

An Garda Síochána

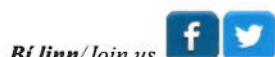
Oifig Saoráil Faisnéise
An Garda Síochána
Teach áth Luimnigh
Lárionad Gnó Udáras Forbartha Tionscail
Baile Sheáin
An Uaimh
Contae na Mí
C15 DR90



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

Teileafón/Tel: [Tel No Unit]

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: www.garda.ie



Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000019-2016 Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and my correspondence to you of 14th January 2016 and to your submissions to this body, dated and received on 14th January 2016.

Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 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.

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by An Garda Síochána:

‘I would like to know how many new recruits have been assigned to the County Roscommon/Longford division since the beginning of last year to date and how many retirees during the same date. I would like to know how many calls reporting crimes the Roscommon /Longford gardai received last year and how many were they able to respond to. I would also like to know how many, if any, hoax calls were received. I would further like to know how many new vehicles if any the Roscommon/Longford division will be assigned this year and details (age, type of car) of the current fleet.’

I have now made a final decision to **part grant** your request.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

In the first part of your request you have sought ‘how many new recruits have been assigned to the County Roscommon/Longford division since the beginning of last year to date and how many retirees during the same date’.

I can now confirm that no new recruits have been allocated to the Roscommon/Longford Division since the beginning of 2015. Garda personnel assigned throughout the country, together with overall policing arrangements and operational strategy, are continually monitored and reviewed and is determined by a number of factors including population, crime trends and as the policing needs of each individual division dictates. Such monitoring ensures that optimum use is made of Garda resources, and the best possible Garda service is provided to the general public.

In regard to the deployment of Garda personnel, a distribution model is used which takes into account all relevant factors including population, crime trends and as the policing needs of each individual Division dictates. It is the responsibility of the Divisional Officer to allocate personnel within his/her Division.

The table below outlines the number of members of An Garda Síochána who retired in 2015 and up to 13th January 2016 in the Roscommon/Longford Division.

Retirements in the Roscommon/Longford Division 2015 – 13th January 2016

Roscommon/Longford	
Rank	Number
Sergeant	2
Garda	2
Total	4

The next part of your request subsequently sought ‘*how many calls reporting crimes the Roscommon/Longford gardai received last year and how many were they able to respond to. I would also like to know how many, if any, hoax calls were received*’.

As previously advised, the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 insofar as it applies to An Garda Síochána, is limited to administrative records held relating to human resources, finance or procurement. I am therefore unable to provide you with the information you have sought above as it does not fall within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act.

In respect of the last part of your request wherein you are seeking to know ‘*how many new vehicles if any, the Roscommon/Longford division will be assigned this year and details (age, type of car) of the current fleet*’

The Garda Transport Section manages a fleet of approximately 2,600 vehicles distributed throughout Garda Divisions and specialist units. Further information in respect of the current fleet of An Garda Síochána on a national level is currently available on the Garda website. You may access this information by clicking the attached link: <http://garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=15985&Lang=1>

The tables below outline the number of vehicles in the Roscommon/Longford Division as of 31st December 2015 together with the number of new vehicles allocated to the Division during 2015.

ROSCOMMON/LONGFORD DIVISION AS AT 31/12/15

	CARS		VANS	MOTORCYCLES	4X4	OTHER	TOTAL
	MARKED	UNMARKED					
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>47</u>

NEW VEHICLES ALLOCATED TO ROSCOMMON/LONGFORD DIVISION IN 2015

	CARS		VANS	MOTORCYCLES	4X4	OTHER	TOTAL
	MARKED	UNMARKED					
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>

The marked fleet in Roscommon/Longford Division currently consists of Hyundai, Toyota and Ford vehicles.

There are a number of unmarked vehicles attached to the fleet. However, I am refusing to provide the details of these vehicles to you under section 32(1)(a)(i) and 32(1)(a)(ii) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 as I am of the opinion that this information can be reasonably expected, if used inappropriately, to prejudice or impair the Garda Organisation operational capabilities in:

- (i) *“the prevention, detection or investigation of offences, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders or the effectiveness of lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures employed for the purposes of the matter aforesaid”*
- (ii) *“the enforcement of, compliance with or administration of any law”*

The information sought by you in your request seeks to identify, in detail, the operational capabilities of An Garda Síochána on a Divisional level. This type of information is not provided due to its operational sensitivity. This information, if made available, could reasonably be expected to pose a risk to the safety of local Gardaí when endeavoring to enforce legislation and keep the public peace in the future. If the details of unmarked vehicles attached to Roscommon/Longford were provided, it is reasonable to believe that a criminal organisation could use this information to assess the capabilities of the local Gardaí to deal with certain types of crimes, thus prejudicing the Garda Organisation's effectiveness in enforcing legislation. The number of vehicles in use in the Roscommon/Longford Division is provided above. However, to release the details of unmarked vehicles on a Divisional basis could allow for a prediction to be made as to the response capabilities of Gardaí by a criminal organisation. This is an unnecessary risk to the law enforcement procedures employed in Divisions and the staff of same.

2. Rights 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 **F01-000019-2016**.

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: Garda Síochána Finance Section Public Bank Account

Account Number: 10026896

Sort Code: 900017

IBAN: IE86B0F190001710026896

BIC: BOFIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number 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

 **SUPERINTENDENT**
HELEN DEELY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

10th February 2016