

An Garda Síochána

Oifig Saorála Fáisnéise,
An Garda Síochána, Teach áth Luimnigh,
Lárionad Gnó Udáras Forbartha Tionscail,
Baile Sheáin , An Uaimh,
Contae na Mí.
C15 ND62



Freedom of Information Office,
An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House,
IDA Business Park,
Johnstown, Navan,
Co Meath.
C15 ND62

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Bí linn/Join us  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000033-2020 Request Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 18th January, 2020 and received on 20th January, 2020 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) for records held by An Garda Síochána.

Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act states that An Garda Síochána is listed as a partially included agency "insofar as it relates to administrative records relating to human resources, or finance or procurement matters". Therefore, only administrative records that relate to human resources, finance or procurement shall be considered.

Your request sought:

I am currently completing a thesis which is exploring many aspects of An Garda Síochána. One such area that I am researching is access to mental health supports within policing organisations.

I am writing to make a formal request for the following information. I am hoping to ascertain the number of Garda Members that have engaged with the Garda peer support programme's telephone counselling service since it launch in 2016 to date.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to grant your request on the 10th February, 2020.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the HR Directorate Section of An Garda Síochána where a number of records have been identified and provided to my Office for review and consideration under the FOI Act.

Since June 24th 2016, a 24/7, 365 Independent Helpline and Counselling Service is available to all staff within An Garda Síochána. This service is available for both work and personal difficulties. Over 1433 staff members of An Garda Síochána have accessed face to face Counselling service since its fruition. The service is not mandatory and is self-referral. It is provided by Inspire Wellbeing (formally EAO Consultants / Care call). Each member of the Organisation may avail of six (6) free sessions of counselling per year, an additional two (2) will be provided if clinically approved. All appointments and consultants are arranged directly between the Service Provider and the staff member.

Should a member present to this service with a mental health emergency, they will be automatically referred to a general practitioner or accident and emergency department of a nearby hospital for treatment.

In conjunction with the aforementioned service, the Garda Employee Assistance Service (GEAS) is available to provide a confidential, professional, support and assistance service to:-

- Serving members of An Garda Síochána and their families.
- Garda Trainees and Probationers
- Retired members of An Garda Síochána and their families.
- Reserve Gardaí
- Retired Members of External Police Service resident in the State.

The service is available to help resolve work and/or personal issues that are causing stress, worry or disruption to an individual's life.

2. Right of Appeal

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you may seek an Internal Review of the matter by writing to the address below and quoting reference number **FOI-000033-2020**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath C15 ND62

Please note that a fee applies. This fee has been set at €30 (€10 for a Medical Card holder). Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque, and made payable to Accountant, Garda Finance Directorate, Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8.

Payment can be made by electronic means, using the following details:

Account Name: Garda Síochána Finance Section Public Bank Account
Account Number: 10026896

Sort Code: 900017
IBAN: IE86BOFI90001710026896
BIC: BOFIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000033-2020) is included in the payment details.

You should submit your request for an Internal Review within 4 weeks from the date of this notification. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of An Garda Síochána and the decision will be communicated to you within 3 weeks. The making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances.

Please be advised that An Garda Síochána replies under Freedom of Information may be released in to the public domain via our website at www.garda.ie

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,

 **ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**
MARIA BRODIGAN
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

10th FEBRUARY, 2020.