

# 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 Gréasáin/Website:  
[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

Bhliain/Join us  

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000180-2018 Request Part Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 and received on 26<sup>th</sup> 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 many gardai are trained in public order in 2017
2. How many public order units are currently on the road and years of vehicles
3. How many new vehicles have been purchased this year (2018)

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

### 1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

It should be noted that 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.

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However, details of part 1 of your request were provided to each Divisional Office to identify records containing the information you requested.

Part 1 of your request sought:

*1. How many gardai are trained in public order in 2017*

A table of the number of Garda, of all ranks trained in each Division in 2017 and who are certified for deployment in accordance with Public Order Standard Operating Procedures is provided at Appendix A.

It should be noted that Garda Divisions do not necessarily align the county borders and some Garda Divisions comprise of more than one county. In accordance with this geographical layout, the information provided is on a Divisional basis and may not be specific to one county in certain circumstances.

In part 2 of your request wherein you sought the following:

*2. How many public order units are currently on the road and years of vehicles*

The allocation of vehicles is the responsibility of the Divisional Officer and is based on operational requirements. As this is an operational matter, this part of your request does not fall under the scope of the FOI Act in as far as it pertains to An Garda Síochána.

Section 6(2)(a) of the FOI Act provides that an entity specified in Schedule 1, Part 1 of the Act shall, subject to the provisions of that Part, be a public body for the purposes of the FOI Act. Schedule 1, Part 1 contains details of bodies that are partially included for the purposes of the FOI Act and also details of the certain specified records that are excluded. If the records sought come within the description of the exclusions of Part 1, then the FOI Act does not apply and no right of access exists.

Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act provides that An Garda Síochána is not a public body for the purposes of the FOI Act other than in relation to administrative records relating to human resources, or finance or procurement matters.

The term "administrative records" is understood to mean records relating to the processes of running and managing a business or organisation. I am therefore refusing part 2 your request as it falls outside the scope of the FOI Act insofar as the records do not meet the criteria of administrative records as defined in the Act.

Part 3 of your request sought:

*3. How many new vehicles have been purchased this year (2018)*

I can advise you that An Garda Síochána's 2018 Purchase Plan provided for the purchase of 260 vehicles. Orders have been placed for 236 with the remaining orders to be placed shortly. Purchase of vehicles is completed on the delivery of the fitted out vehicles.

To date, 103 vehicles have been allocated in 2018. Of these, 46 were part of the 236 ordered in 2018, the remaining 57 were vehicles purchased in 2017 but allocated following fit-out in 2018. Fit-out of the remaining 190 vehicles from the 2018 purchases is ongoing.

## 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-000180-2018.

*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: IE86BOFI90001710026896  
BIC: BOFIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000180-2018) 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](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  
SHARON KENNEDY  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

23 MAY 2018

Division	Number of Gardai Trained in Public Order in 2017
Cavan / Monaghan	0
Clare	16
Cork City	0
Cork North	39
Cork West	13
Donegal	48
Dublin Metropolitan Region <sup>1</sup>	490
Galway	71
Kerry	0
Kildare	43
Kilkenny / Carlow	40
Laois / Offaly	29
Limerick	40
Louth	0
Mayo	1
Meath	35
Roscommon / Longford	0
Sligo / Leitrim	4
Tipperary	41
Waterford	0
Westmeath	40
Wexford	36
Wicklow	35

<sup>1</sup> Public Order training in the DMR is conducted on a Regional basis