

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

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Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000086-2021 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 1st March, 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:

Under the FOI Act 2014, I am seeking the following:

- 1) The total number of sick days taken by all staff working for An Garda Síochána in 2020*
- 2) the number of sick leave days that were taken with a medical certificate, and the total number of sick leave days which were uncertified in 2020*
- 3) A breakdown of sick leave days taken by staff i.e. rank and file gardai / detectives/ garda sergeants and the number of days taken by administrative and other staff employed by An Garda Síochána.*
- 4) A breakdown if possible of leave as it related to a/ Covid-19 infection, b/ Covid-19 close contact, c/ all other illnesses.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to **part-grant** your request on the 16th March 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt your request it was forwarded to the relevant Sections of An Garda Síochána who have provided records to this Office in response to your request.

I wish to advise you that I am granting your request for the records sought in parts 1 and 3 of your request. Please see tables below.

<i>The total number of sick days taken by all staff working for An Garda Síochána in 2020</i>	
Total number of Sick Days taken in 2020	227,163.5

SAMS Master report 01/01/2020 -31/12/2020 @05/02/2021

<i>A breakdown of sick leave taken by Garda Members</i>	
Rank	No Of Days Absent
Assistant Commissioner	53
Chief Superintendent	67
Garda	172521.5
Inspector	851.5
Sergeant	15165
Superintendent	590
Grand Total	189248

SAMS Master report 01/01/2020 -31/12/2020 @05/02/2021

<i>A breakdown of sick leave taken by Staff Members</i>	
Rank	No Of Days Absent
Assistant Principal	317.5
Civilian Accountant	190
Civilian AO	16.5
Civilian CO	28107.5
Civilian CO Temp	741.5
Civilian EO	7078
Civilian HEO	1061.5
Civilian Industrial	145
Civilian Professional, Nurse and Solicitor	118
Civilian Teacher-Researcher	140
Grand Total	37915.5

SAMS Master report 01/01/2020 -31/12/2020 @05/02/2021

I am refusing the release of records in respect of parts 2 and 4 of your request and am doing so of in accordance under Section 15(1)(a) 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

As regards to part 2 of your request this office has been advised that the inputting of certified and uncertified sick leave may not be captured accurately on the Sick Absences Management System (SAMS) therefore to provide sick leave broken down may result in an inaccurate calculation of the different classifications of sick leave.

I have further been advised that the Sick Absences Management System (SAMS) does not record COVID absences as sick leave. In line with other public sector bodies, COVID related absences are recorded as special leave. However, there are several circumstances under which special leave with pay can be granted and the Garda Employee Management System (GEMS) does not differentiate between those reasons. Therefore it is not possible to provide specific data on COVID related absences for members, as GEMS does not have a specific category for COVID related absences. In order to establish details of COVID related absences a trawl through all special leave absences would have to be conducted.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, An Garda Síochána has initiated a number of measures to protect Garda Members and Staff. Included in these measures are:

- Changes to the roster for Garda Members,
- Increased signage in stations and the provision of hand sanitizing facilities,
- The use of PPE including face masks in situations where Members are unable to maintain recommended social distancing,
- The use of remote working where this can be facilitated.

As frontline responders, Members of An Garda Síochána are at increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 on a daily basis. However, it should be noted that Garda Members have maintained significantly high rates of availability during the pandemic and have responded to this emergency in order to continue serving our communities and protect the State by continuing to deliver a functioning police and security.

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-000086-2021**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Johnstown, 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-000086-2021) 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

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

16th MARCH, 2021