

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000450-2020 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 8th December, 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:

In accordance with section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I wish to request

- *the amount spent by An Garda Síochána on Artificial Intelligence Systems (Siren.io etc.) in the years 2017 - 2020.*
- *Procurement and tender documents for the same.*
- *how such systems are used by the force.*
- *the amount spent by An Garda Síochána on ANPR systems from 2017 to 2020.*
- *Procurement and tender documents for the same.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 23rd December 2020.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Details of your request were provided to the relevant sections within An Garda Síochána who have briefed this Office in respect of same.

1

In relation to Part 1 of your request I can advise that the amount spent by An Garda Síochána on Artificial Intelligence Systems in the years 2017 – 2020 amounts to a total of €30,855. This payment was made in 2020. No payment in relation to AI Systems were made in the previous years.

Parts 2 and 5 of your request sought “*Procurement and tender documents for the same*”. This office has been advised that the procurement was part of an EU tender from the Department of Justice on behalf of the Justice Sector - RFT119614: For the provision of ElasticSearch, Associated Management Products and Support Services. Siren.io were the successful bidder. As the procurement and tender were carried out by the Department of Justice on behalf of the whole Justice Sector AGS do not hold the Tender document or responses. Therefore I am refusing this part of your request in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act which states;

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

(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken,

As previously outlined above, 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. How such systems are used by the force does not constitute an administrative record relating to human resources, finance or procurement. I am therefore refusing this information as it falls outside the scope of the FOI Act.

With regards to Part 4 of your request I can advise the amount spent by An Garda Síochána on ANPR systems from 2017 to 2020 amounted to €2,284,076.36.

- 2017 - €14,364
- 2018 - €4,950
- 2019 - €280,401
- 2020 - €1,984,362

Following years of under-investment, an upgrade of out of date equipment commenced in 2019 and continued into 2020. When Covid restrictions were introduced, major investment in additional equipment commenced to aid Gardaí at Covid checkpoints. Additional vehicles were added to the fleet which also required ANPR equipment.

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-000450-2020**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Johnstown, 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-000450-2020) 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 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

23rd

DECEMBER, 2020.