

Councillor Vincent Jackson  
Chair  
Dublin South Central Joint Policing Forum  
City Hall  
Dublin 2

Peter Dorman  
Chair  
Dublin South Central Four Forums Network  
C/O Community Action Network  
48 Fleet Street Dublin 2  
086 0344588

June 25<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dear Councillor Jackson

I am writing to you as chair of the Dublin South Central Policing Forums Network (known as the Four Forums Network). The Four Forums Network was established in November 2016 and consisting of the following Forums:

1. Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Local Policing Forum
2. Canals Local Policing Forum
3. Dublin 12 Local Policing Forum
4. South West Inner City Local Policing Forum

The Network was created because criminality and anti-social behaviour systems cross the physical boundaries between our communities and because the same deficits in resources, policies and structures affect us all.

The Network has commissioned research, funded by Dublin City Council, on how we can build resilience in our communities in the face of criminality and anti-social behaviour. We have also organised events to share learning between our members and have advocated collectively for resources for our work.

At our last meeting we were alarmed to learn that one of our members – the Canals Communities Local Policing Forum, has not had regular participation by an Inspector or Garda of higher rank at its meetings for some time, as required by Policing Forum Guidelines. We also understand that there is only one Community Sergeant currently available to cover both Kilmainham and Kevin's Street. This impacts significantly on the five Community Safety Groups, established to address ASB and drug-trade criminality at *hotspots* in both the Canals and South West Inner-City Areas. These Safety Groups, which have played a pivotal role in curbing the worst threats to community safety in the St. Michael's area of South Inchicore, Fatima/Herberton, Dolphin House and parts of Bluebell, no longer have a Garda Sergeant in attendance - and attendance by a sergeant is irregular at the Teresa's Gardens group. This renders them all but ineffective at the present time.

These issues are linked to the general shortage of Community Gardaí and Sergeants to supervise them across all four forums.

We are asking that the South Central Joint Policing Committee ensure that, as of the end of July:

1. An Inspector is assigned to attend all Canals Policing Forum meetings
2. A Sergeant is assigned to attend Community Safety Groups working in the hotspots referred to above

3. A timetabled plan to increase the numbers of Community Gardaí and Community Sergeants to an acceptable level is published

We trust that the South Central JPC will recognise that it would be unacceptable to allow the good work done by Local Policing Forums and Community Safety Groups over many years to be undone by the lack of the key Garda personnel required to make them meaningful.

Many thanks for your attention,

Yours Sincerely

Peter Dorman Chair Dublin South Central Community Policing Forum – on behalf of -

Mr John Burns, Chair, Canal Communities Local Policing Forum

Cllr Ray McHugh Chair Dublin 12 Local Policing Forum

Cllr Daithí Doolin Chair Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Local Policing Forum

Mr Jack Roche South West Inner City Local Policing Forum