

# 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)

Bí linn/Join us  

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000422-2021 Request Part-Grant

*Dear*

I refer to your request, dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and received on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 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:

- 1) The amount spent on repairing damage to bicycles used by officers since 2016.*
- 2) The amount spent on clothing and equipment for bike trained officers since 2016.*
- 3) The amount of bicycles currently in use by An Garda Síochána.*
- 4) The amount spent on training and equipment for An Garda Síochána's horseriding officers since 2016.*
- 5) The cost of maintaining the horses used by An Garda Síochána.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

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

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the relevant sections of An Garda Síochána where searches were conducted in respect of same.

Part 1 of your request sought records in relation to spend on repairs of the mountain bike fleet of An Garda Síochána. The Finance Division of An Garda Síochána has advised that €86,589 was spent on bike repairs from 2016 to Nov 2021. This cost was extracted manually from the FMS system. The records were collated by carrying out a key word search “bicycle repairs” on the System. The Finance Division have advised us that as it was a manual search it may result in a limited amount of omissions or errors. The total spent on mountain bike accessories since 2016 is €176,276.

I am refusing part 3 of your request in accordance with Section 15 (1)(c) of the FOI Act as the record required is not held centrally and to compile records identifying the total number of mountain bikes countrywide would cause a disproportionate expenditure of Garda time and resources. I am therefore refusing this part of your request by reason of the nature and volume of the records sought would cause disruption to the working of particular Sections of An Garda Síochána.

### **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 4 of your request this office has been advised that for the years 2016 to date one member of the Garda Mounted Unit received external training in 2019 at a cost of €3,500. The other members of the Unit receive in house training from fully trained Garda Mounted Unit instructors.

The table below details the cost of the training equipment purchased from 2016-2021.

Equipment	Cost
Saddle pads	€2,541
Head Collars	€1,228
Hit Air Canisters	€400
Training aids	€1,754
Saddles	€35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€40,923</b>

The table below supplies details in relation to part 5 of your request which sought “The cost of maintaining the horses used by An Garda Síochána”.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Veterinary fees</b>	€8,104	€22,642	€18,547	€12,005	€12,784	€14,714
<b>Feed/bedding</b>	€34,035	€42,404	€40,571	€37,507	€32,737	€28,477
<b>Farrier</b>	€6,699	€7,988	€8,540	€7,695	€9,999	€10,315
<b>Total</b>	<b>€48,838</b>	<b>€73,034</b>	<b>€67,658</b>	<b>€57,207</b>	<b>€55,520</b>	<b>€53,506</b>

## 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-000422-2021**.

***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-000422-2021) 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 wish to discuss the above, please contact the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

**PAUL BASSETT**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER**

20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2021.