

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 ND62



Freedom of Information Office,
An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House,
IDA Business Park,
Johnstown, Navan,
Co Meath.
C15 ND62

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie



Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000028-2022 Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 12th January, 2022 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:

Q1. Can you please list the number of devices deployed by your organisation for the following?

<i>DEVICE TYPE</i>	<i>NUMBER OF DEVICES</i>
<i>Desktop PCs and Laptops</i>	
<i>Mobile Phones (Smartphones, PDAs handheld devices)</i>	
<i>Printers</i>	
<i>Tablets</i>	
<i>Servers</i>	
<i>Storage Devices</i>	
<i>Networking Infrastructure (E.g., Switches, Routers, etc)</i>	
<i>Security Infrastructure</i>	

Q2. Does your organisation have any plans for refreshing or replacing the above devices, if so, can you please provide the indicative or projected expenditure in the below format?

<i>REPLACE/REFRESH PROGRAMME:</i>	
<i>IT OR ICT HARDWARE</i>	<i>EXPENDITURE</i>

○ 2022/23 2023/24 2024/25
 Desktop PCs and Laptops
 Mobile Phones (Smartphones, PDAs handheld devices)
 Printers
 Tablets
 Servers
 Storage Devices
 Networking Infrastructure
 Security Infrastructure

Note: If the projected expenditure is not available, list the years when the refresh/replacement is due or planned for the above devices.

Q3. Does your organisation have any plans for developing, refreshing, or replacing IT or ICT software applications, if so, can you please provide the information in the below format?

APPLICATION NAME MONTH/YEAR

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 8th February, 2022.

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 relevant section within An Garda Síochána. In reply to part 1 of your request, the table below refers.

Device Type	Number of Devices
Desktop PCs, Laptops	16,724
Mobile Phones	8,533
Printers	3,087
Tablets	62

I am refusing the release of records in respect of servers, storage devices, network infrastructure and security infrastructure. I am doing so in accordance with Section 32 of the FOI Act. Section 32 states:

Section 32 – Law enforcement and public safety

32.(1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to—

(a) prejudice or impair -

(ix) the security of a building or other structure or a vehicle, ship, boat or aircraft, or

(x) the security of any system of communications, whether internal or external of the Garda Síochána

In considering the release of information under the Freedom of Information Act, I am conscious of the fact that a release of information under the Act is done without any constraints on how that information is further utilized. A release of information under the Act is essentially a release to the world at large.

The functions of An Garda Síochána are in the main, directed towards the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal activities. It is not in the public interest to impair or prejudice Garda functions by releasing information into the public domain under the FOI Act which could reasonably be expected to reveal the extent of security measures put in place in respect of Garda ICT systems. Furthermore it would be contrary to the public interest to place into the public arena information detailing the capabilities of Garda ICT security systems.

The information sought could, in my opinion, reasonably be expected to prejudice or impair the operational capabilities of Gardai when dealing with criminal elements of society. By identifying the number of Servers, Storage Devices and Network Infrastructure used within An Garda Síochána, threat actors could potentially exploit this information to form a picture of the security position of Garda ICT Systems. It could be further used to identify recent tenders via the OGP website and European tendering sites or verify equipment type currently used within An Garda Síochána. Identifying vendor equipment is a standard method used by threat actors to execute cybersecurity attacks against weaknesses in an organisation's infrastructure. This identification of Garda ICT security capabilities could allow criminal elements to amass knowledge regarding the capabilities of An Garda Síochána. This information could reasonably be expected to allow nefarious actors take actions which could significantly impede the operational capacity of An Garda Síochána to carry out its functions under section 7 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

I am also refusing part 2 and part 3 of your request as the records sought do not exist. I am doing so pursuant to Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act wherein

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
(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken,*

An Garda Síochána replace faulty devices and infrastructure on an ongoing basis. The replacement of any software, hardware or infrastructure is managed by utilising existing OGP frameworks or publishing new tenders on the eTenders website.

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-000028-2022**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath C15 ND62

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: An Garda Síochána Imprest Account

Account Number: 30000302

Sort Code: 951599

IBAN: IE28DABA95159930000302

BIC: DABAIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000028-2022) 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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PAUL BASSETT

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER



FEBRUARY 2022.