

01 July 2019 – Take Notice - Tribunal Update

1. *The Tribunal was due to commence public sittings on Monday next, 8 July 2019, in relation to the complaint of Garda Nicholas Keogh pursuant to term of reference (p) of its terms of reference.*
2. *The Tribunal has recently received correspondence from the solicitors for Garda Keogh in which they have indicated that they will not be in a position to proceed on 8 July next and they have requested an adjournment to next term.*
3. The Tribunal has acceded to this request from the solicitors for Garda Keogh.
4. None of the other parties to this complaint opposed the adjournment application.
5. The Tribunal acknowledges that compliance with legal disclosure obligations has resulted in distribution of a very large quantity of documentary material.
6. In addition to receiving potentially relevant material, it is also important that parties to the inquiry have time to analyse the documents in preparation for the hearings.
7. The Tribunal team has itself been working to assemble and process all the potentially relevant material and is dependent not only on its own resources but also on the compliance by parties and witnesses with their obligations to supply statements, make themselves available for interview by Tribunal investigators and provide documents pursuant to discovery orders.
8. In all the circumstances, the Tribunal considers that the application is a reasonable one.
9. The Tribunal had intended that hearings would continue to the end of July and resume for a number of weeks in September, following which, if necessary, proceedings would have resumed once more in October. In view of the adjournment, it is impractical and would not be satisfactory to envisage commencing before October, which is what has been requested.
10. This adjournment will not lengthen the time that the Tribunal will take in completing its work. Instead of conducting public hearings into the complaint made by Garda Keogh, the Tribunal will occupy its time in preparation of the remainder of its caseload. That work would have had to be done in any event and it can now be brought forward and some of the cases may be able to be brought to a conclusion.
11. The decision now made will not, therefore, result in any loss of time or increase in cost.
12. *The Tribunal website will be updated in due course to confirm a new commencement date for the public sittings in relation to term of reference (p).*