

BENCHMARKING “FAILURE” SAYS AGSI

21/07/2002

The Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) is extremely disappointed at the contents of the Report of the Public Service Benchmarking Body issued today.

“We feel that the Benchmarking Body has failed to give adequate recognition to the critical role of Sergeants and their position as the front line managers of the Garda Siochana in the increasingly dangerous society of today,” said AGSI General Secretary George Maybury.

“In addition the Body has failed to reward the crucial and pivotal role of Inspectors who frequently act in the place of Superintendents. We feel that both Sergeants and Inspectors should have been awarded the same rate as the Superintendents - 16%.”

Mr Maybury said that the Benchmarking Body had appeared to take excessive account of overtime in coming to its conclusions. “Overtime is compulsory and our members have no option but to work it when directed in spite of the disruption to family and social life. Overtime is used as a means to provide an essential service to the public.”

The AGSI General Secretary pointed out that among those who had come worst out of Benchmarking, like the defence forces and the gardai, were not represented by trade unions. “It is hard not to come to the conclusion that we have been victimised because of our lack of trade union status,” he concluded.