

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000389-2020 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 30th 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:

This is an FOI request.

I am requesting the following stats: Figures in relation to Garda overtime and cost.

Under the FOI act 2014, I am seeking the following:

- *A monthly breakdown of the cost of Garda overtime from January 1st 2016 to October 30th 2020. (figure for each month).*
- *The annual budget allocated for Garda overtime for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 17th November 2020.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

1

I wish to advise that I am refusing the first part of your request wherein you seek the ‘*A monthly breakdown of the cost of Garda overtime from January 1st 2016 to October 30th 2020. (figure for each month)*’ on administrative grounds in accordance with section 15(1)(d) of the FOI Act as the information is already in the public domain.

Section 15(1)(d) of the FOI Act states:

Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests

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,*

The overtime expenditure for An Garda Síochána is provided by the Finance Directorate and is published on an annual basis, broken down per Quarter and Garda Division and is available by following the link below to the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme on the Garda website:

<https://www.garda.ie/en/Information-Centre/Freedom-of-Information/Publication-Scheme/Budgets-and-spending/Overtime-Reports.html>

Figures are available from 2016 and up to and including Quarter 3 of 2020.

In respect of Part 2 of your request, details were provided to the Finance Directorate within An Garda Síochána, who have briefed this Office in respect of same. I can advise that the 2020 overtime budget for An Garda Síochána is €95 million.

I am refusing your request for records relating to the annual budget allocated for Garda overtime in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. My refusal is made pursuant to Section 15(1)(d) of the FOI Act which states that:

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

(i) *the request relates to records already released, either to the same or a previous requester where –*

(i) *the records are available to the requestor concerned*

The records sought by you were subject to a previous FOI request (FOI-000258-2019) and it is the practice of An Garda Síochána to publish all non-personal requests on their decision log. You can access the requested records by following the link below:

<https://www.garda.ie/en/information-centre/freedom-of-information/decision-log/finance-%E2%80%93-general/finance-general-decision-logs-2019.html>

The nature of Garda work and the requirement that the Garda authorities respond, in some cases at short notice, to immediate policing demands means that there is a necessity to incur overtime expenses to ensure effective policing. Accordingly, there will always be a need for a certain level of overtime to allow An Garda Síochána flexibility when responding to circumstances that require additional resources for specific operations. These additional resources will have to be over and above those available from Gardaí on rostered duty thus ensuring the continuation of normal policing duties unabated.

In addition, police led operations can require the deployment of extra resources on overtime. This includes the implementation of anti-crime and anti-burglary initiatives. Similarly, non-crime related events and events organised by interest groups within the general public can require overtime to police effectively as additional Gardaí may need to be deployed to ensure public safety.

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-000389-2020**.

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-000389-2020) 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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PAUL BASSETT

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER



NOVEMBER 2020.