

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000098-2026 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 16th February, 2026 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:

Under the FOI Act 2014, I am seeking the following:

- *the overall amount paid by An Garda in overtime payments for 2025 broken down by division or unit.*
- *the twenty highest amounts paid to individual officers in 2025 in overtime payments and the gender of the officer in each case.*
- *the total pay of each of the officers above during 2025 to include overtime/basic pay/allowances or any other such payments.*
- *the rank of the officers concerned.*

I would prefer to receive this information electronically, ideally in its original electronic format.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 18th March, 2026. I have numbered your request for ease of reference. The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

In respect of part one of your request, the table below outlines the total overtime expenditure for An Garda Síochána from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025 of €193.50 million. This includes overtime paid to Garda members of €189.01 million. The remainder was paid to Garda staff. Please note that the figures should be considered draft pending the C&AG audit of the 2025 accounts.

Region	Overall Overtime Expenditure
Dublin Metropolitan Region	€71,438,562
North Western Region	€31,784,455
Eastern Region	€30,452,927
Southern Region	€24,989,092
HQ/National Units	€34,839,843

Part 2 of your request asks for the top 20 amounts paid out to individuals in overtime in An Garda Síochána for 2025. The table below outlines in the table below.

No	Rank	Gross Overtime Earnings
1	Inspector	€65,008
2	Sergeant	€61,232
3	Inspector	€60,277
4	Inspector	€59,543
5	Inspector	€59,408
6	Inspector	€59,081
7	Inspector	€58,635
8	Inspector	€56,902
9	Inspector	€56,475
10	Inspector	€56,200
11	Inspector	€55,870
12	Inspector	€55,467
13	Inspector	€55,083
14	Inspector	€54,780
15	Garda	€54,532
16	Inspector	€54,145
17	Inspector	€54,085
18	Inspector	€53,909
19	Inspector	€53,615
20	Sergeant	€53,531

I am refusing the parts of your request seeking “*the total pay of each of the officers above during 2025 to include overtime/basic pay/allowances or any other such payments and the rank, gender and Division of the officers concerned*” in accordance with Section 37(1) of the FOI Act. I believe if the Division and gender were provided and used in conjunction with their rank it could easily identify individual members.

The Act provides a right for members of the public to obtain access, to the greatest extent possible consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy, to information in the possession of public bodies. The right to privacy includes the right of employees of public bodies to privacy in respect of personal information held by a public body in respect of its

employees. The Act obliges me to retain personal information in a confidential and secure manner and prevent personal information from being released into the public domain unnecessarily. Personal information is defined at section 2 of the FOI Act and includes the following.

Section 2 – Interpretation

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,

and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes –

(ii) information relating to the financial affairs of the individual,

(iii) information relating to the employment or employment history of the individual

Information on the total pay of particular Garda members is clearly information in respect of the employment history and financial affairs of those individuals. Given the limited number of Garda members involved, I am satisfied that even in anonymised form the information sought is information in respect of identifiable individuals. The information sought in this part of your request is therefore, personal information for the purposes of the FOI Act.

Section 37 of the Act allows for the refusal of a request for “personal information” Section 37(1) of the Act states that:

Section 37 - Personal Information

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).*

Section 37(2) details certain circumstances where Section 37(1) does not apply, however I am satisfied that none of the provisions of Section 37(2) apply in this case.

Public Interest Test

Before applying Section 37(1) of the Act, I am also obliged by Section 37(5) to consider if, on balance, the public interest in granting this request outweighs the public interest in the right to privacy of the Garda member concerned being upheld. In doing so 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,
- The public interest in holding public bodies accountable in respect of their activities,
- The right to privacy may be 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:

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

The FOI Act recognises the public interest in the protection of the right to privacy. The Act makes clear that the release of records under FOI must be consistent with the right to privacy. It is also worth noting that the right to privacy has a constitutional dimension, as one of the unenumerated personal rights under the Constitution. Privacy rights will therefore be set aside only where the public interest served by granting the request (and breaching those rights) is sufficiently strong to outweigh the public interest in protecting privacy. It is also relevant to note that the release of records under FOI is in effect, regarded as release to the world at large, given that the Act places no constraints on the uses to which the information contained in those records may be put

I do believe that there is a particular public interest providing information in respect of how An Garda Síochána spends public money. I believe I have satisfied that interest in providing the information above in such a way that does not involve the disclosure of personal information in respect of specific Garda members. I am satisfied that there is not a sufficiently specific, cogent and fact-based public interest reason to set aside the right to privacy and tip the balance in favour of release in the level of detail requested.

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-000098-2026**.

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-000098-2026) 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,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PAUL BASSETT

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

17 MARCH, 2025.