

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



Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000010-2021 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 4th January 2021 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 seeking the following through the Freedom of Information request

The amount spent by the Garda on public relations for the entire of 2020 and 2019 (I know the FOI has previously sent out FOI response concerning PR for a portion of 2020 but I am seeking the information for the entire year)

The individual amounts paid by the Garda to named PR firms/practitioners and the service they provided during 2020

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 8th January, 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

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.

I am refusing the part of your request for records relating to 2019. These records have been the subject of previous Freedom of Information requests (FOI-000358-2020 and FOI-000145-2020). It is the practice of An Garda Síochána to publish all non-personal requests including decision letters and records on our decision log. You may access the aforementioned FOI requests by following the link below:

<https://www.garda.ie/en/information-centre/statistics/finance-and-services-statistics.html>

As the records for 2019 are already in the public domain, I am refusing this part of your request and am doing so pursuant to Section 15(1)(d) of the Act:

*15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –
(d) the information is already in the public domain.*

I can advise that in 2020, media training was not provided due to COVID-19. €52,920 was spent in 2020 on the provision of PR services in respect of internal communications. These services were provided by The Communications Clinic.

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-000010-2021**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, 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: An Garda Síochána Imprest Account

Account Number: 30000302

Sort Code: 951599

IBAN: IE28DABA95159930000302

BIC: DABAIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number FOI-000010-2021 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,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
PAUL BASSETT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

 JANUARY 2021.