

# 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 DR90



Freedom of Information Office,  
An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House,  
IDA Business Park,  
Johnstown, Navan,  
Co Meath.  
C15 DR90

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:

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

Bí linn/Join us  

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000301-2018 Request Partially Granted

*Dear*

I refer to your request, dated and received on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018 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) *The number of Gardaí by rank in the Garda Band as of 16 July 2016, 16 July 2017 and 16 July 2018 in tabular form*
- 2) *The number of Gardaí vacancies by rank in the Garda Band as of 16 July 2016, 16 July 2017 and 16 July 2018 in tabular form*
- 3) *The number of Gardaí by rank that indicated that they intend to retire from the Garda Band between 16 July 2018 and 31 December 2018 in tabular form*
- 4) *The rate per hour that Gardaí charge to commercial companies eg IRFU, Rose of Tralee Festival etc. for playing at their venue; if this rate is exclusive of VAT; Does the charge fee increase for events held on weekends or Bank Holidays*
- 5) *Also does AGS charge commercial companies an extra fee for Garda Band to play at venues located outside Dublin eg Fuel Costs, Food, Accommodation costs etc.*
- 6) *The number of Civilian staff by job title currently in the Garda Band as of 16 July 2016, 16 July 2017 and 16 July 2018 in tabular form.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

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

1

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the Human Resource Management Section and also to the Garda Band Section.

The Garda Band undertakes a heavy community-orientated programme each year performing at schools, festivals and sporting events as well as providing music for official Garda functions (such as graduation ceremonies at the Garda College)

Parts 1 and 6 of your request is seeking the following information:

- 1) *The number of Gardaí by rank in the Garda Band as of 16 July 2016, 16 July 2017 and 16 July 2018 in tabular form*
- 6) *The number of Civilian staff by job title currently in the Garda Band as of 16 July 2016, 16 July 2017 and 16 July 2018 in tabular form.*

Please see table A below which outlines the number of both Gardaí and civilian staff attached to the Garda Band over the requested years.

**Table A:- Gardaí by rank in the Garda Band and Civilian staff by job title currently in the Garda Band**

Garda Band	Garda	Sergeant	Inspector	Clerical Officer
16.07.2016	36	3	1	1
16.07.2017	27	1	1	1
16.07.2018	26	0	1	1

Part 2 of your request is seeking '*the number of Gardaí vacancies by rank in the Garda Band as of 16 July 2016, 16 July 2017 and 16 July 2018 in tabular form*'

Please see table B below which outlines the number of vacancies by rank in the Garda band for years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

**Table B:- Gardaí vacancies by rank in the Garda Band**

Garda Band	Garda	Sergeant	Inspector	Superintendent
16.07.2016	9	3	0	1
16.07.2017	10	3	0	1
16.07.2018	11	4	0	1

I am refusing part 3, 4 and 5 of your request under Section 15 (1)(a) of the FOI Act. We have been advised by the Pensions Section of An Garda Síochána that there are currently no applications on hand from members to retire from the Garda Band between 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

I also wish to advise you that An Garda Síochána do not charge a rate per hour to perform at events hosted by companies and therefore no records are available. It should be further noted that An Garda Síochána do not apply VAT and there is no extra fee applied by the Garda Band to perform outside Dublin.

Therefore, as stated above I am refusing part 3, 4 and 5 of your request in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) which states:



***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*

**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-000301-2018**.

***Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath C15 DR90***

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:** Garda Síochána Finance Section Public Bank Account

**Account Number:** 10026896

**Sort Code:** 900017

**IBAN:** IE86B0FI90001710026896

**BIC:** BOFIIIE2D

**You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000301-2018) is included in the payment details.**

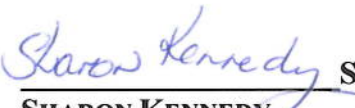
You should submit your request for an Internal Review within 4 weeks from the date of this notification. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of An Garda Síochána and the decision will be communicated to you within 3 weeks. The making of a late appeal 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 me by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,

  
**SHARON KENNEDY**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER**

14 **SEPTEMBER 2018**