

# 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



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](http://www.garda.ie)

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: [foi@garda.ie](mailto:foi@garda.ie)

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000181-2015 Request Grant

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to An Garda Síochána dated and received on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

Part 1 of Schedule 1(n) 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 shown below:-

*The application is for all records related to the garda mounted and dog unit since January 1, 2014 to September 2015.*

*Specifically I am seeking records relating to:*

*(a) the cost of the unit, e.g stabling and veterinary fees relating to the horses and the dog unit*

I wish to inform you that your request has been **granted**.

### 1. Findings and particulars of decision

The Garda Mounted and Garda Dog Units have a national remit and fall under the direction and control of Assistant Commissioner, National Support Services.

The Garda Mounted Unit comprising of 13 horses is based at Áras an Uachtaráin, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8.

The main functions of the Garda Mounted Unit include:

- Crime Prevention and detection patrols – supporting mainstream policing
- Searches for missing persons over rough terrain that is inaccessible to vehicles
- Community policing including school and community project visits
- Major event policing e.g. matches, concerts and festivals
- Public order and crowd control

The Garda Dog Units are based at Kilmainham Garda Station, Dublin and also at Cork and Limerick. There are currently 22 dogs attached to the Unit comprising of general purpose (search), drugs and explosives.

Garda dogs assist in searches for suspects of crimes and for evidence which may have been discarded. The dogs are also trained to work in serious public order disturbances and they assist in the execution of warrants. Most of the Garda dogs are "detector" dogs. These dogs are trained to locate cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy and heroin. The remaining dogs are "cadaver" dogs and help to recover missing persons on land and from water.

Your request sought access to the records of costings and accordingly this information is now provided in the table set out below. I understand following a telephone conversation with a member of staff in this office, your original request was refined and amended to include the cost of the dog unit also. Please note these costs include:

- Veterinary
- Animal feed
- Grooming services
- Kenneling fees
- Purchase of animals

**Expenditure Associated with the Maintenance of Animals including Veterinary Expenses**

Year	2014	2015 (Jan – Sept)	Total
Garda Dog Unit	€60,870	€47,941	€108,811
Garda Mounted Unit	€91,385	€39,835	€131,220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€152,255</b>	<b>€87,776</b>	<b>€240,031</b>

**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 **F01-000181-2015**.

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:** 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](http://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**

**22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015**