

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-000365-2016 Request Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 30th September 2016 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2014 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:

The amount paid in overtime to members of the Gardaí in the year 2014 and September 2015 up to September 2016.

I have now made a final decision to Grant your request on 24th October 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 a search was conducted in this regard. Please see table below which outlines the amount paid in overtime to members of the Gardaí in the year 2014 and September 2015 up to September 2016

2014	September 2015- September 2016 inclusive (13 months)
€37,254,315	€85,167,880

The Commissioner officially launched a National Anti Crime Strategy titled Operation Thor on the 2nd November, 2015 with a primary focus on crime prevention and the targeting of individuals involved in the commission of burglary and burglary related crime.

A budget of €5 million was provided by the Department of Justice & Equality to support the effective implementation of Operation Thor, to include a combination of additional high visibility patrols, checkpoints, rapid armed response and public awareness measures. This supplementary budget was provided to cover Operation Thor activities from the period 2nd November, 2015 to 27th March, 2016 and has been fully expended. €4.5 million was devolved to Garda Regions/Branches in the form of overtime in order to facilitate additional policing activity with the remainder going towards a high profile national crime prevention awareness campaign and targeted crime prevention advice for local communities.

In February 2016 an extra €5 million was allocated by the Department of Justice and Equality to resource additional measures to tackle organised crime. €3.7 million was devolved to Garda Regions/Branches in the form of overtime in order to facilitate multiple rolling checkpoints, extra patrols and implementing measures to tackle organised crime. The remainder was used to provide operational equipment to support the abovementioned measures. The €5 million was fully expended by the end of June 2016.

The overtime budget for 2016 has been increased as part the additional overall allocation of €55 million announced by the Minister for Justice & Equality on 8th June 2016 which included €5m previously announced in February with regard to the establishment of an armed response unit in DMR and specific organised crime operations.

Additional monies were made available to support the necessary policing response to organised crime on an ongoing basis and allow for:

- Concentrated policing targeting gang related crime
- The continued intensive and strategic targeting of burglaries and related crime through ongoing support for Operation Thor
- Continued support for measures against terrorism

The additional funding also covers the policing costs including overtime for one off events as follows:

- State Visit of American Vice President Joe Biden
- State Visit of Prince of Wales
- 1916 Commemorative Events

However, I advise that we have received and answered a number of requests seeking details of overtime in An Garda Síochána which may be of interest to you. These decisions are published in the FOI Section of An Garda Síochána website at the following link: <http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=15037@Lang=1> under the Finance Section.

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 **F01-000365-2016**.

Freedom of Information Office
An Garda Síochána,
Athlumney House
IDA Business Park,
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

24th OCTOBER, 2016