

# 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

Bí linn/Join us  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000071-2016 Request Refusal

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to An Garda Síochána dated and received on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

Part 1(n) 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 shown below:

*"Details on the cost of the An Garda Síochána Doctor of Choice Scheme for 2015, 2014, 2013, and 2012 to include the amount paid out to each GP in the scheme for those years."*

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

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

### 1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

#### Doctor Payments Scheme (DPS)

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012, a centralised payment scheme to administer this charge from the Garda Vote was introduced.

Each time a member of An Garda Síochána attends or is attended to by their Doctor they must complete a medical services form at the time of consultation. The Doctor attaches an invoice to this form and submits it to Garda Human Resource Directorate for payment.

The Doctor Payments Office of An Garda Síochána process the invoices from the relevant practices, verify that the person who attended the Doctor is a serving member of An Garda Síochána and that the Doctor is registered for the Scheme. The claim is then forwarded to the Financial Shared Services (FSS) Centre, Department of Justice & Equality for tax/VAT deductions and subsequent payment.

The Doctor Payments scheme applies to serving members of An Garda Síochána only. The scheme does not apply to the spouse, children, or other relatives of serving members nor does it apply to retired members.

Doctors are paid a consultation fee only. Invoices for items such as injections, drugs, medicines, blood tests, etc, are not paid under the Doctor Payment Scheme. Special medical examinations, and associated reports, carried out at the request of the Gardaí are not covered under the Doctor Payments Scheme.

Doctors who expressed an interest in joining the Doctor Payment Scheme were invited to register on the panel of Doctors throughout December 2011. In excess of 1,300 doctors registered on the panel.

In relation to your request, it has been determined that the financial records do not exist in the format as you have requested. The cost of the Doctor Payment Scheme is not analysed nor captured separately on the Financial Management System. A unique financial sub-head does not exist in respect of the Scheme. In the absence of such a sub-head it is not possible to identify the costs as outlined in your request. In addition, FSS process all payments in relation to this scheme. An Garda Síochána is one of nine clients of the FSS Centre who share the processing of invoices amongst other financial services with the organisation.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify and locate the records requested in relation to your request. As the records concerned do not exist I must therefore refuse your request on this basis.

## **Section 15 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014: Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests**

*"Section 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,"*

## **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 **F01-000071-2016**.

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,

 **SUPERINTENDENT**  
**HELEN DEELY**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2016**