Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000411-2020
Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 12th November 2020 and received on 13th November 2020, 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 wish to apply under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for the following information relating to finance:

a) The amount spent on psychological/psychiatric services for garda members and staff in each of the years 2017 and 2020 (to date)
b) The number of individual psychological/psychiatric services sessions recorded for garda members and staff in each of the years 2017 and 2020 (to date)
c) The number of calls to the Garda Independent Counselling Service in each of the years 2016 and 2020 (to date)
d) The cost of the garda Independent Counselling Service in each of the years 2016 and 2020 (to date)
I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 10th December 2020.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the relevant sections of An Garda Síochána who have supplied the following information.

(A.1) - Amount spent by the Garda Occupational Health Service on referrals to Independent Mental Health Specialists for mental health assessments – 2018, 2019, and 2020.

- 2018: €99,045
- 2019: €138,380
- 2020: €115,440 (to 30th Sept 2020)

(A.2) - Amount spent by the Garda Occupational Health Service on access to psychological treatment interventions – 2018, 2019, and 2020.

- 2018: €28,575
- 2019: €41,913
- 2020: €33,495 (to 30th Sept 2020)

In respect of your request for records relating to 2017, I am refusing this aspect of our request and am doing so pursuant to 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

(B) – The number of Garda members who attended appointments for assessment with independent mental health advisors is as follows:

- 2018: 185
- 2019: 216
- 2020: 179 (to 30th Sept 2020)

These figures refer to the number of members attending for assessment. Some Garda members may be referred on more than one occasion for assessment updates.

The number of Garda members attending treatment interventions with counselling services is

- 2018: 25
- 2019: 28
- 2020: 24 (to 30th Sept 2020)

Some Garda members may attend numerous sessions, the figures above are the number of members attending counselling sessions not the number of sessions attended.

In respect of your request for records relating to 2017, I am refusing this aspect of our request and am doing so pursuant to Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, as detailed above.

An Garda Síochána:
Ag Coinneáil Sábháilte – Keeping People Safe
(C) – The number of calls to the Garda independent counselling service each year is set out below. The contract with the service provider runs from June to June each year and therefore the number calls to the service are recorded on a June to June basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of telephone calls to the Inspire Helpline</th>
<th>Counselling services provided (Face to Face/Telephone)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2016 to June 2017</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>1328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2017 to June 2018</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>1734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2018 to June 2019</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>2517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2019 to June 2020</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>2096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st July 2020 to 30th Nov 2020</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>1022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(D) – I can advise that the cost of the Garda independent counselling service each year is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counselling Services</td>
<td>€205,354</td>
<td>€342,770</td>
<td>€349,015</td>
<td>€469,452</td>
<td>€361,181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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-000411-2020.


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-000411-2020 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 me by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PAUL BASSETT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

10th DECEMBER 2020.