

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 DR90



Freedom of Information Office,
An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House,
IDA Business Park,
Johnstown, Navan,
Co Meath.
C15 DR90

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

FOI-GEN-165150/21

Re: Access to information on the Environment Request Number – 01/2021 Request Granted

Dear

I refer to your request under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2014 (S.I. No. 133 of 2007, S.I. No. 662 of 2011 and S.I. No. 615 of 2014) (hereafter referred to as the AIE Regulations) which was dated and received in this office on 12th April, 2021.

Your request sought:

Under AIE Regulations, I am requesting the records relating to the use of petrol in state cars for the Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Minister for Justice and Minister for Foreign Affairs, specifically since the appointment of a new government last year, specifically:

- The average petrol consumption of each designated car;*
- The distance travelled by the Taoiseach and each Minister;*
- The total amount spent on petrol/diesel for use in each car (with a breakdown of each)*
- The number of times each car has been refilled since the Taoiseach/each minister took office last year*

Summary of Decision

The AIE Regulations are based on Directive 2003/4/EC. The Regulations provide for the right of access to environmental information held by or for public authorities and set out the basic terms and conditions of, and practical arrangements for, the exercise of this right of access. In line with Article 2(1) of the Directive, Article 3(1) of the AIE Regulations defines "environmental information" as "*any information in written, visual, aural, electronic or any other material form on –*

- (a) *The state of the elements of the environment, such as air and atmosphere, water, soil, land, landscape and natural sites... and the interaction among these elements,*
- (b) *Factors, such as substances, energy, noise, radiation or waste, including radioactive waste, emissions, discharges and other releases into the environment, affecting or likely to affect the elements of the environment,*
- (c) *Measures (including administrative measures), such as policies, legislation, plans, programmes, environmental agreements, and activities affecting or likely to affect the elements and factors referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) as well as measures or activities designed to protect those elements,*
- (d) *Reports on the implementation of environmental legislation,*
- (e) *Cost benefit and other economic analyses and assumptions used within the framework of the measures and activities referred to in paragraph (c), and*
- (f) *The state of human health and safety... conditions of human life, cultural sites and built structures... affected by the state of the elements of the environment... or through those elements, by an of the matters referred to in paragraph (b) and (c)".*

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the relevant sections of An Garda Síochána to provide relevant records.

The information requested is detailed in the table below. The information contained relate to the period 27th June 2020 to 12th April 2021.

	Taoiseach		Tánaiste	Foreign Affairs		Justice	
Fuel Consumption (Litres)	4502.32	545.42	3397.46	3053.57	1361.08	3247.16	184.01
Cost of Fuel €	5527	604	3807	3409	1373	3618	195
Fuel Type	Petrol/Hybrid	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel
Number of Fills	96	15	71	79	33	83	4
Distance Travelled KM's	40514	5540	25760	28450	17460	35407	1720

By way of further information I can advise that that An Taoiseach has 2 cars allocated to him. The Minister for Justice had a second car allocated to her until December 2020, at which time one car came to end of life. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has 1 car allocated to him. This car changed in November 2020.

Right of Appeal

Under Article 11 of the AIE Regulations you have a right to seek an internal review of this decision. An internal review involves a complete reconsideration of the matter by a member of the staff of this Organisation, of the same or higher rank than the original decision-maker, who may affirm, vary or annul the original decision made. The decision of this review will be communicated to you within one month of receipt of your application for an internal review.

In the event that you wish to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to, *Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath C15 DR90* referring to this decision and quoting your AIE reference number. You must make this request within one month of the date of this notification, (the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances).

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


MAY 2021