

# 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)

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000444-2021 Part - Grant

*Dear*

I refer to your request, dated and received on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 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 would like to ascertain the following information under Freedom of Information*

*-The number of fines issued to members of An Garda Síochána in the Roscommon/Longford division in 2020 and 2021 to date.*

*-The total number of internal disciplinary procedures taken against members in Roscommon/Longford with examples of any suspensions etc handed down.*

*-The monetary breakdown on those respective fines and reasons behind the issuing of such fines.*

*-The numbers and any other types of disciplinary action undertaken during the same period.*

*-The amount of hours and money spent on garda overtime in the division inclusive of both dates*

I wish to advise that I have made a decision to part- grant your request on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.

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The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

## **1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision**

On receipt your request was forwarded to the relevant section within An Garda Síochána who have provided the following in relation to your request.

Records held at Internal Affairs, Garda Headquarters indicate that there have been 2 members of An Garda Síochána disciplined with monetary sanctions as a result in the period 2020/2021 in the Roscommon/Longford division.

I am refusing to provide further information on these fines as I believe that the individuals involved would become easily identifiable beyond their family and friends and it would be considered a breach of the confidentiality upon which the information is being held by the Garda Organisation. The release of information with regard to such a small number of members may allow for a person to become more identifiable and possibly named in the public domain. Therefore I am refusing release same in accordance with 37 (1) of the FOI Act which states;

### ***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).*

Personal information is defined at Section 2 of the FOI Act and includes the following:

### ***Section 2 – Interpretation***

1. (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—*
- (iii) *information relating to the employment or employment history of the individual*

There is a Public Interest Test applicable to Section 37 of the FOI Act.

### ***Public Interest Test***

As per Section 37 of the FOI Act 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,

- That there is more than just a transitory interest by the public in this information,
- The right to privacy is 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 best served by releasing these records,
- That the Organisation can conduct its business in a confidential manner,
- That there is a reasonable and implied expectation by employees that sensitive personal information will remain confidential,
- That there is no overriding public interest that outweighs the individual's right to privacy.

A public interest test was carried out when considering the release of the personal information but having balanced the factors both for and against the release, I decided that the public interest in preserving the personal information and the reasonable expectation that information can be maintained in a confidential manner by An Garda Síochána in the context of its dismissal and suspension proceedings outweighs the public interest which would be served were the records released to you.

In respect of part 5 of your request, Finance Section have advised that the amount of hours and value of overtime for the Roscommon/ Longford Division is as outlined in the table below.

<b>Overtime expenditure</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Hours</b>
2020	€1,292,192	34,549
2021	1,186,197	30,825

## **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-000444-2021**.

**Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Johnstown, 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-000444-2021 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 me by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



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**PAUL BASSETT**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER**

17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2022.