

# 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](http://www.garda.ie)

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000114-2022 Request Granted

**Dear**

I refer to your request, dated and received on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 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:

*Under the FOI Act 2014, I am seeking the following:*

*In the February 2022 An Garda Síochána Monthly Report to the Policing Authority it stated:*

*“Special Message from the Commissioner: Gender Based Violence and Domestic Abuse  
In late January 2022, the Office of Internal Communications issued a special message from the Commissioner to all Garda personnel which encouraged those within An Garda Síochána that are affected by or experiencing gender based violence to come forward to seek support.*

*This message included the details of all internal and external resources available to them should they wish to report the crimes against them or seek emotional support.”*

*I would like to obtain a copy of this special message, the full text of the message plus any attachments it had. I would prefer to receive this information electronically, preferably in its original formatting.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to grant your request on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

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

The record sought in your request has been located, and a copy is attached herewith. Please note that the message from the Commissioner did not include any attachments and that the links referred to in the text are links to the websites of the external support services mentioned.

## **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-000114-2022**.

**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-000114-2022 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](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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

**PAUL BASSETT**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER**

10 MARCH, 2022.



**AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA**  
KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

## **Message from Commissioner Harris**

Colleagues,

I would firstly like to acknowledge the excellent work that is carried out by Garda personnel on a daily basis in dealing with a range of crimes and incidents involving victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Crime and Gender-Based Violence. I know that you continue to work hard to reassure the public that An Garda Síochána is here to listen, protect and support victims. I appreciate that this work may have had a personal or emotional impact on you, and it is our shared responsibility to assist all Garda personnel through difficult periods.

I also recognise that you may be dealing with Domestic Violence, Sexual Crime or Gender-Based Violence on a personal level and understand that it may be overwhelming to disclose your experience given your professional role. I want you to know that all disclosures will be treated sensitively, in line with our existing policies.

We must all be aware of the possible warning signs of Domestic Violence, Sexual Crime and Gender-Based Violence that you or a colleague may be experiencing. For example, visible physical signs, changes in behaviour or demeanour or difficulties at work and in our personal lives. An Garda Síochána, through our mission of Keeping People Safe, endeavours to empower victims to disclose and

collectively send a strong message of zero tolerance to the perpetrators of these crimes.

Keeping People Safe and safeguarding human rights are central to all that we do as an organisation. I want to encourage you to not suffer in silence and to assure you that you will be listened to.

I would like to remind you again that there is a wide range of services available to support you within An Garda Síochána including the Employee Assistance Service and the 24/7 Helpline and Counselling Service.

*Drew Harris*

*Commissioner*

## **Available Support Services**

There are a range of organisational supports available to all Garda personnel including:

- [Garda Employee Assistance Service](#) on 01-666 0390
- [Chaplaincy](#): Father Joe Kennedy, Rev. David Pierpoint
- [Garda Occupational Health Service](#) on 01-666 2325/26
- Talk to your supervisor or one of your [peer supporters](#)
- Call the free 24/7, confidential helpline on 1800 817 433 (run entirely independently by Inspire Wellbeing).

Additionally, there are several national organisations that also offer expert-led support services.

### **Safe Ireland**

Safe Ireland has 37 member organisations that offer a range of services to women and children experiencing domestic violence.

[More information here.](#)

### **Women's Aid**

The Women's Aid National Freephone Helpline **1800 341 900** operates 24/7 and provides support and information to callers experiencing abuse from intimate partners.

More information can be found [here](#).

Women's Aid also offers a Dublin-based One to One Support Service, Monday to Friday in several locations, and other meeting points for Support Meetings include hospitals, or other locations chosen by women for safety reasons.

## **Men's Aid**

The dedicated national service supporting men and their families experiencing Domestic Violence including coercive control in Ireland provide supports including:

- National Confidential Helpline – 01 554 3811 Monday- Friday 9am -5pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am -2pm
- Legal information clinic – Information about Safety Orders, Protection Orders, Barring Orders.
- One to one practical support – Explaining Court Paperwork, Safety Planning, Care plans
- Counselling – By Telephone
- Counselling – Face to Face
- Court Accompaniment – Dolphin House, Dublin & the North East
- Outreach Clinics in Monaghan, Cavan, Louth and Meath
- Certified Training – All areas of domestic abuse including coercive control.

## **Men's Development Network**

The Male Advice Line, operated by the Men's Development Network, offers confidential phonenumber advice and support to Male victims of domestic violence and abuse during specific hours, seven days a week. More information can be found [here](#).

