

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

Bí linn/Join us  



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

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000046-2015

Request Refusal

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to this body dated 15/10/2015 and received on 15/10/2015.

Your request is shown below:

"1) A full list of courses that are available to Gardai in either Garda Training Centre or Garda Headquarters eg; Advanced Driving Course etc; The length of time each course is; the frequently in which each course is held; the maximum number of Gardai per course; The number of Gardai that undertook each course in 2014 and to-date in 2015"

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

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. All operational courses being provided to members of the Garda Organisation relate directly to the operational duties being conducted by Gardai and therefore do not come within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 in so far as An Garda Síochána is concerned.

Further to the above your request is being refused under section 32(1)(a)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 as I am of the opinion that this information can be reasonably expected, if used inappropriately, to prejudice or impair the Garda Organisation operational capabilities in:

- (i) *“the prevention, detection or investigation of offences, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders or the effectiveness of lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures employed for the purposes of the matter aforesaid”*

The data sought, if released, will identify the full training plans throughout the Garda organisation with regard to all training including operational, administrative, refresher courses and unique crime investigation courses that are specific to An Garda Síochána. This type of comprehensive information will, in my opinion, unnecessarily expose the Garda capabilities in many areas of our operational duties and therefore it is reasonable to expect that it would impair or prejudice the Organisations capability to enforce current legislation and investigate crime.

In addition a number of the courses provided are exempted in accordance with section 42 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Specifically section 42 (b) (i) to (x) refers as set out below;

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,
- (c) Record(s) held by the Criminal Assets Bureau.
- (d) Record(s) relating to an inquiry within the meaning of section 42 Garda Síochána Act 2005 other than (a) a record relating to the appointment of a person to conduct an inquiry under section 42 Garda Síochána Act 2005, or (b) a record relating to the expenses or other matters concerning the general administration of an inquiry under that section.

There are overview details of a significant number of courses available on the Garda website at www.garda.ie in the Garda College section of the Career folder. In addition a member of my staff will be glad to provide assistance if you seek information on a particular area of Garda training. Please quote the FOI reference number of **000046/15**.

1. 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-000046-2015**.

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

Your must ensure that your FOI reference number is included in the payment details.

You should submit your request for an Internal Review within 20 working days from the date of this notification. A working day excludes the weekend and public holidays. 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.

10th November 2015