

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 DR90

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-000041-2018 Request Refused

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 23rd January 2018 and received on 24th January 2018 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) for records held by An Garda Síochána. I further refer to the clarification of your request on the 8th February 2018 wherein your request was amended accordingly.

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 sought:

'Records relating to the rate of overtime claimed by gardaí in the offices of Assistant Commissioners in charge of policing in the six divisions that make up the Dublin region'.

As previously advised, your request was subsequently clarified and amended on 8th February 2018 to the following:

'Records relating to the overtime expenditure for the six divisions that make up the Dublin Region for the last three months of 2017'

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I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 13th February 2018.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the Finance Directorate of An Garda Síochána.

In this regard, I am to advise you that I am refusing your request in accordance with Section 15(1)(d) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states:

Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests

15(1) *A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –
(d) the information is already in the public domain.*

Information in relation to overtime expenditure is published on a quarterly basis on the Publication Scheme on the Garda website and the overtime expenditure for the last three months of 2017 has now been uploaded to the website and may be viewed by following the attached link:

<https://www.garda.ie/en/Information-Centre/Freedom-of-Information/Publication-Scheme/Budgets-and-spending/2017-Garda-Overtime.pdf>

The nature of Garda work and the requirement that the Garda authorities respond, in some cases at short notice, to immediate policing demands means that there is a necessity to incur overtime expenses to ensure effective policing. Accordingly, there will always be a need for a certain level of overtime to allow An Garda Síochána flexibility when responding to circumstances that require additional resources for specific operations. These additional resources will have to be over and above those available from Gardaí on rostered duty thus ensuring the continuation of normal policing duties unabated.

In addition, a number of police led operations, in various years, required the deployment of extra resources on overtime. This includes the implementation of anti-crime and anti-burglary initiatives. Similarly, non-crime related events and events organised by interest groups within the general public can require overtime to police effectively as additional Gardaí may need to be deployed to ensure public safety.

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-000041-2018**.

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: BOFIIIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000041-2018) is included in the payment details.

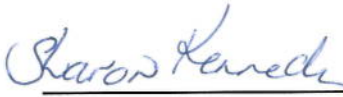
You should submit your request for an Internal Review within 4 weeks from the date of this notification. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of An Garda Síochána and the decision will be communicated to you within 3 weeks. The making of a late appeal 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,

 **SUPERINTENDENT**
SHARON KENNEDY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

13 FEBRUARY 2018