

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000190-2016

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to An Garda Síochána dated 10th May 2016 and received on 11th May 2016.

Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 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:

Can you please state the annual cost of the Garda Ministerial Pool in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010.

Please breakdown by office holder.

Can you please state what that money is used for, does it include the salary of driver or fuel? Also, can you please detail what service is provided in the Garda ministerial pool / what service is provided to the office holders?

I have now made a final decision to **refuse** your request on today’s date.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for Decision

Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act states an FOI request may be refused if:

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

The information you have sought is not available within the Finance Directorate of An Garda Síochána. However, in keeping with Government's commitment under the Programme for National Recovery 2011-2016, revised arrangements for Ministerial transport were implemented in May and June 2011.

A Financial Management System expenditure report was prepared by the Finance Directorate for the cost of the Ministerial Pool for years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016. This represents the total expenditure for maintaining the Ministerial Pool which provides transportation services for the following 6 office holders:

- President
- Taoiseach
- Tánaiste
- Minister for Justice and Equality
- Director of Public Prosecution
- Chief Justice

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of costs by office holder on the Financial Management system. However, the table below outlines the annual cost of the Garda Ministerial Pool for the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016. These costs include salaries and fleet management.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016 (Jan – April)
€7,502,896	€4,595,140	€2,200,715	€2,159,609	€2,142,029	€703,971

Section 15(1)(d) states that

*'a head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –
(d) the information is already in the public domain*

As you may be aware, the cost of the Ministerial Pool for 2015 was previously published by An Garda Síochána under the Freedom of Information Act and is available on the Garda website in the FOI Decision Log. This information can be accessed by following the attached link:
www.garda.ie/Documents/User/FOI-000032-2016%20Decision.pdf

You have also sought details on *'what service is provided in the Garda ministerial pool / what service is provided to the office holders'*

As previously advised, Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 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.

In this regard, I am refusing this aspect of your request as the information sought does not constitute an administrative record relating to human resources, finance or procurement.

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 **F01-000190-2016**.

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.

20th May 2016