

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-000351-2019 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 31st August, 2019 and received on 2nd September, 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:

1. *The number of breaches of discipline by trainee gardaí in the Garda Training College in Templemore in (i) 2016, (ii) 2017, (iii) 2018 and (iv) so far in 2019, along with a breakdown by the nature of each breach and the punishment handed out.*
2. *The number of trainee gardaí who have tested positive for (i) drugs and (ii) alcohol in the Garda Training College in each of the following years: (i) 2016, (ii) 2017, (iii) 2018 and (iv) so far in 2019*
3. *The number of drugs seizures in the Garda Training College in Templemore in each of the following years: (i) 2016, (ii) 2017, (iii) 2018 and (iv) so far in 2019*
4. *The number of trainee gardaí in the Garda Training College in Templemore who have been (i) suspended and (ii) expelled from the force in each of the following years: (i) 2016, (ii) 2017, (iii) 2018 and (iv) so far in 2019 - along with the reason for each suspension or expulsion.*

In this regard, I have decided to part-grant your request on the 24th September 2019.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Details of your request were provided to the Garda Trainee College who have briefed this office in respect of same. Your request has been number for ease of reference.

I wish to advise you that am refusing parts 1, 2 and 3 of your request in accordance with Section 15(1) (a) of the FOI Act as the records you seek do not exist. Trainee Gardaí are not subject to the Garda Síochána (Discipline) Regulations 2017 and at present there is no testing in place for drugs and alcohol. The Garda Trainee College have advised this office that there have been no drug seizures in the Garda Training College in each of the years 2016 to date in 2019.

Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 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,*

In response to Part 4 of your request please see Table below which details the number of trainee Gardaí in the Garda Training College in Templemore who have been suspended and expelled from the force in years 2016 to date in 2019 including the reason for each suspension or expulsion.

| Year | Suspended | Terminated | Reason |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-----------------------|
| 2016 | 0 | 0 | |
| 2017 | 6 | 1 | Behavioural & Medical |
| 2018 | 18 | 2 | Behavioural & Medical |
| 2019 (To date) | 13 | 2 | Behavioural & Medical |

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-000351-2019**.

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 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: BOFIIIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000351-2019) 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 wish to discuss the above, please contact the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,

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

24th **SEPTEMBER, 2019.**