

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000151-2018 Request Part Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 11th April, 2018 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) for records held by An Garda Síochána.

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 initial request sought:

- 1. I would like to know how much is allocated in the Garda budget for courses and CPD for serving members including Reserves and if the budget for refresher courses and CPD is allocated on a Divisional or national level.*
- 2. I would also like to know when training of the candidates selected last year is going to start and will the training take place only in Templemore or in Division as well. I would like to know what the budget is for the training of these Reserves.*

Clarified request 11.04.2018

Part 2: I would like to confirm that I am looking for this information under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and it is only about the candidates that are training for the Garda Reserve only.

Clarified request 16.04.2018

Part 1: *It is in relation to the amount of the budget that is spent on all members and if any was specifically earmarked for Reserve training IE refresher courses and CPD?*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on the 9th May, 2018.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision. Please note I have numbered your request for ease of reference.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Section 11 of the FOI Act provides for a right of access to records held by FOI bodies. Requests for information are therefore not valid requests under the Act, as opposed to requests for records. FOI bodies are not required to create records under the Act if none exist and it does not oblige FOI bodies to answer general queries nor provide a mechanism for answering questions, except to the extent that a question can reasonably be inferred to be a request for records which contain the answer to the question asked or the information sought. I am to advise you that your request is a request for information rather than a request for records. However, in order to assist you a search for records relating to the information you have sought was initiated.

Details of your request were provided to both the Finance Section of An Garda Síochána and the Garda College in order to identify and conduct a search for the records relating to the information you have sought.

As a result of this search, it has been established that the specific record relating to the first part of your request wherein you seek *'how much is allocated in the Garda budget for courses and CPD for serving members including Reserves'* does not exist in the format you have requested.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act, I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify and locate the requested records.

I am therefore refusing this particular part of your request under Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act which states:

*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,*

The Finance Directorate allocate an annual training budget to the Garda College. This allocation covers all training and any additional costs associated with the outsourcing of training facilities at various locations as well as the expenditure categories relating to the refund of educational fees. The budget for all refresher courses and training delivered by CPD staff across the Garda Divisions is allocated on a national level.

In response to the second part of your request wherein you seek *'when training of the candidates selected last year is going to start and will the training take place only in Templemore or in Division as well. I would like to know what the budget is for the training of*

these Reserves'. I wish to inform you that there is on ongoing competition to select new entrants to the Garda Reserve. As yet, no start date has been fixed to commence training for the successful applicants. Garda Reserves receive their basic training at the Garda College and after graduation are included in the training courses given by CPD staff in their local Divisions. The budget for this training will be dependent on the numbers selected and allocated for training to the Garda College.

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-000151-2018**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, 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: BOFIIIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number FOI-000151-2018 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

09 MAY, 2018