

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  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Mr Colm Ó Mongáin

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000331-2017 Request Refused

Dear Mr. Ó Mongáin,

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 26th July 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 is as follows:

I wish to request all records relating to the awarding of ISO17025:2005 to the Garda Technical Bureau. These should include (but not be limited to) minutes of meetings, correspondence with the ISO, The Irish national Accreditation Board, The Dept of Justice, emails, letters etc. The time frame for this request is January 1st 2014 to present.

I am aware that you spoke with a member of my staff regarding the records requested. It was agreed to exclude records which could be considered Standard Operating Procedures.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 25th August 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

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

Details of your FOI request were provided to the Garda Technical Bureau seeking the relevant records. The Standard Operating Procedures were excluded from their retrieval process and only records relating to the relevant ISO were requested.

However, even with the exclusion of the Standard Operating Procedures, the volume of records being reviewed was significant and voluminous. The nature of the work conducted by the Garda Technical Bureau is intertwined with the ISO and therefore to retrieve the records sought in your request required examination of a vast amount of records relating to the work carried out by the Garda Technical Bureau. In addition the emails retrieved for the period from 1st January 2014 to date exceeded 6,000 when using search criteria that includes the term 'ISO' in the subject matter. The examination of such records caused a substantial and unreasonable disruption to the work of the Garda Technical Bureau.

I spoke with you on the 24th August 2017 and explained in more detail that this request in its current form could not be acceded to due to its voluminous nature.

Section 15 (1) (c) of the FOI Act provides a provision to refuse a requester the records if, by reason of the nature or volume of the records, it would cause a substantial disruption to the working of the division or section. Section 15(1)(c) is shown below.

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—

(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,

Therefore I am refusing your request under section 15(1)(c) of the FOI Act. However, as discussed, you may wish to resubmit your request in a form that is less voluminous.

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 **F01-000331-2017**.

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 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

25TH AUGUST 2017