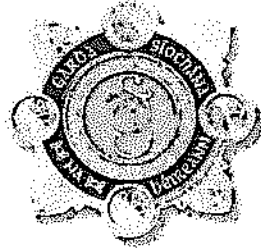


An Garda Síochána

Oifig Saoráil Faisnéise
An Garda Síochána
Teach áth Luimnigh
Lárionad Gnó Udáras Forbartha Tionscail
Baile Sheáin
An Uaimh
Contae na Mí
C15 DR90



Freedom of Information Office
An Garda Síochána
Athlumney House
IDA Business Park
Johnstown
Navan
Co Meath
C15 DR90

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: www.garda.ie

Bláin Join us  

Riomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000222-2016

Dear


I refer to your request, dated and received on 10/06/2016 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2014 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:

We have been researching and documenting evidence for 40 years of a new burn injury classification - the Fifth Degree Burn - that is characterized by localized and near-total incineration of the victim amid absence of significant heat/flame damage to surrounding combustibles. Such events are not, to quote one U.S. medical examiner's comment to us, "hoaxes, because bodies do not burn this way." Though rare, Fifth Degree Burn cases do happen and warrant serious study.

Two recent cases in Ireland - one of which we just learned about - are pertinent to our research:


"A garda described finding the charred remains on the floor of the sitting room with the damage just confined to the remains and the immediate vicinity," reports local press coverage.

Assistant chief fire officer [REDACTED] and Garda [REDACTED] are mentioned in press reports, Garda [REDACTED] saying "the only damage was to the remains, to the floor underneath him and to the ceiling above. The body had been totally burnt."

We request the investigation reports of these two incidents, photographs (and in the case of [REDACTED], video) of the fire scenes, and inquest hearings for the purpose of comparison to other potentially similar cases in our extensive database and, thus, to better understand these rare, fascinating, controversial fire scenes that definitely are *not* hoaxes. Ireland has a forgotten history of these events, one we are now endeavoring to reveal, and with your cooperation we'll know whether these two incidents should be included or excluded.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 13th June 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions.

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. As you are seeking records relating to operational policing matters your request is not within the scope of the FOI Act insofar as it pertains to An Garda Síochána, and therefore I cannot accede to your request.

However, I recommend that you contact

[REDACTED]
Garda Technical Bureau,
Phoenix Park,
Dublin 8,

and the

Office of the State Pathologist,
Fire Brigade Training Centre,
Malahide Road,
Marino,
Dublin 3
DOZ NN83

who may be in a position to assist you.

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 **F01-000222-2016**.

Freedom of Information Office,
An Garda Síochána,
Athlumney House,
IDA Business Park,
Johnstown,
Navan,
Co. Meath
C15 DR90

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: Garda Síochána Finance Section Public Bank Account
Account Number: 10026896
Sort Code: 900017
IBAN: IE86B0F190001710026896
BIC: BOFIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number 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,

 SUPERINTENDENT
HELEN DEELY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER.

13th JUNE 2016

