

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000122-2022 Request Part Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 15th March, 2022 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 conducting a study on voluntary resignations from An Garda Síochána over the past 5 years as part of my thesis and wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for information which is essential to assist with the study.

To ensure the data I obtain is accurate, voluntary resignations should only include individuals who have resigned voluntarily, and should NOT to include figures for retirements, dismissals or discharges due to ill health.

The information I am requesting is as follows:

- *What is the total number serving members in An Garda Síochána as of today's date (15/03/2022)?*
- *A breakdown of voluntary resignations from AGS in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022 (please include; the total number for each period and data on these individuals, age, gender, rank, service at the time of resignation and in what county they were stationed.*
- *What were the total number of Garda recruits (who successfully passed out) for each year (2017 - 2022)?*

Supplementary request:

- *If possible, could you please add; of the individuals who resigned in each of those years (2017 - 2022), what were their highest levels of education and also what ethnicity do they identify as?*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to **part grant** your request on the 25th March, 2022.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

On receipt of your request it was forwarded to the relevant Sections of An Garda Síochána. They have advised us that as of the 15th March, 2022 the current strength of Garda members is 14,356. The table below provides a breakdown of the ranks of current serving members.

Rank	Number
Commissioner	1
Deputy Commissioner	2
Assistant Commissioner	8
Chief Superintendent	48
Superintendent	167
Inspector	400
Sergeant	1998
Garda	11732
Total	14356

Part 2 of your request sought “*A breakdown of voluntary resignations from AGS in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022 (please include; the total number for each period and data on these individuals, age, gender, rank, service at the time of resignation and in what county they were stationed)*”. I have attached a table that provides the rank, Division and length of service of members that resigned in the years sought in your request. In accordance with Section 37 of the FOI Act I am refusing the release of records in relation to the member’s gender and age as I believe if this information was released in conjunction with the records provided in table the members may become identifiable.

Section 37

Section 37(1) provides that a public body shall refuse to grant a request if access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information relating to an individual other than the requester. Furthermore, section 37(7) provides that a public body shall refuse to grant a request if access to the record concerned would, in addition to involving the disclosure of personal information relating to the requester, also involve the disclosure of personal information relating to an individual or individuals other than the requester, commonly referred to as joint personal information.

2. (1) *In this Act—*

“personal information” means information about an identifiable individual that, either—

(a) would, in the ordinary course of events, be known only to the individual or members of the family, or friends, of the individual, or

(b) is held by an FOI body on the understanding that it would be treated by that body as confidential,

As per section 37 of the FOI Act I have considered the public interest issues which arise in this case and have taken account of the following factors in favour of release:

- Ensuring openness and transparency of organisational functions to the greatest possible extent,
- The public interest in members of the public exercising their rights under the FOI Act,
- That there is more than just a transitory interest by the public in this information,
- The right to privacy is outweighed by the needs of the public.

In considering the public interest factors which favour withholding the records I have taken account of the following:

- Allowing a public body to hold personal information without undue access by members of the public,
- The public interest is not best served by releasing these records,
- That the Organisation can conduct its business in a confidential manner,
- That there is a reasonable and implied expectation that sensitive personal information will remain confidential,
- That there is no overriding public interest that outweighs the individual's right to privacy.

A public interest test was carried out when considering the release of the personal information but having balanced the factors both for and against the release, I decided that the public interest in preserving the personal information and the reasonable expectation that information can be maintained in a confidential manner by An Garda Síochána outweighs the public interest which would be served were the records released to you.

The table below details the records requested in part 3 of your request providing the total number of Garda recruits (who successfully passed out) in the years requested.

Year	Number
2017	883
2018	789
2019	605
2020	522
2021	148
2022*	215

*as of 15th March 2022

I am refusing to provide the records sought in relation to your supplementary request in accordance with Section 15 (1)(c) as we have been advised by the relevant section that this information would cause a significant disruption to the work of their Office as the information requested is not held centrally in electronic format and would therefore require a manual trawl through individual files.

This volume of work would cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with and significantly disrupt the workload of the Office. I am therefore refusing to provide this information to you pursuant to Section 15 (1)(c) of the FOI Act..

Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests:

Section 15(1)(c) of the FOI Act 2014 states;

15. (1) *A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where—*

(c) in the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason of the number or nature of the records concerned or the nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of the records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned,

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-000122-2022**.

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: An Garda Síochána Imprest Account

Account Number: 30000302

Sort Code: 951599

IBAN: IE28DABA95159930000302

BIC: DABAIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number FOI-000122-2022 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 me by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PAUL BASSETT

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

25 March, 2022.

2017

Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	1
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	9
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	KILDARE	1
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	LOUTH	11
GD	HQ & National Units	25
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	0
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	16
GD	HQ & National Units	15
GD	HQ & National Units	16
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	MAYO	8
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	2
GD	D.M.R. WEST	9
GD	KILDARE	10
GD	TIPPERARY	1
GD	MEATH	2
GD	HQ & National Units	21
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	HQ & National Units	13
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	0
GD	DONEGAL	8
GD	HQ & National Units	13
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	HQ & National Units	13
SG	CORK CITY	19
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	0
GD	HQ & National Units	7
GD	HQ & National Units	9
GD	HQ & National Units	10

2018

Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	D.M.R. EAST	1
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	HQ & National Units	20
GD	TIPPERARY	9
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	HQ & National Units	21
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	HQ & National Units	13
GD	HQ & National Units	24
GD	GALWAY	2
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	TIPPERARY	10
GD	HQ & National Units	9
GD	HQ & National Units	15
GD	D.M.R. WEST	0
GD	WICKLOW	13
SG	HQ & National Units	17
GD	HQ & National Units	17
SG	HQ & National Units	19
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	2
GD	HQ & National Units	9
GD	WATERFORD	11
SG	HQ & National Units	17
GD	LOUTH	0
GD	D.M.R. WEST	1
SG	HQ & National Units	14
GD	D.M.R. WEST	1
GD	HQ & National Units	2
GD	DONEGAL	11
GD	D.M.R. WEST	2
GD	D.M.R. EAST	0
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	CORK CITY	21
GD	CORK WEST	2
GD	WATERFORD	9
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	12
GD	MEATH	10
GD	WEXFORD	16

2018 continued

Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	0
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	0
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	12
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	HQ & National Units	18
GD	DONEGAL	1
GD	CORK CITY	11
GD	CORK WEST	9
GD	HQ & National Units	22
GD	HQ & National Units	27
GD	HQ & National Units	8
GD	KILKENNY/CARLOW	9
GD	CORK NORTH	11
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	KILKENNY/CARLOW	0
GD	HQ & National Units	18
GD	WEXFORD	1
GD	CORK NORTH	0
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	0
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	15
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	10
GD	MEATH	1
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	2
GD	LIMERICK	0
GD	WICKLOW	1
GD	TIPPERARY	11
GD	HQ & National Units	15
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	1
GD	CORK CITY	12
GD	WATERFORD	12
GD	D.M.R. WEST	17
GD	HQ & National Units	17
GD	HQ & National Units	14
GD	TIPPERARY	1
GD	D.M.R. WEST	1

2019

Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	HQ & National Units	12
GD	CORK CITY	10
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	12
GD	TIPPERARY	10
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	12
GD	GALWAY	2
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	11
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	14
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	10
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	1
GD	GALWAY	19
GD	HQ & National Units	14
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	3
GD	LAOIS / OFFALY	3
GD	SLIGO / LEITRIM	12
GD	CORK NORTH	0
GD	MEATH	1
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	1
GD	SLIGO / LEITRIM	12
GD	CORK CITY	0
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	0
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	12
GD	GALWAY	1
GD	D.M.R. OFFICE	10
GD	KILDARE	0
GD	D.M.R. WEST	0
GD	HQ & National Units	18
GD	CORK CITY	0
GD	KILDARE	12
GD	TIPPERARY	1
GD	WEXFORD	11
GD	D.M.R. WEST	0
GD	LOUTH	2
GD	HQ & National Units	16
GD	D.M.R. EAST	1
GD	D.M.R. WEST	1
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	LIMERICK	11
GD	WATERFORD	0
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	0
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	CORK CITY	10

2019 continued

Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	KILDARE	1
GD	LAOIS / OFFALY	2
GD	MEATH	0
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	HQ & National Units	13
GD	HQ & National Units	21
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	11
GD	LIMERICK	0
GD	GARDA COLLEGE & RESEARCH	14
GD	TIPPERARY	3
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	9
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	1
GD	WATERFORD	0
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	CORK CITY	18
GD	KILKENNY/CARLOW	23
GD	D.M.R. WEST	0
GD	LAOIS / OFFALY	2
GD	HQ & National Units	10
GD	D.M.R. EAST	14
SG	HQ & National Units	19
GD	KILKENNY/CARLOW	1
GD	CAVAN / MONAGHAN	0
GD	HQ & National Units	20
GD	LIMERICK	0
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	15
GD	MEATH	11
GD	D.M.R. WEST	1
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	3
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	2

2020

Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	3
GD	HQ & National Units	9
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	1
GD	KILDARE	1
GD	KERRY	1
GD	WEXFORD	1
GD	D.M.R. WEST	10
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	12
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	1
GD	KERRY	12
GD	ROSCOMMON / LONGFORD	3
GD	WATERFORD	2
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	1
GD	HQ & National Units	12
GD	HQ & National Units	17
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	10
GD	WATERFORD	0
GD	HQ & National Units	21
GD	HQ & National Units	13
GD	WEXFORD	0
GD	DONEGAL	0
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	1
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	2
GD	D.M.R. WEST	0
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	2
GD	D.M.R. WEST	0
GD	HQ & National Units	21
GD	KILDARE	3
GD	DONEGAL	0
GD	CORK CITY	11
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	18
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	0
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	3
GD	LOUTH	1
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	1
GD	HQ & National Units	12
GD	HQ & National Units	2
SG	HQ & National Units	26
SG	HQ & National Units	15
GD	HQ & National Units	20
GD	TIPPERARY	11

2020 continued

Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	1
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	1
GD	D.M.R. EAST	3
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	2
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	12
GD	HQ & National Units	18
GD	HQ & National Units	13
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	2
GD	HQ & National Units	22
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	2
GD	WICKLOW	2
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	0
CS	HQ & National Units	5
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	4
GD	D.M.R. WEST	1
GD	LIMERICK	2
GD	D.M.R. WEST	1
GD	HQ & National Units	26
GD	TIPPERARY	11
GD	D.M.R. WEST	2
GD	D.M.R. EAST	13
GD	KILKENNY/CARLOW	1
GD	DONEGAL	2
GD	WICKLOW	2
GD	LAOIS / OFFALY	3
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	2
GD	D.M.R. WEST	2
GD	CORK NORTH	1

2021

Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	LOUTH	1
GD	LOUTH	3
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	2
GD	LAOIS / OFFALY	0
GD	HQ & National Units	14
GD	WEXFORD	3
GD	DONEGAL	3
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	3
SG	GALWAY	17
GD	TIPPERARY	2
GD	HQ & National Units	14
GD	SLIGO / LEITRIM	1
GD	WEXFORD	3
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	2
GD	HQ & National Units	14
GD	D.M.R. EAST	16
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	11
GD	SLIGO / LEITRIM	2
GD	D.M.R. WEST	4
GD	LIMERICK	16
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	15
GD	D.M.R. WEST	1
GD	CORK CITY	1
GD	GARDA COLLEGE & RESEARCH	1
GD	HQ & National Units	13
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	3
GD	KILDARE	1
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	3
GD	MEATH	11
GD	D.M.R. WEST	2
GD	GARDA COLLEGE & RESEARCH	0
GD	HQ & National Units	12
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	1
GD	HQ & National Units	14
GD	CAVAN / MONAGHAN	11
GD	GARDA COLLEGE & RESEARCH	1
GD	KILDARE	1
GD	HQ & National Units	17
GD	HQ & National Units	17
GD	D.M.R. WEST	2
GD	MEATH	2

2021 continued

Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	HQ & National Units	13
GD	WEXFORD	3
GD	D.M.R. WEST	17
GD	WICKLOW	15
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	3
SG	CORK WEST	20
GD	HQ & National Units	12
GD	D.M.R. WEST	3
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	22
GD	GARDA COLLEGE & RESEARCH	1
GD	HQ & National Units	19
GD	GARDA COLLEGE & RESEARCH	1
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	13
GD	GARDA COLLEGE & RESEARCH	1
GD	DONEGAL	1
GD	MEATH	1
GD	MEATH	1
GD	WATERFORD	4
GD	WEXFORD	1
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	1
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	11
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	2
GD	WATERFORD	6
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	3
GD	LAOIS / OFFALY	0
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	1
GD	WESTMEATH	16
GD	LOUTH	3
GD	MEATH	1
GD	WATERFORD	2
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	3
GD	D.M.R. WEST	13
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	3
GD	D.M.R. WEST	11
GD	CLARE	15
GD	D.M.R. WEST	3
GD	D.M.R. WEST	1
GD	HQ & National Units	15
GD	KILDARE	4
GD	HQ & National Units	17
GD	D.M.R. WEST	5

2021 continued		
Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	CORK CITY	1
GD	CAVAN / MONAGHAN	3
GD	D.M.R. EAST	1
GD	CORK WEST	15
GD	LOUTH	2
GD	CORK CITY	1
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	0
SG	GALWAY	16
GD	CAVAN / MONAGHAN	1
GD	KILKENNY/CARLOW	12

2022		
Rank	County	Length of Service in Years
GD	HQ & National Units	27
GD	HQ & National Units	12
GD	HQ & National Units	17
GD	HQ & National Units	14
GD	CAVAN / MONAGHAN	15
GD	D.M.R. WEST	0
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH	1
GD	D.M.R. NORTH	12
GD	CORK NORTH	18
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	14
GD	D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	6
GD	WESTMEATH	4
GD	MAYO	14
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	1
SG	HQ & National Units	24
GD	LIMERICK	4
GD	HQ & National Units	11
GD	CORK WEST	14
GD	D.M.R. WEST	17
GD	D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	14