

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

Bí linn/Join us



Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000076-2021 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 24th February, 2021 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:

Under the 2014 FOI act I am requesting the following.

- 1. The number of times the garda force has used drones to detect crime in the last four years to 2017.*
- 2. The number of drones purchased per year and their cost back to 2017*
- 3. The number of garda trained to use drones in the last four years, broken down by year back to 2017.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 26th February, 2021. I have numbered your request for ease of reference.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt of your request was forwarded to the relevant Sections of An Garda Síochána to establish if records were held in respect of your request.

I am refusing part 1 of your request in accordance with Part 1 (n) of Schedule 1 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 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.

In addition, I am refusing part 2 of your request as this office has been advised that there is no individual financial subhead for the purchase of drones. Therefore I am refusing to provide the information requested in part 2 of your request in accordance with Section 15 (1)(c) the FOI Act as it would require a manual trawl through thousands of invoices. This volume of work would cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with and significantly disrupt the workload of the Finance Directorate.

Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests:

Section 15(1)(c) of the FOI Act 2014 states;

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,

Part 3 of your request sought “*The number of garda trained to use drones in the last four years, broken down by year back to 2017*”. The table below details the information requested in part 3 of your request.

Drone Training for the Years	Number of Member
2017	Nil
2018	12
2019	Nil
2020	3

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-000076-2021**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, 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-000076-2021 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

26th FEBRUARY, 2021.