

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  

Please quote reference number FOI-000095-2017

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:

www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Date:

Kevin Doyle
The Irish Independent

RE: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000157-2017 **Partially Granted**

Dear Mr. Doyle,

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 4th April 2017, 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:

- *Details of all monies spent by An Garda Síochána on external Public Relations/Communications advice in the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and to date in 2017.*
- *A list of all third parties hired/contracted by garda either on a one-off or continuous basis to provide PR/Communications advice in the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.*
 - *Details of work undertaken by these third parties.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to partially grant your request on the 24th April, 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

A search of the financial management system was conducted at Finance Section, Garda Headquarters to identify the companies that were paid from the Garda Vote relating to public relations and media training services.

I advise that the expenditure on media and communication training by An Garda Síochána have been the subject of a number of requests under the FOI Act. An Garda Síochána, in keeping with section 8 of the FOI Act, maintains a list of decisions made on all non-personal requests, including the full decision letter on the Garda website (www.garda.ie), in the Freedom of Information section.

The following requests relate to your request:

Request Number	Section	Year
FOI-000180-2016	Finance Procurement	2016
FOI-000021-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000095-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000098-2017	Finance General	2017

I advise that I am refusing your request for “*Details of all monies spent by An Garda Síochána on external Public Relations/Communications advice in the years 2014, 2015, 2016*” pursuant to section 15(1)(d) and (i)(i) 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
- (d) the information is already in the public domain,
 - (i) the request relates to records already released, either to the same or previous requester where –
 - (i) the records are available to the requester concerned, or

However, I am granting your request for “*money spent ... Details of all monies spent by An Garda Síochána on external Public Relations/Communications advice... to date in*”. I advise that the total payment made to the Communications Clinic, up to 31st March, 2017 is € 18,266.00.

1. 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-000157- 2017**.

Freedom of Information Office,
An Garda Síochána,
Athlumney House,
IDA Business Park
Johnstown,
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: Garda Síochána Finance Section Public Bank Account

Account Number: 10026896

Sort Code: 900017

IBAN: IE86B0F190001710026896

BIC: BOFIIIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number FOI-000157-2017 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,

 SUPERINTENDENT

HELEN DEELY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER.

 **APRIL 2017**