

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-000351-2022 Request Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on **22nd 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:

Records of the amount of money paid to individuals/firms in 2021 and for the first six months of this year for media training and PR services, and the number of Gardaí to receive media training in 2021 and the first six months of this year and their rank.

Records of the number of PR firms who applied for the tender in 2021 and this year and how much the tender in each year was estimated to cost

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

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 Sections of An Garda Síochána who have in turn provided this office with records.

I can advise that the amount paid to the Communications Clinic in 2021 and 2022 for public relations services, and communications support was €242,040. In addition I wish to advise that between 2021 and 2022 there were 8 courses provided for 17 members at a cost of €7,150. The training was provided to members of Assistant Commissioner, Chief Superintendent and Superintendent ranks.

PR services refers to support for internal communications initiatives to ensure all Garda personnel are kept regularly informed of COVID-19 health and safety measures, mental health and wellbeing supports, and changes to public health guidelines and regulations and operating procedures to keep themselves and the public safe during this national health crisis

In relation to the second part of your request I can advise that 3 companies applied for the tender in 2020. The contract was awarded in July 2020 for one year with the option to extend by 2 years. There has been no request for tender (RFT) published since 2020. The tender was estimated to cost €32,750 per year.

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-000351-2022**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, 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-000351-2022 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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PAUL BASSETT

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

14th OCTOBER, 2022.