

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-000164-2021 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 27th April, 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:

I understand the Garda Dog Unit is celebrating 60 years in existence this year. Under the FOI Act 2014, I am seeking access to records that contain the following:

- 1. The number of dogs currently working with An Garda Síochána and the comparative number for the five years previously, broken down by breed of dog and the area in which they work (e.g. 10 English Springer Spaniels in drug detection).*
- 2. The amount spent on a) acquiring and b) training dogs to work with An Garda Síochána on an annual basis.*
- 3. The number of arrests made last year with the assistance of a dog, and the comparative number for the five years previously.*
- 4. The largest seizure made with the assistance of a dog last year, and for the five years previously.*
- 5. The dog which has had the highest number of successful seizures in the past five years, including the number and details of the seizures the dog was involved in.*
- 6. The number of bodies recovered from land or water with the assistance of dogs in the past five years.*

Clarification of point 2 seeks:

2. *The amount spent on a) acquiring and b) training dogs to work with An Garda Síochána on an annual basis for 2021 and the past five years would be great*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 19th May, 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision. I have numbered your request for ease of reference.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt, details of your request were forwarded to the relevant sections of An Garda Síochána who conducted a search for records containing the information you have requested.

Please find table below which sets out the records sought in relation to Part 1 of your request.

Year	Number of Dogs	Type of Dog
2021	27	German Shepherds, Springer Spaniels, Labradors & Sproker
2020	27	German Shepherds, Springer Spaniels, Labradors & Sproker
2019	22	German Shepherds, Springer Spaniels, Labradors & Sproker
2018	24	German Shepherds, Springer Spaniels, Labradors & Sproker
2017	26	German Shepherds, Springer Spaniels, Labradors
2016	20	German Shepherds, Springer Spaniels, Labradors

In relation to Part 2 of your request seeking “*The amount spent on a) acquiring and b) training dogs to work with An Garda Síochána on an annual basis.*” Finance Division have advised this office that they do not have a separate category of expenditure to uniquely identify these areas. Therefore I am refusing this part of your request in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states:

Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests

15(1)(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken

However, Finance Division have provided the table below which details the total cost of operating the Garda Dog Unit from 2016 to the end of April 2021. These costs include all salaries, administration expenses, maintenance of animals etc.

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
€852,024	€1,316,717	€1,479,162	€1,407,669	€1,265,068	€526,738

As previously outlined above, 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. Operational policing matters do not come within the ambit of this partially

included agency as set out in Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act. I am therefore refusing Parts 3, 4, 5 and 6 of your request as the information sought falls outside the scope of the FOI Act insofar as it pertains to An Garda Síochána.

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-000164-2021**.

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-000164-2021 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,



PAUL BASSETT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

19th MAY, 2021.