

An Garda Síochána

Oifig Saoráil Faisnéise
An Garda Síochána
Teach áth Luimnigh
Lárionad Gnó Udáras Forbartha Tionscail
Baile Sheáin
An Uaimh
Contae na Mí
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Re: Freedom of Information Request 000051-2016 Internal review

Dear

I refer to the appeal which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) dated 28th April 2016 and received on the 29th April 2016. This letter only refers to your request for the following audit:

- *Audit of the Offices of the Regional Assistant Commissioners, January 2013*

A Chief Superintendent, who is a more senior member of staff of this Organisation, has conducted an Internal Review of your Freedom of Information request. His decision on review is an entirely new and separate decision on your request and is explained as such below.

Your request is shown below:

Under the FOI Act I wish to receive copies of the following records:

1) The following 2014 audit reports:

- *Audit of NBCI*
- *Expenditure review 2013 Vehicle Maintenance Contract*
- *Expenditure review 2014 GoSafe Camera Contract*
- *Audit Mayo Division*
- *Review Audit Mayo*

2) The following 2013 audit reports

- *Audit of procurement*
- *Audit of the Serious Crime Review Team following Allegations of Financial Irregularities.*
- *Audit of the Offices of the Regional Assistant Commissioners*

3) *The following 2012 audit reports*

- *Audit of Compensation Claims*
- *Audit of Controls in the Fixed Charge Penalty Office*
- *Audit of Tranman System*
- *Review of CCTV systems*

In arriving at his decision, the Internal Reviewer had regard to the original request, the records which were located as part of that request and the appeal which you submitted in this regard.

In reviewing the records in this particular case the Internal Reviewer gave particular consideration to the provisions of the FOI Act and also the legislative obligations placed upon An Garda Síochána under various Acts. In particular the definitions of functions and responsibility were considered as set out under section 7 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and the unique position the Garda Organisation holds within Irish Society, in providing policing and security services for the State with the objective of :

- (a) preserving peace and public order,
- (b) protecting life and property,
- (c) vindicating the human rights of each individual,
- (d) protecting the security of the State,
- (e) preventing crime,
- (f) bringing criminals to justice, including by detecting and investigating crime, and
- (g) regulating and controlling road traffic and improving road safety.

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 the only Garda records falling within the scope of the provisions of the FOI Act are administrative records relating to human resources, finance or procurement.

Having considered the nature and scope of the contents of “*Audit of the Offices of the Regional Assistant Commissioners*”, the Internal Reviewer does not consider the document to be akin to an administrative record or related to the administrative functions as set out in the FOI Act for An Garda Síochána as a partially included public body (Part1 (n) of Schedule 1).

In his considered opinion, auditing of the functions that are carried out in the process of applying the above mentioned objectives and primary function using numerous pieces of legislation does not fall within the definition of an administrative record. The audit of operational activities, application of legislation, seizure of property, investigations and oversight process is not in itself an administrative record for the purpose of human resources, finance or procurement as set out in Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act.

Therefore the Internal Reviewer has deemed your request with regards to the “*Audit of the Offices of the Regional Assistant Commissioners*”, out of the scope from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act insofar as it applies to An Garda Síochána. As a result, the relevant audit report will not be provided and your request for this record after an Internal Review has been refused.

You may appeal this decision by writing to the Information Commissioner at 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. There is a fee of €50 (€15 for medical card holder) for such appeals, other than appeals against a decision to impose a fee.

If you wish to appeal, you must usually do so not later than 6 months from the date of this notification. Should you write to the Information Commissioner making an appeal, please refer to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Helén Deely SUPERINTENDENT
HELEN DEELY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

23rd May 2016