

SENATOR **CATHERINE NOONE**

SEANAD SPOKESPERSON ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



1,300 DUBLIN WEST JOBS ARE "A REAL BOOST"

Senator Catherine Noone recently welcomed the announcement of 1,000 jobs relating to Alexion Pharmaceuticals' plans to expand its operations in Ireland by constructing the Company's first ever biologics manufacturing facility outside the United States.

This is a huge vote of confidence in Ireland's capacity in this skilled sector, with Dublin West due to become home to the first ever biologics manufacturing facility for this company outside of the United States.

This company has a strong track record here. Since first entering Ireland in 2013, Alexion has invested €130 million in two facilities. Approximately 560 construction workers are involved in the development of the current Athlone and

College Park projects, and the planned expansion of College Park is expected to create over 800 construction jobs. This is a welcome shot in the arm for the construction industry while also creating sustainable jobs for the future.

The Action Plan for Jobs specifically targeted this sector as it has huge potential for employment growth and we are now seeing the benefits of that. This investment will be worth €450 million and, in total, will create 1,000 jobs. It is a further testament to the growing strength of the economy, and will provide welcome employment growth in Dublin West in the years ahead. An additional 300 jobs were also announced by Mallinckrodt, with 300 construction jobs and 45 permanent roles in Blanchardstown.



Minister Varadkar and Senator Noone at a recent Fine Gael event.

BOOST IN GARDA RECRUITMENT IS GOOD NEWS NATIONALLY

Recently, I welcomed the announcement that Garda recruitment will be accelerated in 2015, saying it is good news for communities across the country and a clear demonstration of Fine Gael's commitment to strengthening the Gardaí.

Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, has announced that the Government is to accelerate the recruitment of Gardaí, with a further 250 recruits due to enter Garda College in 2015.

Two batches of 125 new recruits will be accepted into the Garda Training College in the coming months, bringing to 550 the total number of new Gardaí that will have been recruited by this Government between September 2014 and 2015. In addition to this, €27.5 million was invested in new Garda vehicles between 2012 and 2014 with 370 new Garda vehicles came on stream at the beginning of this year.

This new recruitment drive is good news and will make a real difference to local communities.

Fine Gael has a proud tradition as the party of law and order. With this recruitment announcement and the substantial investment by this Government in new Garda vehicles, we are ensuring that An Garda Síochána is fully equipped to meet the evolving needs of communities in terms of policing.

NEED FOR NEW POLICING INITIATIVES

I was disturbed to meet a number of elderly and vulnerable people recently out in the Navan Road area who felt very isolated in their own homes, particularly given the prevalence of burglaries lately – specifically a case where a lady was tied up, gagged and attacked in her own home.

It is clear that we need to implement further practical initiatives to combat crime, and ideally put more guards on the street. The recruitment of 300 guards is welcomed, as is the provision of new money for Garda vehicles. However, I feel other initiatives could be undertaken also: two things I feel could have an impact are being piloted in the North Inner City of Dublin – one is crime text alerts, and the other is a Garda door-to-door service.

The door-to-door service requires Gardaí effectively canvassing door-to-door to both introduce themselves to local residents, so that they know at least one local Garda and feel less vulnerable, but also allows them to carry out a survey about the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the service. I believe this should be expanded nationally. I have spoken of the benefits of the crime text alert service before, but feel that I should reemphasise that benefit and call once again for funds to be given so that it can be rolled out more widely and in a more formalised fashion.



Catherine taking part in an FAI charity football match alongside colleagues and Stephanie Roche. Catherine supports a variety of charitable causes.



Catherine with Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald at Fine Gael 2015 Ard Fheis.



Catherine and Minister Varadkar campaigning in Dublin West for the recent marriage referendum.



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