

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

Bí linn/Join us



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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000101-2023 Request Part-Granted

*Dear*

I refer to your request, dated 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 and received on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 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:

- 1. How many Gardai have died by suicide in the last 10 years (Annual Breakdown)?*
- 2. How many Gardai have attempted to die in the last 10 years (Annual Breakdown)?*
- 3. How many Gardai have been discharged on mental health grounds in the last 10 years (Annual Breakdown)?*
- 4. How many Gardai have reported ill with mental health in the last 10 years (Annual Breakdown)?*
- 5. How many Gardai have engaged with the Employee Assistance Programme in relation to mental health in the last 10 years (Annual Breakdown)?*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision. I have numbered your request for ease of reference.

## 1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt, details of your request were forwarded to the relevant sections within An Garda Síochána who conducted a search for records containing the information you have requested.

The Sections of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which deny access to information are known as exemptions. In response to parts 1, 2, 3 and 5 of your request I can advise you that the statistics you are searching for are not recorded in any section within An Garda Síochána. Therefore, as no record exists, I am refusing these parts of your request under Section 15(1) (a) of the FOI Act which states:

***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,*

In relation to Part 4 of your request I can confirm that sickness absences are recorded and reported under the following categories – Ordinary Illness; Occupational Injury/Illness Arising from Duty and Critical Illness.

**Ordinary Illness Category** contains the following sub categories -

- Flu/Viral
- Mental Health
- Musculoskeletal
- Not Provided
- Other-Please Specify
- Post Pregnancy
- Pregnancy Related
- Surgery / Post Op

**Occupational Injury/illness arising from Duty Category** contains the following sub-categories -

- Injury On Duty: Accident
- Injury On Duty: RTA
- Malicious Injury Off Duty
- Malicious Injury On Duty
- Occupational illness arising from duty

**Critical Illness Category** contains the following sub-category -

- Critical Illness

There is currently no specific sub-category on the Sickness Absence Management System for the recording of absences due to stress, anxiety or depression but in some cases, this is recorded under the Mental Health sub-category or in the comments field against another sub-category. It is not possible to show the comments on a sickness absence report.

Each instance of sickness absence throughout the required time period would need to be manually accessed on the Sickness Absence Management System to ascertain if the illness relates to stress, anxiety or depression.

The following statistics have been compiled using the Mental Health illness subcategory. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that all absences due to stress, anxiety or depression have been recorded under this sub-category.

Please be advised these figures are acquired from the Annual Commissioner Reports and are correct at the time each yearly report is run. We are unable to provide Sick Leave Statistics prior to 2015 as the Sickness Absence Management System (SAMS) was only introduced in 2015.

### **Number of Members Recorded as Taking Sickness Absence because of Mental Health Illness**

<b>2022</b>	50 Members
<b>2021</b>	47 Members
<b>2020</b>	51 Members
<b>2019</b>	54 Members
<b>2018</b>	58 Members
<b>2017</b>	68 Members
<b>2016</b>	61 Members
<b>2015</b>	54 Members

## **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-000101-2023**.

**Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, 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:** An Garda Síochána Imprest Account

**Account Number:** 30000302

**Sort Code:** 951599

**IBAN:** IE28DABA95159930000302

**BIC:** DABAIE2D

**You must ensure that your FOI reference number FOI-000101-2023 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**

5 APRIL, 2023.