Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000275-2018

Request Refused

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 10th July, 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:

- How much it cost An Garda to send officials to each of Donegal's islands during the recent 'Eighth Amendment' referendum.
- It is my understanding that a Garda officer was sent to each of the islands where voters were registered.
- Can I therefore find out:

   How much it cost to have Garda officers on each of Donegal's islands?
   How many officers were sent to each island?
   What islands they were sent to?
I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on 13th July, 2018.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

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 Act. Schedule 1, Part 1 contains details of bodies that are partially included for the purposes of the 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 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. The FOI Act excludes operational policing business as opposed to the defined administrative processes of An Garda Síochána. As a result, the core business of An Garda Síochána is safeguarded from release under the provisions of the FOI Act.

The records that you seek pertain to the core functions of An Garda Síochána, that is, operational policing matters, as opposed to matters relating to human resources, or finance or procurement.

I am therefore refusing your request as it falls outside the scope of the FOI Act.

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-000275-2018.


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: BOFIIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number FOI-000275-2018 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 into 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 JULY, 2018.