and a Business Law Certificate. She has presented TV programs including 'Mastermind' and has been a commentator on radio programs.

She is currently Chair of the Justice and Home Affairs committee of the Institute of International and European Affairs and serves on the board. She chaired the Expert Advisory Group on Development Aid reporting to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade for five years.

Currently she is the Chair of the Oversight Group on Women Peace and Security in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as well as a board member of Safeguarding Ireland.





PANEL SPEAKER

Michael Staines Senior Counsel and Solicitor

Michael Staines graduated from UCD with an Honours BCL in 1973 and an Honours Masters Degree in Law in 1975. In between he qualified as a solicitor in 1974. He then studied European Integration at the University of Amsterdam and attained a postgraduate diploma.

He commenced work as a solicitor in a civil practice in 1976 and two years later joined a criminal law practice, later becoming partner. He set up the firm Michael J. Staines & Company in 1985. He has written many legal articles and has lectured extensively, particularly on criminal law. He has appeared as an advocate in all courts and has been involved in many high-profile cases.

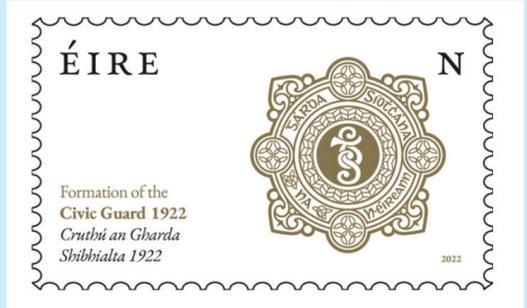
He was a member of the Council of the Law Society of Ireland. He was chairman of the Criminal Law Committee of the Law Society.

In September 2020, he was amongst the first ever group of solicitors granted a Patent of Precedence to use the title of Senior Counsel.





THE GARDA STAMP



National Stamp (100 Years of History - the Civic Guard)

In 2022, Ireland marks the centenary of three momentous events that heralded the establishment of the Irish Free State. In January, An Post issued a set of three stamps to commemorate the formal handover of Dublin Castle to the Free State, the formation of the Civic Guard and of the Irish Army.

This stamp marks the establishment of a new police force, the Civic Guard, in 1922 by the Provisional Government which would later go on to be renamed as An Garda Síochána. There are also special editions known as 'first day covers' suitable as souvenir collectibles or gifts. The stamps and special editions are available within the GPO at counters 20 & 21 which is the retail outlet for special edition stamps and collectibles. They are also available from the An Post website and there is no additional charge for postage within Ireland.



PANEL DISCUSSION NOTES



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

An Garda Síochána's National Centenary Events Committee would like to extend its sincere appreciation to the contributors, attendees, speakers and to all those who assisted with the momentous Centenary Event at the Gresham Hotel on Tuesday, 24th May 2022.



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