

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000286-2020 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 20th August 2020 and received on 21st August 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:

In accordance with the above Act, I wish to request the following records which I believe to be held by An Garda Síochána. I request this information in digital soft copy.

- 1) The annual cost of towing/recovery services of private cars and light goods vehicles, shown in tabular form by year and Garda division in which towing/recovery was ordered.*
- 2) The annual cost of towing/recovery services (including crane operating costs where applicable) of private heavy goods vehicles, shown in tabular form by year and Garda division in which towing/recovery was ordered.*

- 3) *Amount paid annually to private storage operators/recovery operators for the holding of vehicles taken under Garda possession, shown in tabular form by year, and county in which operator is located.*
- 4) *Annual cost of destroying private cars, light goods vehicles and heavy goods vehicles, seized by Gardai under Section 41, shown in tabular form by year, and Garda division vehicle was seized in.*
- 5) *Annual revenue to Gardai from the sale of private cars, light goods vehicles and heavy goods vehicles through auctions or private sales, shown in tabular form by year, and Garda division in which vehicle was taken possession in.*

The timeframe for all of the above requests is 01/01/2018 to the current date.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on 15th September 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 where a search was conducted in respect of same. A number of records were identified Finance Section, Garda Headquarters.

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.

Towing, Storage and Disposal fees include all vehicles detained under Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, official Garda vehicles and other vehicles seized or transported by An Garda Síochána for investigative, evidential and technical examination purposes. These figures can include sums paid to non contracted firms who had been requested to remove a vehicle in an emergency situation or in cases where the location of the vehicle presented a danger to other road users and required immediate removal.

In respect of parts 1 and 2 of your request, the annual cost of towing/recovery services in the years in question is as follows:

An Garda Síochána - Vehicle Towing 2018, 2019 and January - July 2020 by Division

Division	Year		Jan-July
	2018	2019	2020
Cavan / Monaghan	€ 95,241	€ 81,762	€ 24,882
Clare	€ 78,967	€ 73,643	€ 16,070
Cork City	€ 182,538	€ 162,795	€ 124,900
Cork North	€ 155,528	€ 211,983	€ 119,050
Cork West	€ 131,895	€ 92,670	€ 9,450
DMR East	€ 4,517	€ 116,259	€ 24,455
DMR North	€ 198,116	€ 329,454	€ 77,226
DMR North Central	€ 114,193	€ 191,263	€ 43,038

DMR South	€ 173,571	€ 179,475	€ 221,239
DMR South Central	€ 102,073	€ 96,968	€ 117,755
DMR Traffic Corps		€ 15,129	
DMR West	€ 303,846	€ 391,892	€ 183,847
Donegal	€ 79,097	€ 84,822	€ 42,239
Galway	€ 243,260	€ 425,756	€ 144,234
Kerry	€ 26,299	€ 47,291	€ 86,200
Kildare	€ 297,941	€ 307,351	€ 56,196
Kilkenny/Carlow Division	€ 136,020	€ 67,858	€ 41,740
Leix / Offaly	€ 149,136	€ 123,609	€ 57,283
Limerick	€ 260,467	€ 226,837	€ 244,518
Louth	€ 109,512	€ 121,832	€ 32,880
Mayo	€ 180,211	€ 141,715	€ 47,894
Meath Division	€ 158,717	€ 171,715	€ 57,054
National Units	€ 1,328	€ 148	€ 615
Roscommon /Longford	€ 183,308	€ 235,857	€ 118,466
Sligo / Leitrim	€ 79,587	€ 140,528	€ 91,685
Tipperary	€ 193,424	€ 215,424	€ 121,702
Waterford	€ 48,624	€ 42,137	€ 31,756
Westmeath	€ 105,527	€ 158,364	€ 59,557
Wexford	€ 137,696	€ 170,082	€ 81,940
Wicklow Division	€ 125,318	€ 88,407	€ 82,534
Grand Total	€ 4,055,957	€ 4,713,025	€ 2,360,404

Our financial systems do not record a distinction between towing private cars, light vehicles or heavy goods vehicles. All relevant expenditure is categorised as Towing. Therefore, I am refusing this element of parts 1 and 2 of your request. This refusal is made 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

Part 3 of your request sought “Amount paid annually to private storage operators/recovery operators for the holding of vehicles taken under Garda possession, shown in tabular form by year, and county in which operator is located.” An Garda Síochána’s financial systems are not capable of providing expenditure against the county in which the operator is based. Therefore I am refusing to provide the details requested in tabular form by county in which the operator is located. This refusal is based on the provisions of Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act which are detailed above.

I can however advise that the amount paid to service providers per Garda Division is as follows:

An Garda Síochána - Vehicle Storage - 2018, 2019 and January - July 2020 by Division

Division	Year		
	2018	2019	Jan-July 2020
Cavan / Monaghan	€ 118,994	€ 76,330	€ 74,188
Clare		€ 30,729	€ 58,693
Cork City	€ 141,401	€ 143,713	€ 54,464
Cork North	€ 373,376	€ 162,751	€ 141,325

Cork West	€ 41,834	€ 47,725	€ 12,890
DMR East	€ 25,035	€ 180,495	€ 64,940
DMR North	€ 453,749	€ 571,057	€ 266,657
DMR North Central	€ 228,675	€ 249,400	€ 84,301
DMR South	€ 297,245	€ 302,649	€ 188,003
DMR South Central	€ 76,005	€ 64,487	€ 150,059
DMR West	€ 621,429	€ 498,727	€ 407,040
Donegal	€ 421,436	€ 318,850	€ 204,544
Galway	€ 225,052	€ 264,903	€ 97,562
Kerry	€ 72,040	€ 66,880	€ 18,633
Kildare	€ 258,119	€ 186,417	€ 170,399
Kilkenny/Carlow Division	€ 99,861	€ 220,917	€ 62,200
Leix / Offaly	€ 188,756	€ 293,171	€ 157,987
Limerick	€ 313,982	€ 483,485	€ 139,135
Louth	€ 186,481	€ 93,791	€ 58,251
Mayo	€ 365,728	€ 270,788	€ 87,648
Meath Division	€ 170,572	€ 96,925	€ 64,262
National Units	€ 6,026	€ 450	€ 790
Roscommon /Longford	€ 251,085	€ 280,542	€ 155,223
Sligo / Leitrim	€ 196,382	€ 227,395	€ 66,838
Tipperary	€ 407,085	€ 277,069	€ 180,944
Waterford	€ 89,096	€ 86,516	€ 39,427
Westmeath	€ 185,411	€ 57,593	€ 84,388
Wexford	€ 216,870	€ 174,774	€ 90,851
Wicklow Division	€ 138,135	€ 102,949	€ 50,344
Grand Total	€ 6,169,860	€ 5,831,478	€ 3,231,987

The table below details the cost of disposing of vehicle seized by An Garda Síochána, as per part 4 of your request.

An Garda Síochána - Vehicle Disposal - 2018, 2019 and January - July 2020 by Division

Division	Year		Jan-Jul 2020
	2018	2019	2020
DMR East			€ 5,471
Donegal	€ 80		
Galway	€ 131,216	€ 77,027	€ 46,175
Meath Division	€ 8,179	€ 11,771	€ 10,867
Waterford	€ 104		
Grand Total	€ 139,579	€ 88,798	€ 62,514

In respect of part 5 of your request, I am advised that a central record of monies received from the sale of seized vehicles. Therefore I am refusing part 5 of your request and do so under the above mentioned Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

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-000286-2020**.

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-000286-2020 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,



PAUL BASSETT
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

15th **SEPTEMBER 2020.**