



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: (046) 9036350

Bí linn/Join us  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000067-2016 Request Refusal

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to An Garda Síochána, 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 is shown below:

- *The amount of money spent on the cleaning of crime scenes / the amount of money paid to cleaning contractors of crime scenes / trauma scenes in 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011*
- *All documents/contract documents in place with contractors in 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011*
- *Number of scenes required cleaning by contractors in 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011*
- *Any documentation around the tendering process of contractors for crime / trauma scene cleaning in 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012.*

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

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

The Financial Management System within An Garda Síochána was queried to identify if the records could be extracted to provide an answer to your request. The review of the Financial Management system outlined that An Garda Síochána does not have a unique subhead for cleaning services associated with scenes of crime. The following subhead relate to cleaning, "cleaning and specialised cleaning". Specialist cleaning relates in the main to a contract in place for the deep clean of cells and official vehicles.

The role of An Garda Síochána in this area is the investigation of crime and the examination of the particular crime scene. A District, Divisional, or Senior Investigating Officer may provide details of companies who provide this service to victims or their family. In rare and exceptional cases a decision may be made to provide such a service which might be paid for by An Garda Síochána. However the decision rests with the individual investigator, District or Divisional Officer.

As there is no specific cost code for recording such payments on An Garda Síochána's financial systems, it would necessitate a manual examination of all invoices paid, under the cost code for Specialised Cleaning to identify such payments. This would be a disproportionate use of resources (human and financial) in this instance for an anticipated small, or nil return.

Therefore the first and third parts of your request is refused under Section 15(1)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 which 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 there are no formal arrangements in place for the provisions of crime scene cleaning, I advise that the second and fourth part of your request have been refused on the basis that the records do not exist. Section 15(1)(a) of the Act 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,

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-000067-2016**.

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: 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.

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

29th February 2016