

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

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000423-2019 Request Part-Grant

*Deaí*

I refer to your request, dated 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 and received on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 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. *Details of the spend on personal protective equipment/safety gear for gardai from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018. Please include breakdown of the spend on PPE/safety gear as follows: riot helmets; riot shields; anti-stab vests; hi-vis garda jackets; knee protective pads and elbow protective pads.*
2. *Details of clerical allowances paid to gardai between 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018. Please include the total amount paid to gardai and the number of individual recipients.*
3. *Details, including a breakdown of the cost, of the two rainbow-design Garda vehicles that were added to the fleet ahead of the Dublin Pride Parade in June 2019.*
4. *Details of the costs associated with Garda Mounted Unit and The Garda Dog Unit between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2018. Please include a breakdown of costs, including but not limited to the purchase of new animals, vet costs, animal feed, kennelling services and grooming services.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

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

Upon receipt, details of your request were provided to the Finance Directorate and the Procurements Section within An Garda Síochána who conducted a search for records relating to your request.

**Table A** below sets out the total amount paid in respect of the purchase of clothing (protective material and specialised equipment) in 2018. The costs are categorised under two financial subheads *i.e. Purchase of Clothing — Protective Material and Purchase of Clothing — Specialised Equipment*: (as previously released in FOI-000262-2019)

**TABLE A**

	2018
Purchase of Clothing — Protective Material	€ 569,929
Purchase of Clothing — Specialised Equipment	€ 355,637

In respect of the second part of part 1 of your request you sought '*a breakdown of the spend on PPE/safety gear, including Riot Helmets, Riot Shields, Anti Stab Vests, Hi-Vis Garda Jackets, Knee protective pads and Elbow protective pads.*' This was forwarded to the Procurement Section who has provided the following records:

**Table B** below which provides a breakdown of the cost (including VAT) of the specific items you have requested:

**TABLE B**

	2018
Riot Helmets	13,500(sterling)
Riot Shields	€0
*Anti Stab/Ballistic Vests	€356,155
**Hi Vis Garda Jackets	€516,800
Knee Protective Pads	€4,000
Elbow Protective Pads	€2,770

\* *Anti-Stab/Ballistic Vests include both uniformed and plain clothes member's vests.*

\*\* *Hi-Vis Garda Jackets include both Summer lightweight and Winter flexothane jacket.*

The Garda uniform incorporates elements of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which are appropriate for the duties being performed. Certain types of duty require specific PPE elements to be included in the uniforms such as motorcycle and air support duties. On entering the Garda College, a student is provided with a standard uniform which consists of



the following items:

- Hat
- Hat Cover
- Epaulettes
- Shirt
- T -Shirts
- Tie
- Tie Pin
- Trousers
- Belt
- Shoes
- Fleece
- Waterproof navy Jacket
- High Visibility Waterproof Jacket
- High Visibility light weight jacket
- Anti-Stab Vest

Each member of the force is required to maintain an operational and a formal uniform. It is a disciplinary offence not to comply with An Garda Síochána dress code or to be untidy in uniform.

The specialist equipment assigned to each member of An Garda Síochána serves an operational requirement within the environment in which they operate. Equipment such as Riot Helmets, Riot Shields and Protective Pads as specified in your request are required in highly volatile situations to protect Garda members when dealing with public disorder and violent incidents. The equipment serves as a protective measure in these types of situations allowing Gardaí to carry out their functions to protect society and preserve the peace.

The Anti-Stab Vest is a vital part of equipment issued to members of An Garda Síochána for their personal protection. Similarly, Ballistic Vests are issued to members of specific units of An Garda Síochána. The Hi-Visibility jackets are also a very important part of Garda protective equipment and the jacket is designed to provide a high level of visibility when a Garda is on outdoor duty, especially at night time and when on traffic-related duties.

Part 2 of your request sought '*details of clerical allowances paid to Gardaí between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018*'. The table below sets out the total amount paid in respect of Clerical Allowances in 2018:

CLERICAL ALLOWANCES	
	2018
Total Amount Paid	€971,305
No. of Recipients	223

#### **Clerical/Administrative Designated Post Allowance**

A member who is employed in a "Garda" designated clerical/administrative post may\* receive a designated post allowance. A member occupying a (Civilian) non-designated post may\* be paid an ex-gratia sum, equivalent to the allowances mentioned at subsection (1), while he/she occupies such post. Eligibility for the ex-gratia sum will be subject to the following provisions:

- (a) That the member opted to transfer to outdoor duties; and
- (b) That it is not practicable to release the member from the post he/she occupies.

Only members who are employed in posts requiring attendance between 9.15am and 5.15pm on each day between Monday to Friday inclusive, e.g. Clerical posts or similar posts, will be entitled to receive the allowance (or the ex-gratia sum). Members who are in

receipt of other allowances for special duties, will not be eligible to the paid allowance (or ex-gratia sum) under the terms of this section.

- \* *It should be noted that by way of Government decision of 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012 both the Clerical Designated allowance and the Clerical Ex-gratia Allowance was abolished for new beneficiaries with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012. Any member of An Garda Síochána who takes up a post mentioned at (1) or (2) above will not be paid the relevant allowance if they are deemed to be a new beneficiary.*

Part 3 of your request sought “Details, including a breakdown of the cost, of the two rainbow-design Garda vehicles that were added to the fleet ahead of the Dublin Pride Parade in June 2019.

The Finance Directorate have informed this office that there was no cost to An Garda Síochána in respect of this and I am therefore refusing this part of your request in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act 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,*

Part 4 of your request sought “Details of the costs associated with Garda Mounted Unit and The Garda Dog Unit between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2018. Please include a breakdown of costs, including but not limited to the purchase of new animals, vet costs, animal feed, kennelling services and grooming services.

Please see **Table C & D** below which provides a breakdown of the costs associated with the Garda Mounted Unit and the Garda Dog Unit.

**TABLE C – Garda Dog Unit:**

GARDA DOG UNIT	
SUBHEAD	COST €
PAY	€1,335,241
EQUIPMENT	€46,686
FEED	€21,448
TRANSPORT	€20,422
VETERINARY SERVICES	€19,446
KENNELING	€17,385
PURCHASES OF ANIMALS	€1,820



**TABLE D – Garda Mounted Unit:**

<b>GARDA MOUNTED UNIT</b>	
<b>SUBHEAD</b>	<b>COST €</b>
PAY	€1,092,504
FEED	€36,146
GROOMING SERVICES	€26,233
EQUIPMENT	€17,539
VETERINARY SERVICES	€14,796
TRANSPORT	€13,904
FARRIER SERVICES	€8,540
PURCHASES OF ANIMALS	€6,500
STABLE SUPPLIES	€5,868
STABLING FEES	€2,350

Further information in respect of the roles of both the Garda Dog and Mounted Units is available on the Garda website and may be accessed by following the attached link:

<https://www.garda.ie/en/About-Us/Specialist-Units/Operational-Support-Services/>

## **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-000423-2019**.

**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-000423-2019 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](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,

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

6<sup>th</sup> **DECEMBER, 2018**