

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

**Mr. Cianan Brennan,
The Journal.ie,**

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000037-2017 Request Part Grant

Dear Mr. Brennan,

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 17th January 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:

The amount of money spent by AGS on retaining the services of the Communications Clinic between 2013 and 2017

Where possible this information should be presented itemised by month and year, and by individual monetary strand (eg specific public relations clinics, the establishment of the Garda Application Clinic).

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on the 27th February 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision. This explanation has the following parts:

Seirbhísí gairmiúla póilíneachta agus slándála a sholáthar le hiontaoibh, muinín agus tacaíocht na ndaoine ar a bhfreastalaimid

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An explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied.

A statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

Details of your request were forwarded to the Finance Directorate within An Garda Síochána who conducted a search of their records and identified the records attached at Appendix A.

An Garda Síochána awarded a contract, after a public procurement competition, to The Communications Clinic in respect of *Media Training for Personnel in An Garda Síochána* and the contract was signed on the 30th September 2015. The media training programme for Senior Officers and Managers enables An Garda Síochána to provide more spokespeople to the media in order to keep the public informed about how An Garda Síochána prevents and tackles crime. Under this training programme over 100 senior officers and managers have received media training. This has also seen The Communications Clinic provide advice on communication initiatives.

As the contract for the Communications Clinic was signed in September 2015, there are no financial records available prior to September 2014, therefore I am refusing the release of records for payments to the Communications Clinic in 2013 under Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states:

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.*

The payment for September 2014 was for media training for the then new Garda Press Officer. This work was awarded to Communications Clinic on a once-off basis following a request for three quotes, which is in line with procurement procedures given the amount to be spent.

I can also advise you that this contract was subject to a previous Freedom of Information request (FOI-000180-2016). An Garda Síochána publishes all decisions made on requests for non-personal information, including the full decision letter, on its website. The relevant decision and released records are available at the following link: <http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=16976>.

Part 2 of your request sought a breakdown ‘*by individual monetary strand (eg specific public relations clinics, the establishment of the Garda Application Clinic)*’. I now wish to advise you that I am also refusing this part of your request under Section 15(1)(a). No records in relation to public relations clinics or the establishment of a Garda Application Clinic have been identified and therefore no records can be released in this regard.

2. Right of Appeal

Seirbhísí gairmiúla póilíneachta agus slándála a sholáthar le hiontaoibh, muinín agus tacaíocht na ndaoine ar a bhfreastalaimid

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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 **F01-000037-2017**.

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 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,



HELEN DEELY.
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER.
27TH FEBRUARY 2017

Seirbhísí gairmiúla póilíneachta agus slándála a sholáthar le hiontaoibh, muinín agus tacaíocht na ndaoine ar a bhfreastalaímid

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FOI 37-2017

Payments to The Communications Clinic

January 2017

	JAN-17	Grand Total
Payments to The Communications Clinic	9,533	9,533

FOI 37-2017

Payments to The Communications Clinic

January-December 2016

	JUN-16	JUL-16	AUG-16	OCT-16	NOV-16	Grand Total
Payments to The Communications Clinic	11,490	57,798	2,265	11,439	9,963	92,955

FOI 37-2017

Payments to The Communications Clinic

January-December 2015

	DEC-15	Grand Total
Payments to The Communications Clinic	10,400	10,400

FOI 37-2017

Payments to The Communications Clinic

January-December 2014

	SEP-14	Grand Total
Payments to The Communications Clinic	800	800