

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

Riomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000176-2018 Request Part Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 26th 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 request sought:

- 1. How much was spent in the Limerick Garda Division in 2017 on take-away food for people who were in Garda custody? This could be while they are being questioned in Garda stations after they have been arrested, or while they have been brought to court by Gardai for purpose of charge and the case isn't heard until after lunch.*
- 2. Could I also have the 2017 breakdown for the different districts please - Bruff, Henry Street, Mayorstone, Newcastle West and Roxboro.*
- 3. And if possible the most common type of take-away food purchased for those in Garda custody.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on the 14th May, 2018.

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

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1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision to deny access

Upon receipt, details of your request were forwarded to the Finance Directorate of An Garda Síochána who conducted a search for the records you have requested. Upon review of the records provided to this Office I have decided to partially grant Part 1 and Part 2 of your request wherein you seek:

1. *How much was spent in the Limerick Garda Division in 2017 on take-away food for people who were in Garda custody? This could be while they are being questioned in Garda stations after they have been arrested, or while they have been brought to court by Gardai for purpose of charge and the case isn't heard until after lunch.*
2. *Could I also have the 2017 breakdown for the different districts please - Bruff, Henry Street, Mayorgane, Newcastle West and Roxboro.*

Records relating to the expenditure on meals for persons detained by An Garda Síochána is not held centrally. In order to obtain the records requested, each Garda District in the Limerick Division would be required to conduct a search, retrieval and analysis of each receipt held in respect of meals for persons detained relating to the year 2017. To provide this analysis and breakdown would prove voluminous and by reason of the number and nature of the records involved would cause a disruption to the working of a number of functional areas of An Garda Síochána.

The Finance Directorate hold a category of expenditure entitled '*Expenses of Persons Detained – Clothing/Meals*'. It would also take an inordinate amount of time and resources of the Finance Directorate to separate the clothing and meal elements of this expenditure category.

I am therefore refusing Part 1 and Part 2 of your request under Section 15(1)(c) of the FOI Act wherein it 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 —*
- (c) *in the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason of the number or nature of the records concerned or the nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of the records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned,"*

However, in order to assist you I am providing you with the category of expenditure entitled '*Expenses of Persons Detained – Clothing/Meals*' for the Limerick Division broken down by District for the year 2017. Figures detailed in the table below are as of 9th May 2018:

Expenses of Persons Detained – Clothing/Meals - Limerick Division - 2017

District	Total
Henry Street	€9,280
Roxboro Road	€4,507
Bruff	€ 952
Newcastle West	€ 584

I am also refusing Part 3 of your request wherein you seek ‘*And if possible the most common type of take-away food purchased for those in Garda custody*’ pursuant to section 15(1)(c) as outlined above.

Again, a record relating to the most common type of take-away food purchased for those persons detained in Garda custody is not held centrally. In order to obtain this information a detailed search and analysis of each receipt held in the Limerick Garda Division would need to be conducted. This would cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with the work of this operational Garda Division and is not feasible.

I am therefore refusing Part 3 of your request under Section 15(1)(c) of the FOI Act wherein it 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 —*
- (c) *in the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason of the number or nature of the records concerned or the nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of the records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned,”*

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-000176-2018**.

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-000176-2018 is included in the payment details.

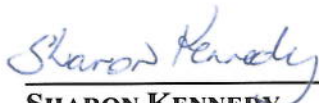
You should submit your request for an Internal Review within 4 weeks from the date of this notification. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of An Garda Síochána and the decision will be communicated to you within 3 weeks. The making of a late appeal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

14 MAY, 2018