

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



Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000394-2016 Partially Granted

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) and your submission to An Garda Síochána received on 27th October 2016.

Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 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:

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the number of garda vehicles that were allocated to An Garda Síochána within the last year.

Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald announced a €5.3m fund to provide for 260 new 'highpowered cars' would be allocated to the force by the end of 2015. I would be grateful if you could confirm if this has been enacted.

Please outline which divisions these cars have been allocated to.

I have now made a final decision to partially-grant your request on 24nd November 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

Your request was forwarded to the Finance Directorate where searches were conducted in relation to your request.

Part 1 of your request asks that we “provide a detailed breakdown of the number of Garda vehicles that were allocated to An Garda Síochána within the last year”. The tables below show the new allocation to the Garda Fleet in 2015 and 2016 (as of the 8th November 2016).

2015/2016 Vehicle Allocations

		2015	2016
CARS	Marked	217	101
	Unmarked	207	194
	Total	424	295
VANS	Marked	20	59
	Unmarked	29	58
	Total	49	117
MOTORCYCLES	Marked	0	60
	Unmarked	1	1
	Total	1	61
4X4's	Marked	2	26
	Unmarked	0	8
	Total	2	34
OTHER	Marked	3	5
	Unmarked	14	12
	Total	17	17
TOTAL		493	524

Table contents as of the 8 November 2016

In relation to part 2 of your request which states that “Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald announced a €5.3m fund to provide for 260 new 'highpowered cars' would be allocated to the force by the end of 2015. I would be grateful if you could confirm if this has been enacted”. We have been advised from the Finance Directorate that in October 2015, orders were placed for 254 vehicles to the amount of €5.3m. This included;

- 20 High powered vehicles
- 46 vans
- 8 motorcycles
- 150 patrol cars
- A number of pre owned vehicles mainly for surveillance

I also advise that the Transport Section within the Finance Directorate have previously answered Freedom of Information requests regarding the fleet, purchase of vehicles and fleet maintenance costs and this can be found on the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme at the following link <http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=15991>

In part 3 of your request you sought “*which divisions these cars have been allocated to*” I now wish to advise you that I am refusing this part of your request. The allocation of vehicles is the responsibility of the Divisional Officer and is based on operational requirements. As this is an operational matter your request it does not fall under the scope of the FOI Act in as far as it pertains to An Garda Síochána.

In addition, certain records are exempted in accordance with Section 42 of the FOI Act, specifically Section 42(b)(i) to (x) and 42(c)(i) refers as set out below;

Section 42. This Act does not apply to—

(b) a record held or created by the Garda Síochána that relates to any of the following:

- (i) the Emergency Response Unit;*
- (ii) the Secret Service Fund maintained by it;*
- (iii) the Special Detective Unit (SDU);*
- (iv) the witness protection programme sponsored by it;*
- (v) the Security and Intelligence Section;*
- (vi) the management and use of covert intelligence operations;*
- (vii) the Interception of Postal Packets and Telecommunications Messages (Regulation) Act 1993;*
- (viii) the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005;*
- (ix) the Criminal Justice (Surveillance) Act 2009;*
- (x) the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011,*

(c) a record held by—

- (i) the Criminal Assets Bureau,*

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-000394-2016**.

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-000394-2016) is included in the payment details.

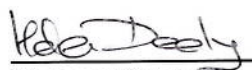
You should submit your request for an Internal Review within 4 weeks from the date of this notification. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of An Garda Síochána and the decision will be communicated to you within 3 weeks. The making of a late appeal 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 will be removed to protect confidentiality where applicable.

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.

24TH NOVEMBER 2016