

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-000268-2023 Request Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 2nd 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:

I'm am seeking clarity regarding the Analyst allowance. The information supplied is that the allowance is no longer payable. I have it on good authority that the allowance is still being paid. Garda HR bulletin 14 of 2023 indicates a member is being paid the allowance.

Therefore I submit an updated request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Expert Allowance:

- 1: Qualifying conditions to be eligible to receive the allowance - what degree/experience is required*
- 2: Is the allowance only payable to Technical Bureau members? If no who else is eligible?*
- 3: How is a member assessed if they are eligible for the allowance?*

Analyst (Garda) Allowance:

- 1: Qualifying conditions to be eligible to receive the allowance - what degree/experience is required*

2: How is a member assessed if they are eligible for the allowance?

I wish to inform you that I have decided to grant your request on 29th August 2023. The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt your request was forwarded to the relevant Sections within An Garda Síochána who have provided records to this office in respect of this request. The requested information is as follows:

Expert Allowance

The expert allowance is payable only to Garda members up to and including Inspector rank and only to personnel with specialist training / education within the specific disciplines in the Technical Bureau only.

When vacancies arise in the Technical Bureau for positions that attract the Expert Allowance, these vacancies are advertised and are open to Garda members (Garda, Sergeant and Inspector Rank). These positions normally include forensics, ballistics, photography and mapping. When an individual is appointed to these positions following competition, they may then apply for the Expert Allowance. Not all personnel in the Technical Bureau are in receipt of the Expert Allowance. No Garda staff member receives or is entitled to receive the Expert Allowance.

Ballistics & Forensic Investigation Section

Expert Courses (internal and external) and experiential learning required for each of the specialisms performed at the Ballistics & Forensic Investigation Section. Members are deemed to have full expert status after five (5) years' experience within the Section having successfully undertaken professional internal and external courses

Photographic Section

Members are deemed to have full expert status after five (5) years' experience within the Section having successfully undertaken professional internal and external courses

Mapping Section

(Required) Third level qualification relevant to the position, for example Surveying, Engineering, Construction, Architecture or other related discipline. Members are deemed to have full expert status after five (5) years' experience within the Section having successfully undertaken professional internal and external courses

Analyst (Garda) Allowance

In respect of the Analyst Allowance, which is payable to Garda members only, Employee Relations Section have advised as follows. The allowance is paid to Garda members on a personal basis. Members must hold a primary degree, hold an appropriate master's degree or they must undertake a course of study leading to an appropriate master's degree in order to qualify as an analyst and qualify for analyst allowance. You should note that this allowance was abolished for new beneficiaries, as per Government decision on 18th September 2012. The Department of Justice clarified "that a person undertaking the duty from 1 February onwards

have previously undertaken the duty and received that allowance, I would not consider them to be a new beneficiary.”

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-000268-2023**.

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-000268-2023) 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

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

29 AUGUST, 2023.