

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

Bí linn/Join us



Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000036-2020 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 17th January, 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:

All costs relating to the three farming protests held in Dublin on the following dates:

- 26 November 2019,
- 17 December 2019, and
- 15-16 January 2020.

Can those costs to be broken down for each of the three protests under the following headings please:

- *Garda overtime*
- *Equipment*
- *Traffic management*
- *Any other relevant costs to policing protests with heavy machinery.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 13th February 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 and a number of records have been provided accordingly.

Your request is seeking all costs relating to the farming protests held in Dublin. The information provided below details the costs associated with the protests on each date. However, overall costs for traffic management across the three protests have also been provided.

Traffic management across the three protests:

- Supply and place traffic management for Farmers protest: €3,745.50
- Barriers for Farmers protest:- €21,438.90

26 November 2019

- No costs identified
- Barriers for Farmers protest:- €12,632.10 (This amount is in addition to the above figure)

17 December 2019

- Traffic Management: Traffic diversions on St Stephens Green:- €2,951 –
- No Catering Costs incurred

15– 16 January 2020

- Hire of Equipment:- €202.96
- Meal costs:- €690
- Barriers for Farmers protest:- €26,632.57 (This amount is in addition to the above figure)

Please be advised that the above figures include invoices received to date. This information is subject to change in the event that further invoices are received.

I am to advise you that I am refusing records relating to the cost of Garda Overtime in accordance with Section 15(1)(c) of the FOI Act which states:

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 –
(c) in the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason of the number or nature of the records concerned or the nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of the records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned,*

The Finance Directorate have advised this office that no specific cost centre was established for the farming protests on the Financial Management Systems and therefore, the cost of overtime for this particular project is not held centrally. The claiming and payment of overtime by Garda members for the farming protests was processed along with other overtime worked for that particular roster. In order to retrieve this information specifically relating to the protests would require an manual trawl through all overtime claim forms within the Division to identify the

dates. This would cause a significant disruption to the work of the office. In this regard, I am refusing to provide the cost of overtime due to the voluminous nature for the provision of same.

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-000036-2020**.

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: Garda Síochána Finance Section Public Bank Account

Account Number: 10026896

Sort Code: 900017

IBAN: IE86BOFI90001710026896

BIC: BOFIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number FOI-000036-2020 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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,

 **ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**
MARIA BRODIGAN
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

13th February, 2020.