

Management and Storage of Biological Samples

Scope and Terms for Inspection

In accordance with section 143(1) of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 (the Act), the Policing and Community Safety Authority (the Authority) considers it appropriate to conduct an inspection of the management and storage of biological samples by An Garda Síochána.

In accordance with section 143(4)(a) of the Act, the scope and terms of the inspection are to examine the arrangements for the management and storage of biological samples to ensure that the integrity of samples and the chain of custody are protected, including:

- The consistent application of relevant policies and procedures from the point at which the sample is taken by, or on behalf of, An Garda Síochána until there are no longer lawful grounds for its retention;
- The accuracy and completeness of records relating to biological samples;
- The suitability of storage facilities, including temporary stores, for biological samples;
- The effectiveness of internal oversight arrangements at national and local levels; and
- How An Garda Síochána ensures that its approach to the management and storage of biological samples fulfils its statutory obligations to protect and vindicate human rights.

This inspection will be carried out in a manner which is proportionate, accountable and transparent, and ensures the integrity and objectivity of the findings of the inspection.

A report on the findings of this inspection will be prepared in accordance with section 149 of the Act and shall contain, if appropriate, recommendations for any action that the Authority considers necessary.