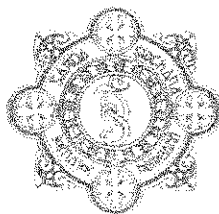


Oifig an Choimisinéara
An Garda Síochána
Páirí n Fhionnuisce
Baile Átha Cliath 8
Éire

An Garda Síochána



Office of the Commissioner
Garda Headquarters
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*Luaigh an uimhir tharaghta seo a leanas le do
thoil:*

Please quote the following ref. number:

Láithreán Gréasáin / Web site:
www.garda.ie

Ríomhphost / E-mail:
commissioner@garda.ie

PA.6.17.172

Secretary General
Department of Justice & Law Reform
94 St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

**Re: Recent Media Coverage and Related Parliamentary Questions concerning
the alleged activities of British Undercover Police Officer Mark Kennedy,
alias Mark Stone.**

Dear Secretary General,

You will be aware of recent media reporting concerning the identification, by environmental protest groups in the UK, of an undercover London Metropolitan Police Officer - PC Mark Kennedy - who had infiltrated the environmental movement in England and was reporting intelligence on their activities and intentions.

An Garda Síochána is aware of the presence of the person in question in this jurisdiction on a number of occasions between 2004 and 2006. We have established no evidence that while in this jurisdiction the person in question was involved in criminal activities. Any person coming forward in possession of such evidence can be assured that it would be pursued fully by An Garda Síochána.

I am aware of suggestions in the media that Mr. Kennedy was here with the consent of An Garda Síochána and that there was a relationship between him and the Gardai.

It may be helpful to give some background on the use of undercover agents/police officers from other jurisdictions.

The use of such agents/police officers from other jurisdictions is a recognised and necessary tactic in the special circumstances where external activists with a track record of violence and whose identities are unknown to local police seek to shape and control violent protest actions. Agreement on such deployments would be made between the police forces involved as an operational matter under strict protocols. An

Garda Síochána would insist in relation to any such deployment that no criminal or agent provocateur activities would be allowed or undertaken. Any undercover officer so deployed would be focused on reporting on the actions and intentions of external activists rather than domestic protesters. The use of such deployments can be crucial to the prevention of wide scale public disorder, destruction of property and violence.

The capacity of An Garda Síochána to enter into such arrangements is vital in the interests of national security. The maintenance of confidentiality is an essential feature of these arrangements. Notwithstanding the public attention which has been given to the case of Mr. Kennedy, I believe that for An Garda Síochána to breach confidentiality and disclose whether he or any other person acted as an undercover agent in the context I have outlined, would impair the ability of An Garda Síochána to enter into such arrangements and to protect the security of the State.

Yours sincerely


MARTIN CALLINAN
COMMISSIONER of
AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

23 March 2011