

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 DR 90

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-000061-2016 Partially Granted

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to this body dated and received on the 16th February 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.

Your request sought the following:

I wish to request access to the following information/documents held by your department;

- *Documents which show the total number of intake of recruits per year since the Garda college reopened. Please state the total number of male/females in each intake per year*
- *Documents which show the total number of people who dropped out / withdrew each year since the Garda college reopened. Please state the number of male/females who dropped out per each year.*
- *Any documents which show the reasons why a recruits dropped out.*

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

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

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

The Garda College is the national centre for police training, development and education within the Irish State. It is a modern university campus type structure and is an accredited Third Level training and educational centre within the National Qualification Framework (NQF) of Ireland providing accredited programmes from level 6 to level 9 on the NQF.

The Trainee/Probationer Education, Training & Development Program is a 2 year course leading to a B.A. in Applied Policing (Level 7) which is currently accredited by the University of Limerick (UL). It is a competency based programme consisting of three separate but integrated phases. The initial period of 34 weeks (including two weeks annual leave) takes place at The Garda College. Subsequent training takes place predominantly in selected Garda Divisions.

Following the recruitment campaign announced in 2013, which had a significant focus on attracting female candidates, as well as potential students from minority communities, the programme recommenced in September 2014 and there have been 6 intakes to date.

A total of 550 recruits entered the Garda College since the Garda Trainee Competition 2013 was advertised. The breakdown of same is as follows:

2014	
Male	163
Female	37
Total	200

2015	
Male	273
Female	77
Total	350

It should be noted that approximately 25% of Garda Personnel are female, which is above the European average for police services.

In total 5 recruits (3 male and 2 female) resigned prior to completing the initial 34 weeks and a further 2 (1 male and 1 female) resigned subsequently.

It is my opinion that as the number of resignations are so small that these individuals are identifiable by classmates and their local communities. Therefore, I advise that the final part of your request has been **refused** as it falls under the definition of personal information. Part 1, Section 2 of the Act defines personal information as follows:

“personal information” means information about an identifiable individual that, either—
(a) would, in the ordinary course of events, be known only to the individual or members of the family, or friends, of the individual, or
(b) is held by an FOI body on the understanding that it would be treated by that body as confidential,
and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes—
(iii) information relating to the employment or employment history of the individual,

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-000061-2016**.

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

Your 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

15th March 2016