

# 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](http://www.garda.ie)

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Ríomh-phoist:/Email: [foi@garda.ie](mailto:foi@garda.ie)

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000292-2022 Request Granted

*Dear*

I refer to your request, dated 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 and received on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 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:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I would like to request:*

- 1. The number of gardai referred for psychiatric or psychological assessment in each of the following years: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022*
- 2. The number of gardai who were off sick due to stress or anxiety in each of the above years and the total amount of days they missed due to stress or anxiety.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to grant your request on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

### **1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision**

Upon receipt of your request, a search was conducted with the Garda Chief Medical Officer, and the Sickness Absence Management System in the Human Resource Section of An Garda Síochána. Part 1 of your request sought "the number of gardai referred for psychiatric or

psychological assessment in each of the following years: 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022” and these figures are detailed below:

Number of Garda Members referred for psychiatric/psychological assessment						
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
164	177	185	216	217	261	186

\*as of 29/08/2022

Above are the figures for members that appointments were provided for or requests were made for appointments to be arranged for psychiatric or psychological assessment by Occupational Health Physicians at the Garda Occupational Health Service.

Part 2 of your request sought “*The number of gardai who were off sick due to stress or anxiety in each of the above years and the total amount of days they missed due to stress or anxiety*”

Sickness absences are recorded and reported under the following categories – Ordinary Illness; Occupational Injury/Illness Arising from Duty and Critical Illness.

**Ordinary Illness Category** contains the following sub categories -

- Flu/Viral
- Mental Health
- Musculoskeletal
- Not Provided
- Other-Please Specify
- Post Pregnancy
- Pregnancy Related
- Surgery / Post Op

**Occupational Injury/illness arising from Duty Category** contains the following sub-categories

- Injury On Duty: Accident
- Injury On Duty: RTA
- Malicious Injury Off Duty
- Malicious Injury On Duty
- Occupational illness arising from duty

**Critical Illness Category** contains the following sub-category -

- Critical Illness

There is currently no specific sub-category on the Sickness Absence Management System for the recording of absences due to stress, anxiety or depression but in some cases, this is recorded under the Mental Health sub-category or in the comments field against another sub-category. It is not possible to show the comments on a sickness absence report.

Each instance of sickness absence throughout the required time period would need to be manually accessed on the Sickness Absence Management System to ascertain if the illness relates to stress, anxiety or depression.



The following statistics have been compiled using the Mental Health illness subcategory. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that all absences due to stress, anxiety or depression have been recorded under this sub-category.

### Number of Members Recorded as Taking Sickness Absence because of Mental Health Illness

YEAR	Members
2022	37 Members to date
2021	47 Members
2020	51 Members
2019	80 Members
2018	58 Members
2017	68 Members
2016	61 Members

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 05.08.2022*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 04.02.2022*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 05.02.2021*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 05.02.2020*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 05.02.2019*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 06.02.2018*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 01.02.2017*

### The Total Number of Days Taken/Lost because of Mental Health Illness

YEAR	NUMBER OF DAYS LOST
2022	3401 Days to date
2021	5236.5 Days
2020	5940 Days
2019	5609 Days
2018	4093 Days
2017	6414 Days
2016	5469 Days

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 05.08.2022*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 04.02.2022*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 05.02.2021*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 05.02.2020*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 05.02.2019*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 06.02.2018*

*Sick Leave Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 01.02.2017*

## 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-000292-2022**.

**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-000292-2022 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](http://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**

30 AUGUST, 2022.