

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 ND62



Freedom of Information Office,
An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House,
IDA Business Park,
Johnstown, Navan,
Co Meath.
C15 ND62

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000453-2020 Request Refused

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 10th December, 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 obtain the following records under the Freedom of Information Act. I want to obtain a list of all computer software, IT systems and IT hardware purchased and acquired by An Garda Síochána during 2019 and 2020. I wish to obtain the cost of the items purchased, the name of the supplier and their ultimate use.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on 11th January 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

This office has been advised that the retrieval of the records sought in your request would cause a significant disruption to the work of the IT Department due to the nature and volume of the records. The time required to retrieve, extract and examine all invoices in order to provide items, suppliers and ultimate use would cause a substantial and unreasonable interference and would significantly disrupt the workload of the Department. I am therefore refusing to provide this information to you in accordance with Section 15 (1)(c).

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Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests:

Section 15(1)(c) of the FOI Act 2014 states;

15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where—

(c) in the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason of the number or nature of the records concerned or the nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of the records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned,

However, the IT Department have supplied the table below which details the amount spent in 2019 and 2020. These amounts are recorded on the Financial Management System but as there is no unique code for all individual IT equipment purchased, to supply a further breakdown would require a manual trawl through a huge volume of invoices.

Category	2019	2020
Software/Systems	€ 14,125,253	€ 14,341,944
Software/Systems Maintenance	€ 10,636,248	€ 16,656,495
Hardware	€ 4,992,211	€ 6,020,767
Hardware Maintenance	€ 1,432,639	€ 608,592
Consumables	€ 801,351	€ 1,888,443
Networking	€ 6,367	€ 440,943
Other Operational ICT Solutions	€ 315,923	€ 2,933,452
Training	€ 4,982	€ 3,907

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-000453-2020**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath C15 ND62

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-000453-2020) 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 wish to discuss the above, please contact the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
PAUL BASSETT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

11th JANUARY, 2021.