

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Please quote reference number

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:

www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Mr. Colin Coyle.

RE: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000255-2017. Request Part-Granted.

Dear Mr. Coyle,

I refer to your request, dated and received on 8th June 2017, which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) for records held by An Garda Síochána.

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 sought:

I wish to request, under the Freedom of Information request, how much An Garda Síochána spent on translators in 2015, 2016 and to date in 2017.

Please also provide a breakdown of the 20 languages that accrued the highest translation costs in these years and the cost of translating each of these 20 languages.

I have now made a decision to part grant your request on 4th July 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

Details of your request were provided to the Finance Section of An Garda Síochána to identify records held which show the fees paid to companies relating to translation services. An expenditure report was generated from the Financial Management System for the overall translation services costs for 2015, 2016 and to date in 2017. The table below shows the financial figure for translation services which includes services such as written translations, person to person translations, telephone interpretation services and sign language. The costs associated with translations for the Garda organisation are paid to numerous companies and individuals.

Translation Services Expenditure report for 2015, 2016 and Jan-May 2017

Year	2015	2016	Jan-May 2017
Cost	€1,368,251	€1,672,738	€438,400

Restriction of the Act.

Section 42 refers to the restrictions included in the FOI Act with regard to records that are exempt for release by An Garda Síochána.

In this regard, a number of records are refused under Section 42 (b) wherein it states that:

Restriction of Act

42. *This Act does not apply to—*

(b) a record held or created by the Garda Síochána that relates to any of the following:

- (i) the Emergency Response Unit;*
- (ii) the Secret Service Fund maintained by it;*
- (iii) The Special Detective Unit (SDU);*
- (iv) the witness protection programme sponsored by it;*
- (v) the Security and Intelligence Section;*
- (vi) the management and use of covert intelligence operations;*
- (vii) the Interception of Postal Packets and Telecommunications Messages (Regulation) Act 1993;*
- (viii) the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005 ;*
- (ix) the Criminal Justice (Surveillance) Act 2009;*
- (x) the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011;*

There are records held relating to translation costs and each record held may or may not identify the specific translation type conducted which incurred the cost. Each record held would have to be checked manually to identify the type of service provided and the languages involved. However, in some cases the records do not necessarily have this level of detail recorded and so it is not possible to identify the languages involved from the records. As a result, the information gathered would be incomplete even if all records were researched individually. Therefore there is no overall single record, which has the information you seek, held within the Finance Section of An Garda Síochána.

As the record does not exist, I am refusing your request wherein you seek ‘a breakdown of the 20 languages that accrued the highest translation costs in these years and the cost of translating each of these 20 languages’ on administrative grounds under section 15(1)(a) which states:

Section 15 – 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
(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken,*

An Garda Síochána’s current contracts for interpretation and translation commenced on 1st February 2009 and these have been extended on a month to month basis since following a 2008 Garda tender for panels of companies on a Regional basis.

A new Garda tender for interpretation and translation services on a Regional basis, see RFT (T.013/2013) was advertised in 2013 and the outcome of this tender was challenged in 2015. The tender went into the judicial review process in March 2015 and, it was decided to compromise the action in 2015 as the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) were about to launch a Government wide framework. The OGP published their framework and mini competitions in December 2015 but following a legal challenge the mini competition was cancelled. The OGP Framework is still in place and it is understood that a mini competition for interpretation services for An Garda Síochána will commence during Q3 -2017.

An Garda Síochána do not have statistics for the individual languages and the variance in languages sought each year can change, however the following languages are the most frequently requested for translation/interpretation.

- Albanian
- Chinese
- Polish
- Russian.
- Lithuanian
- Latvian,
- Romaniana/Moldovan
- Portuguese
- Arabic/Kurdish /Sorani, Pushtu
- Spanish
- French

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-000255- 2017**.

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-000255-2017 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,



HELEN DEELY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICE

 **JULY 2017**