

An Garda Síochána

Oifig Saorála Fáisnéise
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

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: www.garda.ie



Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000388-2016 Request Refused

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) and your submission to An Garda Síochána dated and received on 25th October, 2016.

Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act 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:

How much money has An Garda Síochána allocated to the Garda Reserves in the years

- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016, so far.

Also in those years I would like a breakdown of costs in relation to training, equipment and retention spent on the Garda Reserves.

How much does it cost to train a member of the Garda Reserve?

How much does An Garda Síochána spend on equipment per member of the Garda Reserve cost?

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 21st November, 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

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

The Garda Síochána Act, 2005 provides for the establishment of a Garda Reserve. The Garda Reserve is a voluntary unpaid body drawn from the community to assist the existing Service in various policing duties.

Reserve Gardaí have certain garda powers while on duty and perform their policing duties as determined by the Commissioner under the supervision of, and supported by, regular garda members.

The principal role of the Reserve consists of local patrols and crime reduction initiatives, targeted at specific local urban or rural problem areas.

Members of the Garda Reserve are also involved in policing major incidents and events, and in providing other operational support to regular garda members on the basis of an individual garda reserve member's skills or local knowledge. They are expected to provide a quality service at all times and are a clear sign of partnership between An Garda Síochána and the community.

The cost of training and operating the reserve programme has been the subject of many recent parliamentary questions. You may be aware that responses to parliamentary questions are published on the Oireachtas website. The following links are of relevance to your request:

The cost of training a Reserve Garda.

[http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/debateswebpack.nsf/\(indexlookupdail\)/20160615~WRA?opendocument#WRA04050](http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/debateswebpack.nsf/(indexlookupdail)/20160615~WRA?opendocument#WRA04050)

The annual costs of the Garda Reserve since its establishment and the detail of these costs, in tabular form.

[http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/debateswebpack.nsf/\(indexlookupdail\)/20160531~WRH?opendocument#WRH02200](http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/debateswebpack.nsf/(indexlookupdail)/20160531~WRH?opendocument#WRH02200)

Furthermore, the estimates and expenditure for the reserves are reported in the Comptroller and Auditor General's annual reports under Vote 20 Garda Síochána and published on their website. Please see the following links for reference:

<http://www.audgen.gov.ie/documents/annualreports/2015/appacc/en/vote%2020.pdf>

<http://www.audgen.gov.ie/documents/annualreports/2014/appacc/en/vote%2020%20garda.pdf>

<http://www.audgen.gov.ie/documents/annualreports/2013/appacc/en/AppAccs2013.pdf>

I advise therefore that I am refusing your request pursuant to Section 15(1)(d) which states:

Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests

- 15. (1) 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.*

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 **FOI-000389-2016**

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 (FOI-000389-2016) 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 will be removed to protect confidentiality where applicable.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Deely SUPERINTENDENT
HELEN DEELY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER.

22nd NOVEMBER, 2016