

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-000284-2023 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 14th August, 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:

Q1. Can you please list the number of devices deployed by your organisation for the following?

Device Type

Desktop PCs

Laptops

Mobile Phones

Printers

Multi Functional Devices (MFDs)

Tablets

Physical Servers

Storage Devices (for example: NAS, SAN)

Networking Infrastructure (for example: Switches, Routers, Interfaces, Wireless Access Points)

Security Infrastructure (for example: Firewalls, Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS), Virus Monitoring Tools)

Q2. Is your organisation planning to invest in the following systems or any similar systems. If yes, how much are you planning to spend in 2023/24 and future years?

1

Digital Evidence Management System
Bespoke Geospatial Intel & Tasking Software
Cloud-based Law Enforcement and Public Safety Software
Investigation Case Management Software
Digital Forensics and Investigation Management Software

Q3. Is your organisation planning to invest in any of the below technologies. If yes, could you mention the estimated cost(s) planned for that financial year(s)?

Artificial Intelligence
Retrospective Facial Recognition Technology
DNA Scanning Technology
Live Facial Recognition Technology

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 5th September 2023..

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the relevant section within An Garda Síochána. The records sought in part 1 of your request are provided in the table below.

Device Type	Number of Devices
Desktop PCs, Laptops	19,732
Mobile Phones	13,113
Printers	2,939
Tablets	80

I am refusing the release of records in respect of servers, storage devices, network infrastructure and security infrastructure. I am doing so in accordance with Section 32 of the FOI Act. Section 32 states:

Section 32 – Law enforcement and public safety

32.(1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to—

(a) prejudice or impair -

- (ix) the security of a building or other structure or a vehicle, ship, boat or aircraft, or*
- (x) the security of any system of communications, whether internal or external of the Garda Síochána*

In considering the release of information under the Freedom of Information Act, I am conscious of the fact that a release of information under the Act is done without any constraints on how that information is further utilized. A release of information under the Act is essentially a release to the world at large.

The functions of An Garda Síochána are in the main, directed towards the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal activities. It is not in the public interest to impair or prejudice Garda functions by releasing information into the public domain under the FOI Act which could reasonably be expected to reveal the extent of security measures put in place in respect of Garda ICT systems. Furthermore it would be contrary to the public interest to place into the public arena information detailing the capabilities of Garda ICT security systems.

The information sought could, in my opinion, reasonably be expected to prejudice or impair the operational capabilities of Gardai when dealing with criminal elements of society. By identifying the number of Servers, Storage Devices and Network Infrastructure used within An Garda Síochána, threat actors could potentially exploit this information to form a picture of the security position of Garda ICT Systems. It could be further used to identify recent tenders via the OGP website and European tendering sites or verify equipment type currently used within An Garda Síochána. Identifying vendor equipment is a standard method used by threat actors to execute cybersecurity attacks against weaknesses in an organisation's infrastructure. This identification of Garda ICT security capabilities could allow criminal elements to amass knowledge regarding the capabilities of An Garda Síochána. This information could reasonably be expected to allow nefarious actors take actions which could significantly impede the operational capacity of An Garda Síochána to carry out its functions under section 7 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

I am also refusing part 2 and part 3 of your request as the records sought do not exist. I am doing so pursuant to Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act wherein

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,*

An Garda Síochána replace faulty devices and infrastructure on an ongoing basis. The replacement of any software, hardware or infrastructure is managed by utilising existing OGP frameworks or publishing new tenders on the eTenders website.

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-000284-2023**.

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-000284-2023) 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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PAUL BASSETT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

5 **SEPTEMBER, 2023.**