

# Civil service union alarmed over 'unilateral' change to members' status

**ANDY PRENDERGAST**

**The Association of Higher Civil and Public Servants has highlighted proposed changes to its members working in An Garda Síochána which form part of what it says is a 'significant and concerning policy shift'.**

Speaking ahead of the AHCPs annual conference, this week, the union's general secretary Ciaran Rohan said: "We have serious concerns about the precedence that will be set if the Government succeeds in changing the terms and conditions of our members in An Garda Síochána, with no meaningful engagement.

"Essentially, they are proposing to reclassify them as direct staff of An Garda Síochána, rather than civil servants – meaning that they will lose the ability to transfer within the wider civil service and the career progression that is facilitated with that mobility.

"That, together with the current Government proposal to give authority to staff under Secretary General level to terminate employment, is suggestive of a significant and concerning policy agenda shift in relation to our civil service and will not serve this country well, in our view."

The AHCPs represents 3,600 civil and public servants.