



**UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK**

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

## **AIQR Template for Completion by the Garda College**

### **Return for calendar year 2017**

The University of Limerick's commitment to quality is articulated in its institutional quality statement (<http://www.ul.ie/quality/quality-ul>), which commits the university to a culture of continual quality improvement and to complying with national statutory quality requirements.

The purpose of this template is to facilitate the Garda College, Templemore, (GC) – a linked provider of the University of Limerick (UL) – to complete an Annual Institutional Quality Assurance Report (AIQR) in respect of the previous calendar year. This is in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012.

#### Instructions for completion and submission:

Please complete the text boxes by overwriting the grey text. While there is no exact word limit, it is expected that each completed text box would fill approximately half a page to one and a half pages (guideline only). Hyperlinks to websites and documents can be inserted, if desired/relevant. Additional supporting material can be submitted along with the completed template. Some activities you wish to report may be relevant to more than 1 section below. In such instances please report the activity in the section in which you believe it to be most relevant and cross-reference the information in the other sections.

Please email this completed AIQR and any additional relevant documents to the UL Director of Quality, [gary.walsh@ul.ie](mailto:gary.walsh@ul.ie), by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following calendar year.

**Section 1: Quality assurance and enhancement activity and evolution at institutional level**

Please describe institutional-level quality assurance or enhancement activity that occurred during the reporting period. Please include reference to any amendments made to systematic, institutional-level quality assurance or quality enhancement mechanisms, activities, policies or governance arrangements during the period. Please attach or include reference to supporting documents.

The Garda College is the Police training, development and learning centre within the Irish state. The Garda College is divided in three sections:

- Foundation Training
- Leadership, Management and Professional Development
- Crime, Specialist and Operational Skills

This AIQR covers the courses which are delivered by the Garda College and accredited by University of Limerick, namely the BA in Applied Policing and the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation. The accreditation of the BA in Applied Policing and the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation followed the relevant accreditation and review procedures set out by University of Limerick.

- The BA in Applied Policing is delivered by the Foundation Training section in the Garda College and was designed on foot of the recommendations emanating from a review group in 2009. This Garda Síochána Training and Review Group was established in 2008 by the Garda Commissioner in position at the time. This review group conducted a thorough analysis of education and training structure, planning, design, development and administration. It also conducted an analysis of international best practice in police education and trends in recruit education and training. This new BA in Applied Policing was designed to encourage a high level of critical thinking in student with a view to producing professionals capable of reflexive and responsive practice in the operational policing field.

University of Limerick has been the academic accrediting body for the BA in Applied Policing since the first intake of students in 2014.

A chart describing the structure of the BA in Applied Policing is attached in Appendix I. Further information can be found on [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie).

- The Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation is facilitated by the Crime, Specialist and Operational Skills section of the Garda College. In 2013, a complete review and redesign of the Senior Investigating Officer Programme was conducted to ensure the programme remained relevant to the investigative needs of An Garda Síochána; this review was completed in September 2014. This process of review resulted in the accreditation partnership with the University of Limerick.

A description of the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation is attached in Appendix II.

As the accrediting body, University of Limerick is also responsible for assuring the quality of the BA in Applied Policing and the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation and, to that effect, has established a Quality Assurance Board. Additional to this, elements of the quality review process fall under the remit of the Garda College Quality Assurance Unit.

Prior to the activities related to quality enhancement in the Garda College listed below for the reporting period, the Garda College had already engaged in the process of quality enhancement with the appointment of thirteen external examiners (seven international and five national) for the BA in Applied Policing to monitor academic standards and to also ensure that these standards are in compliance with international established and accepted academic standards. The Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation has three Irish and one British external examiners appointed to it.

It is also worth highlighting the commitment of the Garda College to the enhancement of the quality of teaching. All Garda instructors delivering on the BA in Applied Policing have successfully completed and passed the Certificate in Teaching and Learning Scholarship. Some have undergone the Specialist Diploma in Teaching, Learning and Scholarship. The civilian instructors delivering on this programme have all been selected for their teaching suitability by the Public Service Appointment Commission and hold qualifications varying from Master degrees to PhDs with research experience in their respective area of expertise. The teaching on the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation is being facilitated by professionals and experts in their own field of work.

### **1.1 Set up of the Quality Assurance Unit in the Garda College**

As an established Linked Provider to University of Limerick, the Garda College is required to fulfil its statutory quality obligations under the *2012 Education and Training Act*. The Garda College is consequently expected to develop, publish and implement its institutional QA processes which are being informed by the national statutory QA guidelines developed by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI). These guidelines are largely based on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). To comply with ESG 1.1, the Quality Assurance Unit was set up at the start of 2017. The Unit is headed by the Superintendent and one Inspector who have responsibility for Foundation Training and Development at the Garda College. It is currently staffed by two civilian teachers. The Sergeant in charge of the Examination Office in the Garda College is also part of the QA team.

Whilst the QA unit is still in its infancy, it has so far contributed to assist with academic governance in producing a streamline approach to the standardisation of best practice and is in the process of ensuring that all changes to the programme delivery are recorded and monitored. This is further enhanced with the development of a **Quality Assurance Manual** which is at its initial stages and the **development of an annual quality reporting structure to UL**. The Garda College is therefore preparing the completion of its first Annual Institutional Quality Report (AIQR) which shall be submitted to its Degree Awarding Body (University of Limerick) in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012.

In addition, the compliance with the ESG is strengthened by the introduction of:

the **Student Exit Survey** for the Probationers Gardaí who are graduating with a BA in Applied Policing. The aim is to find out the students' satisfaction with the BA programme and to provide information to the BA programme team on what's working well and on any required adjustments. A review of this process has identified a need for a greater number of surveys to see trends in the feedbacks before any actions are taken.

Students' satisfaction is also sought through:

- Progression Interviews on Phase I of the BA in Applied Policing. The last question on the Phase I progression interview has been changed as it was deemed the original question was a leading question.
  
- Progression Interviews on Phase II and Phase III

- Course Board Meetings *See also Section 2*

### **1.2 Expansion of the Examination Office**

The necessity of having a dedicated Examination Office is crucial to the enhancement the quality of the administration of assessments for the BA in Applied Policing and to ensure compliance with QQI guidelines 6.1.

The Superintendent in charge of Foundation Training has overall responsibility for the Examinations office which has the primary function of operating and managing examinations/assessments professionally and efficiently in a transparent manner. Additionally, this office maintains the student record system and disseminate results. In organising the External Examinations Boards, this office ensures that there is compliance with ESG 1.3 and that Quality Assurance is applied to all aspects of the Programme. The course board meetings which are convened also feed into the systematic review of the delivery of the programme by encompassing the view of the students and staff. Of paramount importance is the essential compliance with the Handbook of Academic Regulations and Procedures of the Garda College, therefore a pivotal role of this office is to liaise with the accrediting body and external examiners. Management of the Appeals Process is an integral function of the Examinations Office.

The expansion of this office allows for the centralisation of all assessments and an opportunity to adopt set policies and procedures to ensure that the programme will be delivered in a manner which will adhere to best practice. The assessments' corrections are reviewed to ensure that the marking standards are fair and consistent across the whole programme. Where necessary the office can liaise with the accrediting body, University of Limerick, to provide additional training to instructors at the Garda College if required.

At present the Examination Office has responsibility for collating all Phase I results and serves as a conduit through which the Phase II and III assessment material is transmitted to the University of Limerick Quality Assurance Board and External Examiners. It is envisaged that the role of this office will extend further to include the collation of all examinations results across the Garda College, and staffing plans to facilitate this are currently under consideration. This Office will then liaise directly with Continuous Professional Development Schools nationally to streamline the process relative to assessments conducted externally thereby further quality assuring and review of the programme.

In 2017, the Examination Office organised **four external examination Board meetings** and requested a **review of the BA Programme by external examiners appointed for the BA in Applied Policing**. Seven external examiners provided feedback on the course and it resulted in some changes in the programme. *See also Section 2.*

The Examinations Office is not responsible for the collation and dissemination of the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation exam results. This is done in-house by the course manager

attached to the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation. These results are recorded and retained in the Specialised Crime Training School.

A review of the **Garda College Academic Regulations** was conducted, which led to suggested amendments. The amendments sought were approved by the Academic Regulations Committee and the Academic Council of the University of Limerick. These Academic Regulations currently cover solely the BA in Applied Policing.

A set of **Academic Regulations for the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation** will be added to the **Garda College Academic Regulations**. These were submitted to UL in September 2017 for validation. They were validated and will be attached as an appendix to the **Garda College Academic Regulations** after approval from the Academic Council. *See Section 5.*

### **1.3 Institutional-level policies impacting upon Quality of GC Activities:**

The Code of Ethics is a policy which has been introduced at an organisational level whereas the Policy on Dyslexia is a Garda College specific policy.

#### **1.3.1 Code of Ethics**

An Garda Síochána published its first Code of Ethics in January 2017. The Code of Ethics for the Garda Síochána sets out guiding principles to inform and guide the actions of every member of staff of An Garda Síochána at every level of the organisation. The Code sets out nine standards of conduct and practice for everyone in An Garda Síochána, each with a number of commitments. It has been developed by the Policing Authority in accordance with the Garda Síochána Act 2005, as amended in 2015. The Code has regard to the Policing Principles set out in that Act.

The Code of Ethics is practised in conjunction with the Code of Professional Practice which governs the academic and behavioural standards for all Trainees/Probationers at all time during training at the Garda College while both on and of duty.

At an organisational level, the Code of Ethics co-exists with the Garda Síochána Act (2005), the Garda Síochána (Discipline) Regulations as well as the Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour and does not replace them.

#### **1.3.2 Draft Policy on Dyslexia**

To assist with the support of learners in the Garda College, a draft Policy on Dyslexia has been drawn up following the recommendations of a working group which was set up by Superintendent Foundation Training and Development, Garda College. This policy aims to ensure that students with dyslexia can fully participate in the Foundation Training programme without experiencing any significant disadvantage arising from their dyslexia. This policy which was submitted to the Director of Training of the Garda College in April 2017, has not yet been signed off by Garda Management. This policy was prompted by the fact that a number of students not disclosing their learning disability when applying for the course.

While ESGs and QQI core guidelines inform that institutions should publish the minimum entry requirements for their courses, it should be highlighted here that the Garda College has no influence on the entry requirements for the BA in Applied Policing. The 2013 Attorney General Recruitment Order specifies the role and functions of a Garda and the recruitment guidelines are set by the Public Service Appointment Commission and can be found on [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie) under Notes for Applicants and Conditions of Service.

#### **1.4 Institutional-level training activities in line with ESG 1.5**

**1.4.1 Quality-focused training events** were organised to assist the Garda College to fulfil its QA commitments. Institutional-level training events in conjunction with the UL School of Law and the UL Quality Support Unit were held on the following dates:

- 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Quality Assurance Workshop with UL School of Law
- 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - Presentation from UL Quality Support Unit
- 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Meeting with UL Quality Support Unit

#### **1.4.2 Workshop on marking assessments**

In Quarter 3 2017, six workshops were organised by the Garda College Examinations Office in conjunction with UL for the instructors involved in the Foundation Training. These workshops were organised following the feedback received at the Course Board Meeting in June. The aim was to try to further enhance and assure maximum consistency in the marking of assessments across the staff involved in Phase I of the BA in Applied Policing and to improve the feedback process. These workshops are aimed at all instructors in the college and the CPD staff in Phase II and Phase III.

#### **1.4.3 Awareness session in the Code of Ethics for all staff in the Garda College**

Following its publication as seen in 1.3.1., all staff in the Garda College attended a briefing session on the Code of Ethics.

## Section 2: Quality assurance and enhancement activity and evolution at local level

*If relevant, please describe local-level quality-related innovations introduced by individual GC units/offices/programmes during the reporting period.*

### **2.1 BA in Applied Policing**

#### **2.1.1 MESS (Messing) Committee**

Compliance with QQI guidelines and ESG 1.6 in the area of student support and pastoral care has been strengthened with the establishment of the Trainee Garda MESS Committee in July 2017. The term MESS has been traditionally associated with social activities in policing and army circles and in acknowledgment of the historical connotation, it was decided to keep the term. The MESS Committee has been designed in order to provide Trainee Gardaí with an opportunity to engage with Garda College staff in a formal and structured manner and provide feedback on matters relating to issues in relation to the BA in Applied Policing and other general issues that may arise during Phase I of their training, such as use and maintenance of College facilities, welfare issues, as well as any other matters that may arise. Some academic issues have also arisen which were then actioned as required. This initiative is additional to the pastoral care already available to the students, i.e. access to the organisational structures of support provided by An Garda Síochána as this is a professional programme. These include the Peer Support system, access to the Employee Assistance Officer and the 24/7 Helpline which is free phone number. If the need arises, a total of six free counselling sessions are available to the students on referral from either the Employee Assistance Officer or the 24/7 Helpline. This level of support has proven to be necessary as some students can feel isolated being in a new environment away from home and family life.

#### **2.1.2 Mentoring system**

Following the suggestion made by the MESS Committee, a mentoring system, whereby one senior trainee Garda from an earlier intake mentors a new class, was put in place to assist students in settling in into the college during the first few weeks after their arrival. The aim of the system is to facilitate the new students to adapt to the Garda College environment and standards. This system is up and running since the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The effectiveness of these two systems have not yet been measured as they have just been established.

#### **2.1.3 Revision of some elements of the course**

The Foundation Training and Development team and the staff involved in Phase I training in particular are ensuring that the programme is monitored on an on-going basis and periodically reviewed so as to improve the quality of content of the course, as prescribed by the ESG 1.9. The Intake Sergeants are updating the session templates and the exams on an ongoing basis. This has led in 2017 to the introduction of some revisions in the programme:

2.1.3.1 Some modules were adjusted to allow for the introduction of the Code of Ethics (See 1.3.1). Evidence of the Code of Ethics was introduced in the Professional Competency (and in particular the Personal Development Logs) and the Policing with Communities modules, where evidence of the learning of the Code of Ethics has to be evident. These changes were also prompted on foot of the feedback provided by the external examiners.

2.1.3.2 Amendments were made to the Crime and Incident Policing Exam (Module –CIP –A5). This exam will now consist of two papers to allow for a more in-depth and fairer testing of the students' knowledge.

2.1.3.3 The assessment in the OPS (Officers Public Safety) module has been scaled back as the findings of the review showed that the students were being over assessed.

2.1.3.4 In order to comply with An Garda Síochána published HQ directive 28/2017 "An Garda Síochána Policy on Intoxicated Driving 2017" and the introduction of new drug testing procedures, Unit 4 of the traffic Module was updated to reflect the updated policy on Intoxicated Driving.

2.1.3.5 A skills session on "Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014" and a workshop which involve the taking of a DNA sample from Garda Síochána Personnel who commenced training after the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 have been added to the module "Station Roles and Responsibilities" to ensure compliance with the introduction of Section 41 (2) of the Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Act 2014. This database became operational on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

2.1.3.6 The number of Personal Development Log (PDL) submissions have been reduced in Phase I, Phase II and Phase III following a review based on feedback from staff.

2.1.3.7 The guidelines and assessment for the Portfolio of Practice on Phase II and Phase III were updated. This came as a result of feedback from Continuous Professional Development (CPD) staff. A review was conducted and the findings of this review were presented to CPD staff who attended the Garda College for their quarterly meeting.

#### **2.1.4 Certificate in Teaching and Learning Scholarship**

In line with ESG 1.5 regarding the development of staff and the enhancement of the teaching, 91 Garda instructors have been trained in the Certificate in Teaching, Learning and Scholarship delivered by University of Limerick and 20 moving on to the Diploma level.

#### **2.1.5 SAFE TALK and ASSIST**

The professional development of instructors was further enhanced with the training of a significant number of instructors to become trainers in suicide prevention. This training was delivered by the HSE as joint training.

#### **2.1.6 Course board meetings**

The first course board meeting was held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The second course board meeting was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. The purpose of these meetings is to create a more efficient programme by having an honest review involving both staff and students. Feedback on the programme was provided by both staff and students and all the recommendations deemed suitable to be actioned were actioned.

## **2.2 Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation**

### **2.2.1 Revision of some elements of the course**

Very little changes were made to the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation over the past reporting period. The programme content is dictated a lot by trials and good feedback was received from the graduates. Criminal proceedings and the outcomes in Court prosecutions are monitored to ensure that current decisions are included in any tuition provided. This keeps participants up to date and it is used to encourage discussion to enhance the learning experience. This actively generates positive information exchange and distillation.

One amendment was made to the assessment of the course. On the request of University of Limerick, a marking sheet for the legal assignment post stage three was added and this marking sheet is distributed to all external examiners correcting the assignments.

### Section 3: Implementation of quality governance and oversight

The Garda College organisational chart is available as Appendix III.

The Chief Superintendent (Director of Training and Continuous Professional Development) of the Garda College has overall authority for the College. She is responsible for the research, development, co-ordination and implementation of the Garda training programmes as well as the daily management of the College. The Office of the Director of Training and Continuous Professional Development administers all the sections attached to the Garda College. Each of these sections is under the control of a Superintendent and subdivided into sub-sections co-administered by Inspectors and Sergeants.

Governance happens at different levels:

- The Chief Superintendent holds bi-weekly meetings with the Superintendents of the different sections in the Garda College. These meetings facilitate the discussion surrounding the overall governance of all programmes.
- PAF (Performance and Accountability Framework) meetings for the BA in Applied Policing, chaired by the Superintendent in charge of the BA in Applied Policing and attended by the Sergeants in charge of each sub-section and the Intake supervisors take place on a weekly basis. The objective of these meetings is to facilitate the training requirements. Issues related to academic matters, exams, timetable, staff development and issues relating to students are being discussed.
- Following these weekly PAF meetings, each Intake Supervisor meets weekly with the instructors on their team so as to provide them with feedback.
- Internal QA meetings are planned once a month or can take place more often as the needs arise. In 2017, the Garda College held eleven internal QA meetings on the following dates:

6/04/2017; 9/04/2017; 10/05/2017; 8/06/2017; 20/06/2017; 30/06/2017; 28/09/2017; 12/10/2017; 6/11/2017; 20/11/2017; 12/12/2017

These meetings are for QA unit staff, superintendents in charge of the BA in Applied Policing and the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation, the Inspectors in charge of the BA programme and the Sergeant in charge of the Examinations office. These meetings are used to plan and organise the quality assurance activities in the College.

- A UL- Garda College Institutional QA Meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 to discuss the inter-institutional QA arrangements between University of Limerick and the Garda College and to prepare for the Development of the Garda College Internal Quality Review Cycle.
- Internal Examination meetings- take place 3 weeks in advance of the External Examiners Board in preparation for the External Examiner Meeting.
- Due to no specific academic year, external examination board meetings are scheduled as required. At External Examiner Board meetings, the results from each Intake are presented to the board and ratified for Phase I, Phase II and Phase III and the overall grade for the BA in Applied Policing is ratified for each student. Reports from the various External Examiners are presented and discussed.

- As Phase II and Phase III training takes place outside the Garda College, in the 28 divisions across the country, quarterly CPD meetings are organised at the Garda College. Instructors in the Probationer Liaison Office at the Garda College brief the training Sergeants from each of these divisions on issues which include Academic Regulations, Portfolio of Practice and any new systems which need to be implemented. These briefing sessions are also used as a forum for discussion on collective issues that arise in relation to the training of Probationer Gardaí. These sessions are also used as workshops to develop and enhance professional practice and the contents of Phase II and Phase III. They also offer an opportunity to get feedback or input on any elements of the Phase II and Phase III training. These quarterly meetings are a day long in duration and in 2017 took place on the following dates:  
6/03/2017  
31/07/2017  
11/12/2017  
The Autumn Quarterly meeting did not take place due to additional training requirements and time constraints at CPD schools nationally.
- Course Board meeting. The course board meetings with representatives from each intake. Issues are discussed between staff and students.

#### Section 4: Evolution of internal quality reviews

Please provide detail of progress made in developing an internal quality review schedule.

Proposed internal quality review cycle:

A number of meetings took place by the Garda College QA Unit to identify the timeframe in which the internal quality review should take place and this has been approved formally by University of Limerick. At the time of publishing this report, the unit reviews and timeframe are intended to take place as listed below but may be subject to change.

2018: Preparation and planning for the academic reviews		
<b>Review Period</b>	<b>Academic Unit Review</b>	<b>Institutional Review</b>
December 2018- October 2019	B.A. in Applied Policing	
January 2020- October 2020	Postgraduate Diploma In Serious Crime Investigation	
January 2021-October 2021		UL Institutional review of the Garda College

The time set outside for preparation and planning will be utilised for drafting the process document which will set out the guidelines for the internal quality review. These review guidelines will have to be drafted in consultation with University of Limerick QSU and School of Law and will inform on the time-line to plan for specific actions. Upon its completion, the document will need to be approved by University of Limerick.

## Section 5: Quality-related objectives over the coming reporting period

Please list and briefly describe each objective.

- Continue the development of a dedicated quality assurance support unit at the Garda College including the recruitment of a manager for the said unit, subject to approval from Garda Human Resource Management.
- Complete a formal quality assurance manual for the Garda College to comply with ESG 1.1 and 2 QQI Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines.
- Introduce a Module Satisfaction Survey (or a Phase I satisfaction survey) for the Phase I of the BA in Applied Policing.
- Draft a Redaction Policy for the BA in Applied Policing to ensure that all surveys conducted by the Garda College Quality Assurance Unit adhere to legislated requirements and obligations relating to privacy, information and records management and protected disclosure as per ESG 1.7.
- In line with ESGs 1.9 and 1.10 and 1.2 QQI Core Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines:
  - Initiate an internal quality review cycle for the Garda College
  - Prepare and plan for the first internal review of the BA in Applied Policing
- Academic Regulations for the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation to be approved and appended to the **Garda College Academic Regulations**.
- The Examinations Office to collate all results for the BA in Applied Policing (including Phase II and Phase III) and to collate all results for the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation, subject to additional staff being allocated and adequate facilities.
- Three workshops on assessment consistency and feedback are planned for the next reporting period.
- Complete the revision of Chapter 4 of the Garda Code to reflect the update of policy on training.
- Complete the updating of the Student Probationer Handbook to reflect the evolution of the BA in Applied Policing and to adapt to the increased number of trainees per Intake.
- Introduce a Policy for Staff–Trainee/Probationer Garda Relationships. This policy is at a draft stage and at discussion level with the staff representative bodies.
- Hold two Course Board meetings in the next reporting period. The objective of these meetings is to encourage a dialogue between staff and students on the efficiency of the programme.
- During the Course Board Meeting which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the recommendation was made to introduce a Writing Skills Handbook. The aim is to provide assistance to students with their grammatical skills and with their legal English. This Writing Skill Handbook is now in progress.

- In relation to staff training and development, one member of management has been successful in securing a place on the Professional Certificate in Governance accredited by the IPA. This will further enhance the QA process.
- With regards to the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation, the plan is to hold quarterly Crime Training Governance Board meetings in the next reporting period. The Assistant Commissioner (Special Crime Operations) acts as a Chairperson for this Board.

### **Section 6: Additional information**

*Please use this section to provide additional information relating to quality assurance or to report upon relevant quality-focused topics or issues.*

In line with common practice in third level institutions and to provide clarity to student in relation to academic expectations in the Garda College, a software system was reviewed in respect of the area of plagiarism detection. This process is aiming at assisting students in presenting information in a robust and independent manner. However, some legal issues remain as obstacles given the sensitive nature of some of the course content. This is still under consideration.

I confirm that this AIQR was reviewed and approved by Ciara Lee, Acting Superintendent for Foundation Training, and constitutes a comprehensive and accurate account of quality-related activities pertaining to the GC over the reporting period.

Seamus Nolan  
Superintendent

On behalf of Chief Superintendent Margaret Nugent, Director of Training and Continuous Professional Development

This AIQR was forwarded to the Director of Quality, University of Limerick on: **31<sup>st</sup> January 2018**

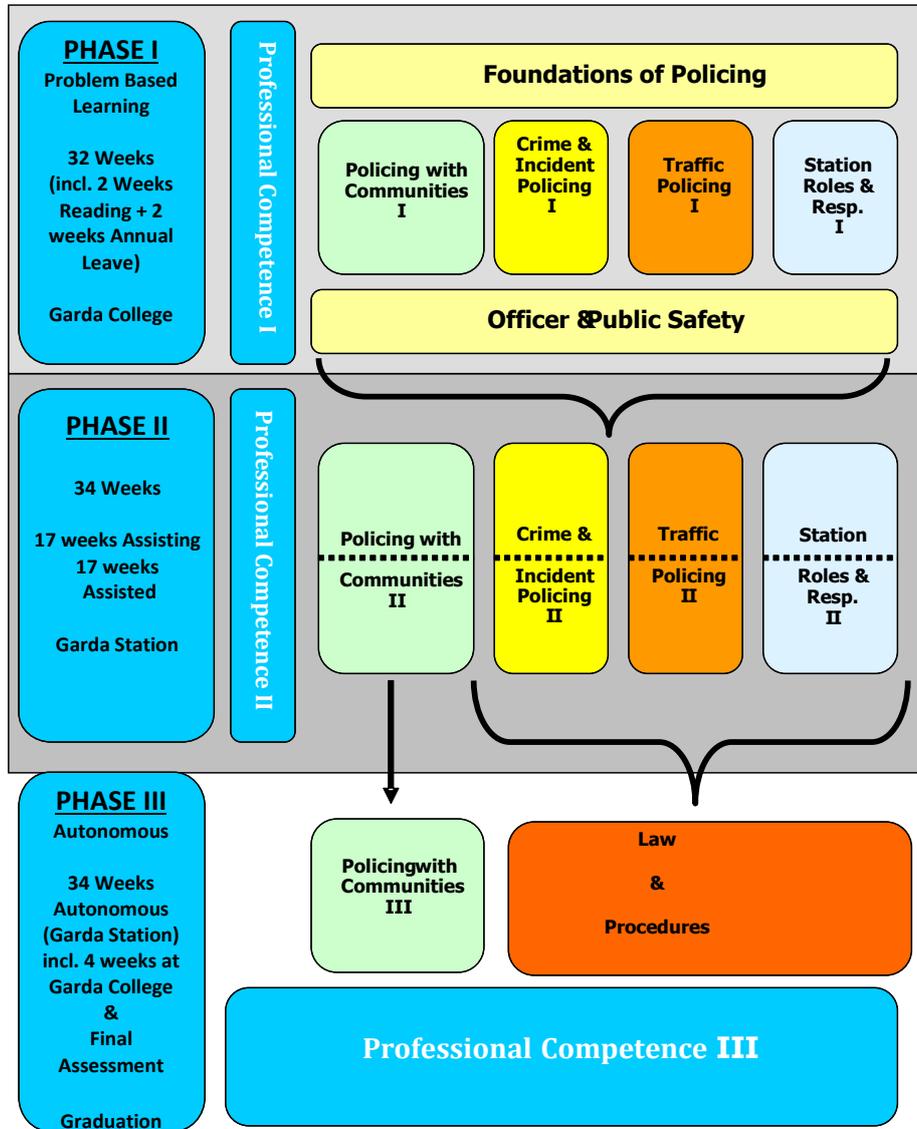
This document was amended and updated on: **13<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

Pat Murray  
Chief Superintendent  
Director of Training and Continuous Professional Development

#### **Revision history of this template**

<b>Rev.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Details of change</b>	<b>Process owner</b>
1	September 14, 2017	Director of Quality, UL VPA&R, UL	Initial release	Director of Quality, UL

# Appendix I



# Appendix I I

## **Description of the Postgraduate Diploma in Serious Crime Investigation**

The Postgraduate Diploma programme is an accelerated programme delivered over three Modules of learning, utilising a range of pedagogical approaches appropriate to both a Senior Investigating Officer and the level of the award. Modules 1 and 3 will adopt a blended learning approach while Module 2 will focus on experiential learning. The programme will utilise a variety of leading specialists to deliver lectures including the State Pathologist, the Head of Forensic Science Ireland (formerly the Forensic Science Laboratory) and executive managers within An Garda Síochána. In 2013, a complete review and redesign of the Senior Investigating Officer Programme was conducted to ensure the programme remained relevant to the investigative need of An Garda Síochána; this review was completed in September 2014 the new syllabus is evident in the new three tier process. The experts will deliver lectures during Module 1 on their areas of expertise in a sequential manner which reflects the typical progression of the investigation of a serious crime. Module 2 will require the learner to lead a serious crime investigation in the operational arena and reflect on and record their progress in a professional development portfolio with the support of a coach. Module 3 will be a capstone module reflecting on the learning applied in module 1 and module 2 in a blended learning format.

In December 2017 40 SIO's graduated from the programme with approximately 20-30 expected annually going forward.

# Appendix I I I

