

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-000413-2018 Request Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 4th October, 2018 and received on 5th October, 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 people that applied for the Garda Reserve each year from 2013-2018.*
- 2. The failure rates for both the a) interview stages, b) security clearance, c) physical competence test and d) medical certification.*
- 3. If possible could you please divide the above information in terms of gender?*

Please note I have numbered your request for your ease of reference.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 24th October, 2018.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

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1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

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

Due to the moratorium on recruitment, there has been no recruitment from 2013 up until 2017. An Garda Síochána launched a fresh recruitment drive for new applicants to its popular Reserve programme in March 2017 as the organisation seeks to diversify its ranks further under its Modernisation and Renewal Programme. This recruitment process was conducted by the Public Appointments Office (PAS) who conduct all recruitment competitions for the civil and public service.

The selection process to become a Garda Reserve is comprehensive, with candidates required to undertake a range of relevant assessment tests and exercises over a number of selection stages. The tests and exercises are designed to identify candidates suitable to be a Garda Reserve. The numbers called forward to each stage of selection will be determined from time to time having regard to the location and number of vacancies to be filled.

Garda Reservists are voluntary members of the police service. The programme affords members of the public an opportunity to develop hands-on policing experience in their locality. Tasks involve dealing with public order incidents, high-visibility patrolling, traffic management, attending major events, carrying out administrative duties, and providing general support to full-time Garda members.

The Public Appointments Service conduct the initial selection stages (i.e. Stage 1 & Stage 2) on behalf of the Garda Commissioner. Names and details of candidates who are successful and are placed highest on the order of merit following the selection stages conducted by the Public Appointments Service are forwarded to An Garda Síochána for further consideration (i.e. Stage 3).

The records that you seek in part 1 and part 2 (a) of your request are not held by An Garda Síochána and fall under the remit of The Public Appointments Service (PAS). I also wish to advise you that following consultation with the Appointments Section of An Garda Síochána, and with reference to part 2 (c) of your request there is no Physical Competence Test for Garda Reserve Applicants.

Therefore, I am refusing part 1 and part 2 (a) and (c) of your request in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014,

Section 15 – 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,

However, in order to assist you the table below outlines the number of successful applicants in each year received from PAS broken down by gender.

Year	Males	Females	Total
2013	257	97	354
2017	348	185	533

*Please be advised the 2017 competition is ongoing and figures above are reflective as at 15.10.2018.

The second part of your request seeks “*The failure rates for both the b) security clearance and d) medical certification.*”

The tables below outline the figures requested by you in part 2 (b) and (d) and part 3 of your request:

2013	Males	Females	Total
Security Clearance Failures 2013	9	0	9
Medical Certification Failures 2013	4	4	8

2017	Males	Females	Total
Security Clearance Failures 2017	0	0	0
Medical Certification Failures 2017	6	4	10

*Please be advised the 2017 competition is ongoing and figures above are reflective as at 15.10.2018.

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-000413-2018**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, 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: BOFIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number FOI-000413-2018 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

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,

 **SUPERINTENDENT**
SHARON KENNEBY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

24 OCTOBER, 2018