

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

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000332-2023 Request Part-Granted

*Dear*

I refer to your request, dated 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 and received on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 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:

*I wish to request access to the following records under the Freedom of Information Act:*

- *records containing details of all expenses, allowances and other costs paid in respect of the Garda band during 2022 and 2023 to date; to include the purpose of the payments and the number of recipients*
- *records showing details of events and engagements at which the Garda Band performed during 2022 and 2023 to date*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-granted your request on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 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 sections of An Garda Síochána who carried out a search for the records sought in your request. As per your previous requests in relation to the Garda Band (FOI-000333-2019, FOI-000390-2020 and FOI-000256-2022) I am

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providing the number of staff attached to the Garda Band rather the number of recipients of payments as sought in your request.

The tables below provide the records sought in relation to the first part of your request.

<b>Garda Band</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023(Jan to End Sept)</b>
Salaries, Wages & Allowances	€1,673,147	€1,267,451
Transport	€5,520	€216
Travel & Subsistence	€60,252	€9,247
Incidental Expenses	€644	0
Postal Services	€1,073	0
Communications & Other Equipment	€24,115	€217
Office Equipment & External IT Services	€86	€220
Station Services	€22,945	€18,395
Maintenance of Garda Premises	€112	€281

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Garda Band Staff*</b>	26	26

\*Staffing levels are for both Civilian & Garda Members

In regard to the second part of your request the Appendix herewith attached details the events and engagements at which the Garda Band performed during 2022 and 2023 to date. I am partially releasing these records in a redacted format in accordance with Section 37 of the Act.

### **Section 37 – Personal Information**

Under the FOI Act, records are released without any restriction as to how they may be used and thus, release under the FOI Act, is in effect, and regarded as being released to the world at large. As a result, I am conscious of my obligations to retain personal information in a confidential and secure manner and prevent personal information from being released into the public domain unnecessarily. Section 2 of the FOI Act defines personal information as follows:

2.(1) *In this Act—*

*"personal information" means information about an identifiable individual that, either—*

- (a) would, in the ordinary course of events, be known only to the individual or members of the family, or friends, of the individual, or*
- (b) is held by an FOI body on the understanding that it would be treated by that body as confidential,*

Section 37 provides that a public body shall refuse to grant a request if access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information. I am satisfied that parts of certain records relate to third parties and am also satisfied that the records consist of the personal information of these third parties. Accordingly, I find that Section 37(1) of the Act applies to the records at issue.

Section 37(1) states:

*37(1) Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual)*

As section 37 requires a public interest test be carried out, I have considered the public interest issues which arise in this case and have taken account of the following factors in favour of release:

- Ensuring openness and transparency of organisational functions to the greatest possible extent,
- The public interest in members of the public exercising their rights under the FOI Act,
- That there is more than just a transitory interest by the public in this information,
- The right to privacy is outweighed by the needs of the public.

In considering the public interest factors which favour withholding the records, I have taken account of the following:

- The public interest is not best served by releasing these records,
- That the Organisation can conduct its business in a confidential manner,
- That there is a reasonable and implied expectation that sensitive personal information will remain confidential,
- That there is no overriding public interest that outweighs the individual's right to privacy.
- Allowing a public body to hold personal information without undue access by members of the public,

A public interest test was carried out when considering the release of the records but, having balanced the factors both for and against the release, I have decided that the public interest in preserving personal information would best be served by particular parts of the records provided.

## **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-000332-2023**.

**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-000332-2023 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](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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

**PAUL BASSETT  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER**

25<sup>th</sup> **OCTOBER, 2023.**

Date - 2022 Details

Nature of Engagement

Date	Details	Nature of Engagement	Status
06/01/2022	DMR East Centenary - Blackrock	Official Garda Event	
15/02/2022	Mass. Garda Band Room	Official Garda Event	
17/02/2022	Our Lady of the Wayside NS, Kiltinan	School	
24/02/2022	Mount Jerome Crematorium	Official Garda Event	
25/02/2022	Mass for deceased staff member, Officers Club. HQ	Official Garda Event	
27/02/2022	IRFU - Ireland v Italy, Aviva Stadium	Sporting Event	
07/03/2022	Mullingar Garda Station	Official Garda Event	
08/03/2022	Int Assoc of Women in Police Conf:	Official Garda Event	
09/03/2022	Int Assoc of Women in Police Conf:	Official Garda Event	
10/03/2022	Stewarts Special School, Lucan. 10am	Community Event	
10/03/2022	Stewarts Hospital. Parade 11am	Community Event	
11/03/2022	London	Community Event	
12/03/2022	London	Community Event	
13/03/2022	London St Patricks Day Event	Community Event	
15/03/2022	Templemore	Community Event	
16/03/2022	North Wall Residents, St Patricks Day Parade	Community Event	
17/03/2022	St Patrick's Day Parade, Dublin	Community Event	
19/03/2022	IRFU - Ireland v Scotland, Aviva Stadium	Sporting Event	
21/03/2022	Centenary Event, Tipperary Town	Official Garda Event	
01/04/2022	Graduation. Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny	Official Garda Event	
04/04/2022	Graduation. Knockranny House Hotel, Mayo	Official Garda Event	
08/04/2022	Colaiste Eoin TAG, Finglas	School	
12/04/2022	Travel to Bandon	Official Garda Event	
13/04/2022	Bandon	Official Garda Event	
15/04/2022	Easter Camp - Tallaght Leisure Centre	Community Event	
16/04/2022	Centenary Community Event. Kildare	Official Garda Event	
17/04/2022	Centenary Celebrations Roscommon	Official Garda Event	
18/04/2022	Fairyhouse Races	Sporting Event	
22/04/2022	St Raphaels Credit Union, Commemoration event	Official Garda Event	
24/04/2022	Centenary Event, Kinsale	Official Garda Event	
03/05/2022	Shankill Garda Station	Official Garda Event	
03/05/2022	Mass for Deceased Member, Harcourt Square	Official Garda Event	
04/05/2022	Our Lady's College, Drogheda	School	

Cancelled - Covid





11/09/2022	Monaghan Centenary Event	Official Garda Event
11/09/2022	Lucan Garda Station Open Day	Community Event
13/09/2022	Swords Garda Station	Community Event
15/09/2022	Dundalk	Community Event
21/09/2022	Finglas Garda Station	Community Event
24/09/2022	Dunshaughlin Harvest Festival	community Event
25/09/2022	AGS Centenary Eucumenical Service, Galway	Official Garda Event
28/09/2022	Wicklow Centenary Event	Official Garda Event
29/09/2022	Limerick Concert	Community Event
05/10/2022	Retired Members Centenary event, Westmanstown	Official Garda Event
07/10/2022	Centenary Commemoration, Ennis	Official Garda Event
11/10/2022	Centenary Medal Presentation, Band Room	Official Garda Event
12/10/2022	Internship Event, Bandroom	Official Garda Event
14/10/2022	Waterford City Centenary Event	Official Garda Event
15/10/2022	Malahide	Official Garda Event
16/10/2022	Ennistymon Centenary	Official Garda Event
18/10/2022	Finglas Garda Station	Official Garda Event
21/10/2022	Portlaoise Concert	Community Event
22/10/2022	Bridewell Station	Official Garda Event
23/10/2022	Centenary Event, Sligo	Official Garda Event
28/10/2022	Bray Bandstand and Parade	Community Event
04/11/2022	Clarinet Trio, Officers Club	Official Garda Event
09/11/2022	Garda Centenary Parade, Cork	Official Garda Event
10/11/2022	GPO	Community Event
12/11/2022	National Youth Awards	Official Garda Event
14/11/2022	Clonmel Mass	Community Event
17/11/2022	Garda HQ, Mass	Official Garda Event
18/11/2022	Centenary Event, Newcastlewest	Official Garda Event
22/11/2022	Dun Laochaire	Official Garda Event
23/11/2022	Police Rugby Westmanstown	Official Garda Event
25/11/2022	Tramore Centenary	Official Garda Event
26/11/2022	Drogheda	Official Garda Event
27/11/2022	Clonakilty	Official Garda Event
30/11/2022	Centenary Event, Listowel	Official Garda Event
01/12/2022	Blanchardstown Centenary	Official Garda Event
02/12/2022	Dungarvan Centenary	Official Garda Event
06/12/2022	Day Care Centre, Bunclody	Community Event



07/12/2022	Missing Persons Day	Community Event
10/12/2022	Centenary Gala Dinner	Official Garda Event
13/12/2022	St Brigid's Junior School	School
13/12/2022	St Anne's Primary School	School
13/12/2022	Holy Child National School	School
13/12/2022	St Joseph's GNS	School
13/12/2022	George's Hill NS	School
14/12/2022	Sacred Heart JS	School
14/12/2022	Scoil Aoife	School
14/12/2022	St Joseph's, Macroom Rd	School
14/12/2022	St Francis School, Priorswood	School
14/12/2022	Our Lady Immaculate, NS	School
14/12/2022	Pelletstown ETNS	School
14/12/2022	St John Bosco	School
14/12/2022	St Vincents, Navan Road	School
15/12/2022	Finglas Garda Station	Community Event
16/12/2022	Taremore Old Folks	Community Event
17/12/2022	Roscrea Mass	Community Event
18/12/2022	Little Blue Heroes, Naas	Community Event
20/12/2022	Good Shepherd NS	School
20/12/2022	Scoil Mhuire	School
20/12/2022	Scoil Ard Mhuire	School
20/12/2022	St George's NS	School
20/12/2022	St Peter and Pauls NS	School
20/12/2022	St Teresas NS	School
20/12/2022	Presentation School	School
20/12/2022	St Joseph's School	School
20/12/2022	Warrenmount NS	School
21/12/2022	St Marys NS, Tallaght	School
21/12/2022	St Marks JNS	School
21/12/2022	St Josephs ns	School
21/12/2022	Sacred Heart BNS	School

## Date - 2023 Details

## Nature of Engagement

13/01/2023	Templemore Attestation		
19/01/2023	Limerick University - Conferring Ceremony	Official Garda Event	
09/02/2023	St Peters College, Dunboyne	Official Garda Event	
17/02/2023	Cork	School	
24/02/2023	Friends of Ukraine, Ashbourne Library	Community Event	Cancelled
24/02/2023	School, Kilbarrack	School	
07/03/2023	Travel to Toronto	Community Event	
08/03/2023	Toronto	Community Event	
09/03/2023	Toronto	Official Garda Event	
09/03/2023	Funeral, [REDACTED] Whitehall	Community Event	
10/03/2023	Return from Toronto	Community Event	
10/03/2023	Opening - O'Connell Street Garda Station	Official Garda Event	
14/03/2023	Stewarts School, Ross Court, Luca.	Official Garda Event	
15/03/2023	Stewarts Hospital Parade	School	
16/03/2023	Retired Members Centenary - Grand Hotel Malahide	Community Event	
16/03/2023	Sherriff Street St Patricks Day Parade	Official Garda Event	
17/03/2023	St Patricks Day Parade, Dublin	Community Event	
24/03/2023	Recruiting Launch Bray <b>EVENT CANCELLED</b>	Official Garda Event	
30/03/2023	Recruiting Launch Bray	Official Garda Event	
31/03/2023	Colaiste Eoin, Finglas, TAG	Official Garda Event	
06/04/2023	Scott Medal Presentations <b>EVENT CANCELLED</b>	Official Garda Event	
08/04/2023	[REDACTED] Funeral	School	
09/04/2023	Dun Laoighaire Centenary Event	Official Garda Event	
10/04/2023	Fairyhouse Races	Sporting Event	
24/04/2023	TY Work Experience Programme	School	
25/04/2023	TY Work Experience Programme	School	
26/04/2023	TY Work Experience Programme	School	
27/04/2023	TY Work Experience Programme	School	
03/05/2023	St Mary's Holy Faith, Killester	School	
05/05/2023	Opening of DMR CC at Heuston Station	Official Garda Event	
10/05/2023	Funeral - [REDACTED] Kilcock	Official Garda Event	
17/05/2023	Bridewell Open Day	Community Event	
17/05/2023	Norway Day Parade	Community Event	
20/05/2023	Memorial Day, Dublin Castle	Official Garda Event	

21/05/2023	Maryfield Nursing Home, Chapelizod	Community Event
22/05/2023	Opening of DMR Office, Dublin Castle	Official Garda Event
24/05/2023	Little Blue Heroes - Shannon	Community Event
25/05/2023	New Cross College TAG	School
26/05/2023	Scott Medal Presentations	Official Garda Event
30/05/2023	Blackrock Education Centre 50th Anniv	School
31/05/2023	Lucan Alzheimers Assoc - St Mary's Parish Centre, Lucan	Community Event
02/06/2023	Bloom Festival, Phoenix Park, 2.30pm	Community Event
09/06/2023	Kilbrew Care Home, Curragh, Ashbourne	Community Event
11/06/2023	Little Blue Heroes - Clontarf Garda Station	Community Event
13/06/2023	Merchants Quay	Community Event
15/06/2023	Scollie, Clontarf	School
16/06/2023	St ColmCille's BNS, Swords	School
20/06/2023	St Kevins Boys School, Kinamanagh	School
21/06/2023	Rush and Lusk Educate Together	School
22/06/2023	St Patrick's BNS, Drumcondra	School
23/06/2023	St Canice's GNS, Finglas	School
23/06/2023	Crumlin Garda Station - Open Day	Community Event
24/06/2023	Pride Parade, Dublin	Community Event
27/06/2023	Gaelscoil CholmCille, Oscar Traynor Road	School
28/06/2023	Garda Run, Phoenix Park	Official Garda Event
01/07/2023	Garda Funeral Skerries	Official Garda Event
02/07/2023	Garda Funeral Newmarket	Official Garda Event
06/07/2023	Chapelizod Festival	Community Event
08/07/2023	Open Day, Mullingar Garda Station	Community Event
11/07/2023	Dolphin House, Community Summer Picnic	Community Event
12/07/2023	Ballina Salmon Festival	Community Event
18/07/2023	St Vincents School, Navan Road	Community Event
19/07/2023	CRC Clontarf	School
20/07/2023	Donaghmede Festival	Community Event
22/07/2023	Open Day, Tallaght Garda Station	Community Event
25/07/2023	Attestation Rehearsal - Templemore	Official Garda Event
28/07/2023	Attestation - Templemore	Official Garda Event
11/08/2023	Golden Years Tea Party, Rathcoole	Community Event
02/09/2023	National Services Day	Community Event
03/09/2023	Rathkeale Together Community Family Day	Community Event
09/09/2023	Balbriggan Garda Station Open Day	Community Event

10/09/2023	Lucan Garda Station Open Day	Community Event
14/09/2023	Rathcorragh Garda Station Re-Opening	Official Garda Event
16/09/2023	Unveiling of Cenotaph, Garda HQ	Official Garda Event
21/09/2023	Scott Chaitlin Maude, Tallaght	School
22/09/2023	Sancia Maria - Cabra ( moved to 27th)	Community Event
27/09/2023	Sancia Maria	Community Event
28/09/2023	St Pauls SNS, Ayrfield, Dublin 13	School
29/09/2023	St Andrews NS, Curragha, Co. Meath	School
30/09/2023	Henry St Garda Station Open Day Limerick	Community Event