

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:

www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000411-2020 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 12th November 2020 and received on 13th November 2020, 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 wish to apply under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for the following information relating to finance:

- a) The amount spent on psychological/psychiatric services for garda members and staff in each of the years 2017 and 2020 (to date)*
- b) The number of individual psychological/psychiatric services sessions recorded for garda members and staff in each of the years 2017 and 2020 (to date)*
- c) The number of calls to the Garda Independent Counselling Service in each of the years 2016 and 2020 (to date)*
- d) The cost of the garda Independent Counselling Service in each of the years 2016 and 2020 (to date)*

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I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 10th December 2020.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the relevant sections of An Garda Síochána who have supplied the following information.

(A.1) - Amount spent by the Garda Occupational Health Service on referrals to Independent Mental Health Specialists for mental health assessments – 2018, 2019, and 2020.

2018: €99,045

2019: €138,380

2020: €115,440 (to 30th Sept 2020)

(A.2) - Amount spent by the Garda Occupational Health Service on access to psychological treatment interventions – 2018, 2019, and 2020.

2018: €28,575

2019: €41,913

2020: €33,495 (to 30th Sept 2020)

In respect of your request for records relating to 2017, I am refusing this aspect of our request and am doing so pursuant to 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

(B) – The number of Garda members who attended appointments for assessment with independent mental health advisors is as follows:

2018: 185

2019: 216

2020: 179 (to 30th Sept 2020)

These figures refer to the number of members attending for assessment. Some Garda members may be referred on more than one occasion for assessment updates.

The number of Garda members attending treatment interventions with counselling services is

2018: 25

2019: 28

2020: 24 (to 30th Sept 2020)

Some Garda members may attend numerous sessions, the figures above are the number of members attending counselling sessions not the number of sessions attended.

In respect of your request for records relating to 2017, I am refusing this aspect of our request and am doing so pursuant to Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, as detailed above.

(C) – The number of calls to the Garda independent counselling service each year is set out below. The contract with the service provider runs from June to June each year and therefore the number calls to the service are recorded on a June to June basis.

	Number of telephone calls to the Inspire Helpline	Counselling services provided (Face to Face/Telephone)
June 2016 to June 2017	429	1328
June 2017 to June 2018	358	1734
June 2018 to June 2019	433	2517
June 2019 to June 2020	499	2096
1 st July 2020 to 30 th Nov 2020	296	1022

(D) – I can advise that the cost of the Garda independent counselling service each year is as follows:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Counselling Services	€205,354	€342,770	€349,015	€469,452	€361,181

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-000411-2020**.

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-000411-2020 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

10th DECEMBER 2020.