

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

Bí linn/Join us



Láithreán Gréasain/Website:

www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000345-2019 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 28th August, 2019 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:

Materials showing how many detectives of all ranks attached to Cork city division, Cork West division and Cork North division in 2016, 2017, 2018 and to date in 2019?

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 10th September, 2019.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Details of your FOI request were provided to the Human Resource Management (HRM) Section of An Garda Síochána. HRM have provided records to this Office in response to your request.

The table below details the number of detectives at Sergeant and Garda rank attached to Cork City, Cork North and Cork West Divisions combined in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 as of 31st July, 2019:

CORK (City, North & West)	Sergeant	Garda
2015	23	99
2016	17	89
2017	26	144
2018	23	136
2019	22	130

Due to the small number of detective members above the rank of Sergeant, I am of the opinion that providing the information broken down by Division as requested, could result in the identification of the individuals concerned within the Garda Organisation or within the public domain itself. I am therefore refusing to provide the number of Detective members above the rank of Sergeant in accordance with Section 32(1)(a)(iii) and 32(1)(b) which state:

32. (1) *A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to -*
- (a) *prejudice or impair—*
 - (iii) *lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures for ensuring the safety of the public and the safety or security of persons and property,*
 - (b) *endanger the life or safety of any person,*

The publication of current Garda resources specifically by detective rank for the 3 Cork divisions, in conjunction with the Garda roster system, which are already in the public domain, could provide an opportunity for criminal organisations or likeminded individuals to assess the operational policing capabilities in any location at any given time. I am very conscious of the fact that once this information is disclosed under FOI, there is no control as to whom the information is shared with, therefore a release under FOI is considered a release to the world in general and not just the individual requesting the information.

The effective use of Garda resources is critical to meeting the responsibilities of An Garda Síochána as set out at section 7 of An Garda Síochána Act, 2005 Act. By providing access to current Garda detectives on a national scale, in my opinion, will be contrary to and hinder the legislative goal of providing policing and security services for the State.

The allocation of Garda detectives is based on operational needs and the security and safety of the public and their property is considered when allocating resources to an area. These methods result in the appropriate staffing levels being identified in each area to ensure the safety of the

public and property therein. The release of the requested information may impact in a harmful manner upon the safety of properties and the persons in a specific sub-district.

The harm involved refers to the realistic and reasonable expectation that it will confirm current operational capabilities at specific locations thus actively providing information that could reasonably be expected to assist criminal organisations and likeminded individuals in their development of counter measures and diversionary tactics. Whilst it may be argued that distraction tactics are already being used by criminal organisations to divert Garda resources it is reasonable to assume that confirmation by An Garda Síochána of the number of Garda detectives allocated to a specific division will allow for more accurate diversionary tactics to be deployed.

This feeds into the prejudicial effect upon policing methods, systems, plans or procedures to prevent crimes against the person and property were this information is to be released.

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-000345-2019**.

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 fee 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: IE86BOFI90001710026896

BIC: BOFIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000345-2019) 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,

Maria Brodigan **ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**
MARIA BRODIGAN
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

10th **SEPTEMBER, 2019.**