

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



Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000343-2022 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 19th September, 2022 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 am requesting the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2014:

- 1 The number of Garda identification cards reported lost by members of AGS in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to date).*
- 2 The number of replacement Garda identification cards issued to members of AGS in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022 (to date).*
- 3 The number of Gardai who retired from AGS in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to date).*
- 4 The number of retiring Gardai who, upon their retirement, did not return their Garda issued identification in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to date).*
- 5 A copy of any current rules or guidelines for members who have employment or other business interests outside AGS.*
- 6 A copy of any current rules or guidelines relating to the acceptance of gifts or discounts by members AGS.*

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I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 14th October, 2022.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

Upon receipt, your request was forward to the relevant Sections of An Garda Síochána where a number of records have been identified.

Parts 1 and 2 of your request sought records in respect of Garda identification cards, details of which are listed in the table below:

NUMBER OF GARDA ID CARDS REPORTED LOST BY AGS BY MEMBERS							
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number	109	139	143	167	121	85	72
NUMBER OF REPLACEMENT GARDA ID CARDS ISSUED TO MEMBER OF AGS							
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number	121	136	211	215	108	44	114
REPLACED DUE TO PROMOTION							
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number	249	45	68	258	185	90	130

In Part 3 of your request you sought “*The number of Gardai who retired from AGS in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (to date)*”. The table below outlines the number of Garda members who have retired from An Garda Síochána from 2016 to 2022 as of 22nd September, 2022. These figures include Voluntary, Compulsory and Cost Neutral Early Retirements.

NUMBER OF GARDA MEMBERS WHO HAVE RETIRED							
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number	228	226	218	223	250	293	249

Part 4 of your request seeks “*The number of retiring Gardai who, upon their retirement, did not return their Garda issued identification*”. I have been advised that the information sought is not recorded. Therefore, I am refusing part 4 of your request and do so in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states:

Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests

15(1)(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken

The fifth part of your request seeks “*A copy of any current rules or guidelines for members who have employment or other business interests outside AGS*”. The Code of Ethics for An Garda Síochána requires that members act in the public interest and not allow circumstances to arise that might compromise, or appear to compromise, themselves or An Garda Síochána. Members must appropriately declare and manage any actual or potential conflict of interest that might impair their ability to carry out their duty or weaken public confidence in the Garda Síochána. This includes any conflict that might arise from a personal or business relationship

outside of a members' work in An Garda Síochána. The Garda Code of Ethics can be found at:

<https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/publications/policy-documents/code-of-ethics-2020.pdf>

In addition, the Ethics Acts (Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 (amended by the Standards in Public Office Act 2001)) provide for, among other things, the disclosure of 'registrable interests' by public servants including members of An Garda Síochána of Superintendent rank/Assistant Principal grade and above. Other specified posts in An Garda Síochána, associated with ICT and procurement must also make annual disclosures. 'Registrable Interests' are prescribed under the 'Second Schedule' to the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995. These Acts of the Oireachtas can be found at:

<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1995/act/22/enacted/en/html> and
<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2001/act/31/enacted/en/html>

You have also sought "A copy of any current rules or guidelines relating to the acceptance of gifts or discounts by members AGS". The Garda Síochána Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship policy is available on the Garda website at:

<https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/publications/policy-documents/gifts-hospitality-and-sponsorship-policy-document-2018-final.pdf>

I am therefore refusing part 5 and part 6 of your request and am doing so in accordance with Section 15(1)(d) of the FOI Act, which states that:

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 –
(d) the information is already in the public domain.*

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-000343-2022**.

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-000343-2022) 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**

14 OCTOBER, 2022.