

An Garda Síochána

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

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Bí linn/Join us  



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

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000115-2015 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and my correspondence to you of 30th October 2015 and to your submissions to this body, dated and received on 30th October 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:

- *‘The records I am seeking relate to redundancies and the dismissal of garda officers during the years 2013, 2014 and to date 2015. (from Jan to October 30)*
- *These records should detail the number of gardai let go, those that retired and those that took redundancy and the reasons for their redundancies and the date.*
- *The records should also entail a breakdown of the number of gardai who were dismissed from the force and the reasons stated as to why (where confidentiality is not broken).*
- *In the case of dismissal records, I am seeking all records which relate to garda misconduct or incidents which meant that a garda had to be dismissed due to their behavior, etc.*
- *I am also seeking records during the dates mentioned that detail gardai taking career breaks’*

I, _____ wish to inform you that your request has been **part granted**.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions

In replying to your request, I have broken down the reply under the three headings in which you have sought information on. These are (i) redundancies, (ii) dismissals/retirements and (iii) career breaks.

I understand a member of staff from this office spoke to you with regard to your request and detailed the information that is available to you on the Garda website.

(i) Redundancies:

Your request has sought records *'relating to redundancies of Garda Officers during the years 2013, 2014 and to date in 2015'*.

With regard to redundancies within the organisation, this facility is not available within An Garda Síochána and therefore, no member of the force has availed of a redundancy in the years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

(ii) Dismissals/Retirements:

Your request also sought records *'detailing the number of Gardai let go and those that retired'*. In this regard, I am applying Section 15(1)(d) of the Freedom of Information Act wherein it states:

*A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –
(d) the information is already in the public domain*

I understand a member of staff from this office spoke to you with regard to your request and advised that the information sought in respect of dismissals/retirements of An Garda Síochána is available under the 'Internal Affairs' and 'Managing our Resources' headings of the Annual Reports which are located in the Publications tab on our website, www.garda.ie. Reports for years 2013 and 2014 are available on the website.

While the Annual Report for 2015 has not yet been published, I can advise you that 2 members of An Garda Síochána have been dismissed to date in 2015 under Section 39 of the Garda Síochána (Discipline) Regulations 2007.

The number of retirements of Garda members up to 30th October 2015 is 201.

In addition to the above refusal, I am also applying Section 37 (1) *Personal Information*:

'Subject to this section a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual)'

Due to the very small number of individuals who are dismissed from An Garda Síochána, the rank and Division of these individuals is not published in the event that they may deliberately or inadvertently be identified from this information. In addition to this, the reasons for their dismissal will also be withheld under this exemption.

(iii) Career Breaks

Your request also sought records ‘during the dates mentioned that detail Gardaí taking career breaks’. In this regard, I am again applying Section 15(1)(d) of the Freedom of Information Act wherein it states:

*A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –
(d) the information is already in the public domain*

The information sought in respect of career breaks of An Garda Síochána is also available under the ‘Managing our Resources’ headings of the Annual Reports which are located in the Publications tab on our website, www.garda.ie. Reports for years 2013 and 2014 are available on the website.

As previously advised, this information has not yet been published for 2015. However, the table below outlines the number of Garda members who have availed of career breaks up to 31st October 2015. This table is broken down into Ordinary Career Break and Incentivised Career Break which was announced on 7th March 2014.

	Ordinary Career Break	Incentivised Career Break
2015	13	106

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 **F01-0000115-2015**.

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: 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,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER.

19th November 2015