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## **Garda Reserve programme brings eight additional officers to Dublin North - Kennedy**

**LOCAL FIANNA Fail TD Michael Kennedy has been informed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform Brian Lenihan that there are now eight Garda Reserve officers supporting Gardaí in Dublin North.**

**Deputy Kennedy: “In a recent conversation with the Minister I asked for a break-down of Garda figures in the area and was informed that eight reserve officers have been allocated to the area’s three main stations.”**

**“There are currently two Garda Reserve members in Balbriggan. An additional three members are in Swords and a further three in Coolock station, which is the Divisional HQ for much of Dublin North.”**

**“Despite being Reserve members, the officers’ duties are great. Perhaps the one duty with the most benefit to the community is Station Duty - where Reserve Officers carry out ordinary administration business, allowing ordinary members of the force to get out into the community more and more, and carry out community policing,” Deputy Kennedy said.**

**He added: “Other duties of the Reserve Officers that will have a great impact on the community include “foot patrols” accompanied by a member of the full-time Garda service. The presence of police officers – including Reserve members - and the visual impact this practise has on tackling antisocial behaviour is very effective.”**

**“Further duties include; providing static security duty to allow free up the time of full-time officers, road traffic checkpoint duties, accompanied by a full-time member; duty at the outer cordon of major events such as festivals and sporting events; assisting at accidents, fires and major emergencies and giving evidence in court.**

**“These duties assigned to the newly highly qualified Reserve Gardaí will mainly allow full-time Gardaí get on with the important job of making our community and streets safe; whilst adding extra assistance to the job of community policing.”**

**“I warmly welcome the move to place Reserve recruits to the Dublin North area and I will continue to call on the Minister for Justice to strongly consider assigning more Reserve members to the Dublin North stations, including Portmarnock and Malahide.**

**“Considering the enormous growth experienced in the county in recent years, I also intend to continue lobbying the Minister for more full-time Gardaí for Dublin North.”**

**“In addition to this, I am calling once again for the Garda Divisional boundaries to be re-drawn to reflect the borders of Fingal County Council, in order to rid the county of the current divisional situation, which sees half of the county in the Coolock division and the other half in the Louth/Meath division.”**

**“I am also continuing to press for a new Garda station and courthouse to be built within the one campus, on a new green-field site in Swords,” concluded Deputy Kennedy.**