

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

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000307-2023 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 4th September 2023, 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:

Under the 2014 Freedom of Information Act I am seeking the following information:

- The cost of staffing the Garda driver pool for Government ministers since 1 October 2022 to present.*
- The number of Gardaí who are currently assigned to the ministerial driving pool.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on the 14th September 2023.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

On receipt, your request was forwarded to our Finance Division for reply. The total gross expenditure in the Ministerial Pool as per the financial records from 1 October 2022 to 31 August 2023 is €6,101,623.

The second part of your request seeks “*The number of Gardaí who are currently assigned to the ministerial driving pool*”. I am refusing this part of your request on the basis that this Act does not apply to a record held or created by An Garda Síochána that relates to the Special Detective Unit and the Security and Intelligence Sections as outlined below:

Restriction of Act

42. *This Act does not apply to—*

(b) a record held or created by the Garda Síochána that relates to any of the following:

- (iii) the Special Detective Unit (SDU);*
- (v) the Security and Intelligence Section;*

Therefore, in accordance with the requirements of Section 42 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I am refusing part 2 of your request.

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-000307-2023**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, 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-000307-2023 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 OFFICER
PAUL BASSETT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

14th **SEPTEMBER 2023**