

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000103-2023 Request Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 13th March, 2023 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 has An Garda Síochána spent on press and communications per annum for each of the financial years 2013 - 2022?*
- 2. (a) For each of the financial years 2013 – 2022 how many people have been employed in the Garda Press Office, the Office of Corporate Communications and any other existing departments that deal with press and/or communications? (b) Of these people, how many are Garda Members and how many are civilian employees?*
- 3. How much has an Garda Síochána spent on hiring private PR firms for each of the financial years 2013 - 2022? For any spend above €10,000 please state the amount spent, the name of the PR company and the project they were paid to work on.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to grant your request on 12th April, 2023. The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

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,*

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or finance or procurement matters". Therefore, only administrative records that relate to human resources, finance or procurement shall be considered.

HR records refer to personal records of staff working within An Garda Síochána. They also relate to statistical information in respect of the organisation, e.g sick leave, discipline, retirements, etc. Financial records relate to the financial expenditure of the organisation and procurement records relate to the contracting of services and the tendering process associated with same.

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the relevant Sections of An Garda Síochána where a number of records have been located. The tables below detail the records sought in your request.

1). How much has An Garda Síochána spent on press and communications per annum for each of the financial years 2013 - 2022?		
2013		Nil
2014		Nil
2015		Nil
2016		Nil
2017		Nil
2018		Nil
2019		Nil
2020	Communications Clinic	24,889.40
2021		Nil
2022		Nil

2). How many people have been employed in the Garda Press Office, the Office of Corporate Communications (b) Of these people, how many are Garda Members and how many are civilian employees?			
<i>Year End</i>	<i>Garda Staff</i>	<i>Garda Members</i>	<i>Total</i>
2013	7	9	16
2014	7	9	16
2015	6	9	15

2016	7	11	18
2017	6	9	15
2018	8	8	16
2019	19	7	26
2020	24	7	31
2021	22	5	27
2022	22	4	26

The figures above are correct as of 31st December each year.

3). How much has an Garda Síochána spent on hiring private PR firms for each of the financial years 2013 - 2022? For any spend above €10,000 please state the amount spent, the name of the PR company and the project they were paid to work on.

2013		Nil
2014		Nil
2015		Nil
2016	Communications Clinic Support	10,603.00
2017	Communications Clinic Support	21,376.97
2018		Nil
2019		Nil
2020	Communications Clinic Support	40,549.22*
2021	Communications Clinic Support	140,712.84*
2022	Communications Clinic Support	200,544.12*

During 2020, 2021 and 2022 a significant proportion of this spend was due to internal communications support related to Covid-19.

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-000103-2023**.

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-000103-2023 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

12 April, 2023.