

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000273-2024 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 24th July, 2024 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. Records relating to matters other than finance, procurement and human resources are outside the scope of the Act as it relates to An Garda Síochána, and no right of access to such requests exists.

Your request sought:

I would like to request information under the Freedom of information act.

Please can you answer the following questions.

- 1. Do you have AEDs (defibrillators) in your workplace?*
- 2. If yes, where are your AEDs stored? (e.g. in vehicles, in offices/stations, outside of building in a cabinet)*
- 3. How many AEDs do you have?*
- 4. What make & model are the AEDs please?*
- 5. How old are the AEDs or what year were they purchased?*

6. *When would you look to replace your AEDs?*
7. *Who in the force deals with the maintenance of equipment such as AEDs?*
8. *Who is in charge of purchasing equipment such as AEDs?*
9. *Where do you purchase AEDs from?*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 14th August 2024. The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

On receipt, your request was forwarded to the relevant Sections of An Garda Síochána who have provided information in respect of this request.

Firstly, I wish to advise that Section 11 of the FOI Act provides for a right of access to records held by FOI bodies. Requests for information are therefore not valid requests under the Act, as opposed to requests for records. FOI bodies are not required to create records under the Act if none. The Act does not oblige FOI bodies to answer general queries nor provide a mechanism for answering questions except to the extent that a question can reasonably be inferred to be a request for records which contain the answer to the question asked or the information sought.

Secondly, the Freedom of Information Act 2014 provides for a right of access to records held by public bodies. However, in the case of An Garda Síochána the Act places certain limits on the types of records, held by An Garda Síochána, which are subject to release under the Act. An Garda Síochána is defined by the Act as a partially included agency for the purposes of the Act. Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the Act states that the Act does not apply to An Garda Síochána *"other than 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 matters can be considered for release. In accordance with Part 1(n), all other records held by An Garda Síochána are excluded from release.

HR records refer to personal records of staff working within An Garda Síochána. They also relate to statistical information in respect of the organisation, e.g sick leave, discipline, retirements, etc. Financial records relate to the financial expenditure of the organisation and procurement records relate to the contracting of services and the tendering process associated with same.

In respect of the particular matters raised in your request, I can advise as follows. The purchasing of equipment such as AED's is the responsibility of Garda Procurement Section. Procurement currently purchase AEDs from two suppliers in the Irish market, namely Fleming Medical and First Aid People T/A First Aid Supplies and currently purchase the following makes and models of AEDs:

- Zoll AED 3,
- Schiller Fred Easyport Plus,
- Beneheart C2

The maintenance of AEDs is handled by the suppliers of the units with units replaced as necessary on application from individual Garda locations throughout the country.

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-000273-2024**.

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-000273-2024 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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PAUL BASSETT

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

19 **AUGUST, 2024**