

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 DR 90

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: www.garda.ie

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000453-2016 Request Partially Granted

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) and your request for records held by An Garda Síochána dated and received on the 7th December, 2016.

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 shown below:

- *How many personnel are currently in the Garda reserve nationally, as at December 1, 2016?*
- *How many personnel are currently in the Garda reserve in Cork City, Cork North and Cork West, as at December 1, 2016?*
- *How many personnel have resigned from the Garda reserve nationally, between January 1, 2016 and December 1, 2016?*
- *How many personnel have resigned from the Garda reserve in Cork City, Cork North and Cork West, as at December 1, 2016?*
- *What are the reasons given for resignations from the Garda reserve to date in Cork City, Cork North and Cork West in 2016?*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to partially grant your request on 22nd December, 2016.

1. Findings and particulars.

The Garda Síochána Act, 2005 provides for the establishment of a Garda Reserve. The Garda Reserve is a voluntary unpaid body drawn from the community to assist the existing Service in various policing duties.

Reserve Gardaí have certain garda powers while on duty and perform their policing duties as determined by the Commissioner under the supervision of, and supported by, regular garda members.

The principal role of the Reserve consists of local patrols and crime reduction initiatives, targeted at specific local urban or rural problem areas.

Members of the Garda Reserve are also involved in policing major incidents and events, and in providing other operational support to regular garda members on the basis of an individual garda reserve member's skills or local knowledge. They are expected to provide a quality service at all times and are a clear sign of partnership between An Garda Síochána and the community.

With regard to parts 1 and 2 of your request, the Human Resources sections advise that as of 30th November 2016 there were 704 active reserves nationally; 48 in Cork City; 16 in Cork North and 12 in Cork West.

We are further advised with regards to part 3 and 4 of your request that there have been 239 resignations from the Reserves nationally; 16 in Cork City; 7 in Cork North and 11 in Cork West.

It is my opinion that given the small number of resignations in a defined geographic region that these individuals may be identifiable within their local communities. Therefore, I advise that the final part of your request has been **refused** as it falls under the definition of personal information. Part 1, Section 2 of the Act defines personal information as follows:

"personal information" means information about an identifiable individual that, either—

(a) would, in the ordinary course of events, be known only to the individual or members of the family, or friends, of the individual, or

(b) is held by an FOI body on the understanding that it would be treated by that body as confidential,

and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes—

(iii) information relating to the employment or employment history of the individual,

However, I advise that over the three Cork Divisions over 50% of reserves resigned as they had been accepted as trainees in the Garda College. Other reasons for resignations could be defined as "other commitments" and "personal reasons".

2. Rights 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-000453-2016**.

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 (FOI-000453-2016) 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 will be removed to protect confidentiality where applicable.

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.

 **DECEMBER, 2016**