

An Garda Síochána

Oifig Saoráil Faisnéise
An Garda Síochána
Teach áth Luimnigh
Lárionad Gnó Udáras Forbartha Tionscail
Baile Sheáin
An Uaimh
Contae na Mí



Freedom of Information Office
An Garda Síochána
Athlumney House
IDA Business Park
Johnstown
Navan
Co Meath

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-000008-2016 Part-Grant

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and my correspondence to you of 8th January 2016 and to your submissions to this body, received on 8th January 2016.

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by An Garda Síochána:

- *The overall amount received by Gardai in retirement lump sum payments in 2015.*
- *The total amount received by Gardai in retirement lump sum payments in 2014.*
- *The top 20 amounts received by Gardai last year in retirement lump sums and the county in which they operated and their rank?*
- *The amount paid out in overtime last year to Gardai and the top 20 amounts received by Gardai and the area in which they operate and their rank?*
- *The total amount paid out in overtime to Gardai in 2015.*

I have now made a final decision to **part grant** your request.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

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

The first two parts to your request has sought:

- *The overall amount received by Gardai in retirement lump sum payments in 2015.*
- *The total amount received by Gardai in retirement lump sum payments in 2014.*

Pensions and gratuities paid on retirement are based on factors which may vary from person to person, including length of service, rank and their date of commencement of pensionable employment.

The cost to the Exchequer of the Superannuation benefits for members of An Garda Síochána is met each year out of current revenue from the Garda Vote.

The scheme is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of the Pensions Act, 1990. The main benefits payable under the scheme are pension and retirement/death gratuity.

Pension and Retirement gratuity payments are determined by:

- total reckonable service (maximum = 40 years) and
- pensionable remuneration on last day of reckonable service

Pension and gratuity are payable for each year (and portion of a year) of reckonable service at the following rates:

- Pension: 1/80th of reckonable remuneration,
- Gratuity: 3/80ths of reckonable remuneration.

The maximum pension payable (other than a Special Pension) is 40/80^{ths} (0.5) of pensionable remuneration and maximum gratuity is 120/80^{ths} (1.5) times pensionable remuneration.

It should be noted that approved service after the 20th year of service is doubled for pension purposes. Accordingly, a member with 30 years approved service has fulfilled the service requirement to be awarded maximum superannuation benefits:-

30 years actual service = 20 + 20 (10 years doubled) ==> 40 years reckonable service

There is no minimum service requirement for death gratuity. However, depending on service, the member's legal personal representative receives a minimum of 1 year's pensionable remuneration or up to a maximum of 1.5 years' pensionable remuneration.

Please see table below which outlines the monies paid to members of An Garda Síochána in retirement lump sums for the years 2014 and 2015.

	2014 €'000	2015 €'000
Gratuities	25,909,669	24,193,777

Information may be obtained on the number of members who retired in 2014 from the 2014 Annual Report which is available on www.garda.ie. The URL link is as below:
<http://www.garda.ie/Documents/User/Annual%20Report%202014%20English%20Dec%202015.pdf>

Below, please see table which contains the retirement statistics for 2015.

2015	Comm	Deputy Com	Assistant Comm	Chief Supt	Super	Inspector	Sgt	Garda	Total
Voluntary	0	0	1	3	8	12	75	123	222
Compulsory	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	7	14
CNER*	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total	0	0	1	4	11	13	78	131	238

* - Cost Neutral Early Retirement

You have also sought access to:

- *The top 20 amounts received by Gardai last year in retirement lump sums and the county in which they operated and their rank?*

I am to advise you that I am part-granting this section of your request. The sections of the Act which can apply to deny access to documents are known as its exemption provisions. Under Section 37(1) wherein it states:

Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information

The information you have sought is personal information and the provision of same may lead to the identification of the individuals concerned. However, I am in a position to provide you with the total amount paid to the top 20 gratuity recipients for 2015. This figure was €2,878,496.68.

The latter part of your request sought

- *The amount paid out in overtime last year to Gardai and the top 20 amounts received by Gardai and the area in which they operate and their rank?*

The total amount paid out in overtime last year to Gardai was €56,330,000

Please see the table below outlining the top 20 overtime earners in 2015. This is broken down by region, amount and rank. It should be noted that overtime is only payable to members at Garda, Sergeant and Inspector rank.

List of members receiving Highest Overtime Payments

	Location	Value €	Grade			Location	Value €	Grade
1	DMR	62,996	GARDA		11	DMR	43,114	GARDA
2	DMR	51,142	GARDA		12	DMR	43,094	SERGEANT
3	NATIONAL SERVICES	49,696	INSPECTOR		13	DMR	42,549	SERGEANT
4	DMR	49,019	INSPECTOR		14	DMR	42,455	SERGEANT
5	WESTERN REGION	47,601	INSPECTOR		15	DMR	42,012	SERGEANT
6	EASTERN REGION	47,292	INSPECTOR		16	DMR	41,329	GARDA
7	DMR	45,372	GARDA		17	DMR	41,276	SERGEANT
8	DMR	45,218	GARDA		18	DMR	39,601	SERGEANT
9	DMR	44,943	SERGEANT		19	DMR	39,206	GARDA
10	DMR	43,983	SERGEANT		20	DMR	39,088	SERGEANT

2. Rights 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 **F01-000008-2016**.

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: BOFIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number 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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

5th February 2016