



Garda Representative Association

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Statement

**Padraig Harrington, Garda Representative Association
Cork City Division**

Garda representative welcomes plan for Cork Protective Services Unit

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The Garda Representative Association (GRA) has welcomed plans to increase the number of gardaí specially trained to investigate sexual offences, domestic abuse and child protection issues in Cork city following the announcement of a new recruitment drive for the Protective Services Unit (PSU).

A competition to fill the positions of two detective sergeants and nine gardaí is due to commence soon with the aim of staffing the unit with one inspector, four sergeants and 20 gardaí.

Once fully operational, the Unit will almost double in size.

GRA representative for the Cork City Division, Detective Padraig Harrington said members and public alike will be reassured by the announcement.

“Crimes investigated by the PSU are of the most sensitive and often disturbing nature. It is only right that Cork City should have a fully staffed specialist unit for this type of work and victims of sexual crime can be assured that an appropriately trained expert will be assigned to investigate their cases.

“I am sure other stakeholders in the State and voluntary bodies who support victims of sexual violence will get a lot of comfort from this announcement also.

“The GRA also welcomes the news that the Protective Services Unit has worked through the vast majority of the backlog of historical cases and they are now in a position to take on new investigations,” Detective Harrington said.