

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

Bí linn/Join us



Láithreán Gréasain/Website:

www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist./Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000068-2017. Request Refusal.

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 19th February, 2017 and received on 20st February, 2017 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:

In accordance with Section 7 of the above mentioned Act, I wish to request the following records which I believe to be held by the Garda Headquarters of Human Resources:

- 1) The number of untrained Garda drivers driving official Garda vehicles, without having done an official Garda driving course.*
- 2) The number of road traffic accidents involving Garda vehicles in 2016.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 24th February, 2017.

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

1. An explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied:
2. A statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

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.

With regard to the first part of your request, I advise that a Chief Superintendent may authorise a member who has not undergone Garda Driver Training to drive an official vehicle. This decision is made on a case by case basis and for operational reasons and therefore falls outside the scope of the FOI Act as it relates to An Garda Síochána.

The details of the Garda Driver Training courses are available on the Garda Website at the following link: <http://garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=10129>

The second part of your request seeking "The number of road traffic accidents involving Garda vehicles in 2016" does not refer to an "administrative records relating to human resources, or finance or procurement matters." Therefore it is outside the scope of the FOI Act insofar as it pertains to An Garda Síochána.

In its Annual Report, the Comptroller and Auditor General provides the number and cost of accidents involving official Garda vehicles under "*Vote 20 – An Garda Síochána*".

The 2016 figures are not yet published but 2015 figures are available from their website at <http://www.audgen.gov.ie/documents/annualreports/2015/appacc/en/vote%2020.pdf>. These may be of interest to you.

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-000068-2017**.

Freedom of Information
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 (FOI-000068-2017) 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 OFFICE.

23RD FEBRUARY, 2017