

# 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

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Bí linn/Join us  



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

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000045-2015

### Request Refusal

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to this body dated 15/10/2015 and received on 15/10/2015.

Part 1 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.

Your request is shown below:

- “Records outlining sums spent by An Garda Síochána on:  
- firearms  
- firearms training  
in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and the first nine months of 2015.

*The records sought would cover each year individually.”*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ wish to inform you that your request has been refused.

Your request is being refused 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”*
- (iii) *“the enforcement of, compliance with or administration of any law”*

The detail sought by you in your request of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 fundamentally seeks to identify the operational capabilities of An Garda Síochána with regard to firearms throughout the Garda Organisation. An Garda Síochána has unique functions, as set out in the Garda Síochána Act 2005, of which one is *“protecting the Security of the State”*, I am of the opinion that nothing should jeopardise, impair or prejudice the ability of An Garda Síochána to carry out that function to its fullest capability.

The data sought, if released, may either deliberately or inadvertently, go towards the substantiation of the availability of lethal force throughout An Garda Síochána when carrying out their functions. This specific information will not be provided as it creates a risk to individual Gardaí, who may be issued with a firearm, from the criminal element in society who will be able to assess the possible armed response capabilities of Gardaí. It is therefore reasonable to expect that it would impair and prejudice the Organisations capability to enforce the Law as set out in section 32(1)(a)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

The cost of training Gardaí in the use of firearms, if released, shows the extent to which An Garda Síochána actively provides training to its members and, in financial terms, may identify the extent to which specialist sections are receiving training and refresher courses. Conversely, the release of financial information relating to firearms training could result in a belief that there is a lack of training throughout the Organisation. It is therefore reasonable to expect that it would impair and prejudice the Organisations capability to enforce the Law as set out in section 32(1)(b)(ii) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

It is reasonable to believe that the information sought and merged with other Garda information, readily available in the public domain such as Garda specialist section, could result in an overall picture being developed with regard to the allocation of firearms throughout the Organisation. This would be of benefit to criminal organisations and individual criminals alike.

## **1. 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-000045-2015**.

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:** IE86BOFI90001710026896  
**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](http://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,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER.**

**11<sup>th</sup> November 2015**