

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 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-000354-2016 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 28th September, 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:

1) A full breakdown of the costs incurred by An Garda Síochána during the high profile state visit of the US President and Queen Elizabeth to Ireland during May 2011. To assist you further what I am seeking eg

*Accommodation for Gardai X amount
Additional Security Equipment X amount
Additional Crowd Control Barriers X amount and so on*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 24th October, 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

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

The visits of Queen Elizabeth and President Obama required unprecedented security arrangements to be put in place by the Garda Síochána to ensure the safety of the visitors

and the maintenance of public order. All Garda leave and rest days were cancelled for this period and members on duty were required to work longer than normal shifts. Movements of several thousand Garda members over a number of days had to be arranged, involving the hiring of transport and the provision of accommodation. A range of security-related equipment also had to be purchased or hired. The level of detail requested by you is not available or held in a centralised manner. However there are certain costs that have been collated and published previously in the form of a Parliamentary Question.

The response is available to the public via the Oireachtas website at <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/debateswebpack.nsf/takes/dail2011071900255>

With regard to the specific detail of your request a search has been conducted in the Finance Section of An Garda Síochána and the record provided below is the only record available in answer to your request.

Subhead Item Description	President Obama Official Visit	Queen Elizabeth II Official Visit	Grand Total
Payroll/Overtime	€9,874,905	€18,551,521	€28,426,426
Travel & Subsistence	€950,950	€2,017,319	€2,968,269
Accommodation, Catering, Transportation Costs	€604,320	€2,249,107	€4,490,141
Communications and Operational Equipment	€214,645	€1,422,070	€35,884,836
Grand Total	€11,644,819	€24,240,017	€35,884,836

Section 15(1)(a) – Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests.

Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act is pertinent to your request. The records provided above, which are held centrally, show the accumulated cost of the visit by President Obama and Queen Elizabeth II in 2011. A breakdown of the costs in the format that you seek is not available. Therefore the records do not exist. Section 15(1)(a) is shown below.

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,

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-000354-2016**

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-000354-2016) 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,

 SUPERINTENDENT
HELEN DEELY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER.

24TH OCTOBER, 2016