

## **AGSI welcomes national garda traffic corps**

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The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors has welcomed a commitment by Transport Minister Seamus Brennan that a full time, dedicated garda traffic corps is to be established.

“We are delighted that this commitment has been given and we look forward to the establishment of the garda traffic corps as outlined by the Minister,” said the President of the AGSI, Mr Joe Dirwan. “We look forward to a corps which is fully resourced in terms of personnel, computer back-up, vehicles, and any necessary technical equipment to enable them to carry out their duties efficiently and well.”

Mr Dirwan welcomed Mr Brennan’s reported commitment that 400 gardai would join a further 580 gardai from the divisional traffic units to form a national corps.

“We also welcome the Minister’s points about the need for speed detection checkpoints on minor roads – it is essential that we take every possible measure to reduce the carnage on the roads – which is growing again – and there is a need to identify high accident locations and monitor them constantly,” added Mr Dirwan.

“We are particularly pleased that the Minister recognises the need for computer back-up and we call on him to ensure that the computer system is fully financed so that it is up and running as soon as possible.” The Minister’s recognition for adequate data on alcohol and drug misuse by drivers was also to be welcomed.

“When Minister Brennan is addressing the metrification of the speed limits we feel he should also introduce a graduated points system so that people who drive at really excessive speeds should receive many more penalty points than those who are only a few mph above the limit,” said Mr Dirwan. The Minister should also introduce a power of arrest for those caught speeding, to reinforce how anti-social it is, and he should

also provide equipment for roadside testing of drivers suspected of having taken drugs. "This is a rapidly growing problem," he concluded.