

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-000355-2020 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 06th October, 2020 and received on 07th October, 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:

- *Records of the number of Gardaí that faced disciplinary action in 2018, 2019 and the first six months of this year*
- *Records of the total monetary penalties imposed and the reasons why in 2018, 2019 and the first six months of this year*
- *Records of the type of sanctions that they received in 2018, 2019 and the first six months of 2020*
- *Records of the number of Gardaí suspended from the force and the length of time for each one across 2018 and 2019*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 24th November, 2020

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

Upon receipt of your request, the Internal Affairs Section of An Garda Síochána were contacted to retrieve the information. Internal Affairs have provided this office with the information detailed below.

This office has been advised that the retrieval of the records sought in your request would cause a significant disruption to the work of the Internal Affairs Office due to the nature and volume of the records. Members of An Garda Síochána are subject to the Garda Síochána (Discipline) Regulations, 2007 as amended. As per the Regulations, minor disciplinary matters are addressed locally by way of Regulation 10. Such records are retained locally and are not held centrally. Matters of a more serious nature (Part 3) and a less serious nature (Part 2) are progressed centrally through the Discipline Section. This volume of work would cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with and significantly disrupt the workload of the Internal Affairs Office. I am therefore refusing to provide this information requested in part 1 and 2 of your request in accordance with Section 15 (1)(c).

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,

As regards part 3 of your request the table below details the types of sanction that members received in 2018, 2019 and first six months of 2020.

2018	2019	2020
Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal
Resignation in Lieu of Dismissal	Resignation in Lieu of Dismissal	Temporary Reduction of Pay
Temporary Reduction of Pay	Temporary Reduction of Pay	Advice
Advice	Advice	Caution
Caution	Caution	Warning
Warning	Warning	Reprimand
Reprimand	Reprimand	

This office has been advised that in 2018 there were 21 members and in 2019 there were 19 members of Gardai suspended from the force, however I am refusing to supply records requesting the length of time for each suspension for the requested years as this would require a manual inspection of each file and therefore as stated above and in accordance with Section 15 (1)(c) as this would cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work in the Internal Affairs Office.

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-000355-2020**.

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

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-000355-2020 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 me by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
PAUL BASSETT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

29th NOVEMBER, 2020