

An Garda Síochána

Oifig Saoráil Faisnéise
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-000280-2016 Refused

Dear .

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) and your submission to An Garda Síochána dated and received on 25th July 2016.

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 is shown below:

‘A detailed breakdown of payments made to companies for translating services between 1/1/10-31/12/12. I wish for the breakdown to include the name of the company in receipt of payment as well as a description of work carried out. I am only interested in translations from English to Irish.’

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on 9th August 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions

Details of your request were provided to the Finance Section of An Garda Síochána to identify records held which show the fees paid to companies relating to translation services from English into Irish. As previously advised in correspondence dated 4th July 2016, no complete record could be located that showed the costs for English to Irish translations incurred by An Garda Síochána.

There are records held relating to translation costs and each record held may or may not identify the specific translation type conducted which incurred the cost. Each record held would have to be checked manually to identify the type of service provided and the languages involved. However, in some cases the records do not necessarily have this level of detail recorded and so it is not possible to identify the languages involved from the records. As a result the information gathered would be incomplete even if all records were researched individually. Therefore, there is no overall single record, which has the information you seek, held within An Garda Síochána Finance Section.

As the record does not exist, I am refusing your request on administrative grounds under Section 15(1)(a) which states:

Section 15 – 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

(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken.

However, an expenditure report was generated from the Financial Management System for the overall translation services costs for years 2010 to 2012. Table A shows the financial figure for translation services which includes services such as written translations, person to person translations, telephone interpretation services, etc. The costs associated with translations for the Garda organisation are paid to numerous companies and individuals.

Translation Services Expenditure Report for 2010 to 2012

Table A*

Year	2010	2011	2012
Cost	€2,358,445	€1,845,352	€1,173,934

**Figures are operational and liable to change*

An Garda Síochána has a duty under the Official Languages Act, 2003 (Act 2003) and An Garda Síochána’s Language Scheme to issue certain documents and publications bilingually in both Irish and English. An Garda Síochána has engaged the services of various companies and individuals to provide professional translations services to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Act 2003. Corporate documents such as Annual Reports and public facing documents are routinely presented to the public bilingually. In particular, section 9 and 10 of the Act 2003 places a duty on the Garda organisation to ensure core documents and publicly issue documents are issued in Irish and English.

The provisions of the Act 2003 place a duty upon the Organisation which in turn incurs certain financial expenditure on an annual basis.

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 – 000280-2016**.

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,

 SUPERINTENDENT
HELEN DEELY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER.

9th AUGUST 2016