

An Garda Síochána

Oifig Saoráil Faisnéise
An Garda Síochána
Teach áth Luimnigh
Lárionad Gnó Udáras Forbartha Tionscail
Baile Sheáin
An Uaimh
Contae na Mí
C15 DR90
Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350



Freedom of Information Office
An Garda Síochána
Athlumney House
IDA Business Park
Johnstown
Navan
Co Meath
C15 DR90

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Bí linn/Join us  

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000104-2015

Request Refusal

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to this body dated 27th October 2015 and received on 27th 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 as follows:

“I would like details of the costs of security at the Garda Commissioner's home since she took office. Please breakdown the cost by manpower and installation costs.

I would also like copies of any correspondence from members of the public to An Garda Síochána relating to the security outside the Garda Commissioner's home.

Please do not disclose and third party details in these correspondence.”

I, _____ wish to inform you that your request has been refused.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions

Freedom of Information Act 2014, Section 32: Law Enforcement and Public Safety.

Section 32 is a harm based exemption. It applies where access to a record concerned could be reasonably expected to prejudice or impair the matters specified in the subparagraphs. An Garda Síochána is obliged to identify the potential harm that may occur if the records are released and having identified that harm consider the reasonableness of any expectation that the harm will occur.

The Garda Commissioner in conjunction with being the Head of Policing Services is also the Head of the Security Service of the State. Therefore any information regarding her security cannot be provided for operational and security reasons. It is for these reasons that the request is refused as follows:

Section 32. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to –

(a) Prejudice or impair -

(ix) the security of a building or other structure or a vehicle ship, boat or aircraft

(b) endanger the life or safety of any person,

The second part of your question relates to all correspondence from members of the public relating to the security outside the Commissioners home. It should be noted that An Garda Síochána is only a partially included agency for the purposes of the Freedom of Information “*insofar as it relates to administrative records relating to human resources, or finance or procurement matters*” scheduled 1 part 1(n). Therefore, only administrative records that relate to human resources, finance or procurement shall be considered. After reviewing your request I have decided that it is not within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 insofar as An Garda Síochána is concerned and as a result no information will be provided to you on this matter.

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-000104-2015**.

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: IE86BOFI90001710026896

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

25TH NOVEMBER 2015