

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-000447-2016 . Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated 2nd December, 2016 and received on 5th December, 2016 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 is shown below: -

1. The amount spent by the Gardaí in overtime in 2016.
2. The five top operations in terms of overtime payments by Gardaí in 2016.
3. A breakdown of the Garda overtime bill for 2016 by Garda division.
4. A breakdown of the Garda overtime bill for 2015 by Garda division.
5. The top 20 overtime payments to Gardaí in 2016 and their rank.

I have now made a final decision to grant your request on 19th December 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

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 following records below.

Part 1 of your request is seeking the amount spent by the Gardaí in overtime in 2016. Table A below outlines the total amount spent on overtime in 2016. The figures provided are the most up to date figures as of 31st October 2016. Due to the work patterns in An Garda Síochána, overtime returns for recent months may not have been completely finalised. Therefore, the figures provided for 2016 may be subject to change.

Table A:

2016 (Jan-Oct)
71,286,887

Part 2 of your request sought the five top operations in terms of overtime payments by Gardaí in 2016. The specific financial costs involved with operational matters are not within the scope of the FOI Act insofar as An Garda Síochána is concerned. 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*”. Many of the operations undertaken by An Garda Síochána involve specialist sections which are exempt from the provisions of the FOI Act.

Overtime expenditure is incurred on a number of specific operations including organised crime throughout the country in addition to regular Garda overtime. Outside of ring-fenced specific policing operations, overtime typically arises in the following circumstances.

Crime investigation	30%
Court attendance	25%
Protection, security and escort duties	10%
Traffic, major events & other duties	35%

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 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

Overtime for one off events up to November 2016 is shown below.

- State Visit of American Vice President Joe Biden - 2.7 million
- State Visit of Prince of Wales - 0.4 million
- 1916 Commemorative Events - 2.3 million

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.

Part 3 and part 4 of your request seeks a breakdown of the Garda overtime bill for 2015 and 2016 by Garda division. In this regard the overtime expenditure for the 28 operational Divisions is provided. These figures do not include the National Units or Garda Headquarters.

Table B:

Division	2015	2016*
Cavan/Monaghan	825,400	791,037
Clare	937,636	732,434
Cork City	856,368	853,370
Cork North	474,963	344,911
Cork West	331,369	257,517
DMR East	1,297,301	1,568,869
DMR North	4,270,437	6,402,633
DMR North Central	5,245,402	8,278,967

Division	2015	2016*
DMR South	2,834,737	3,693,183
DMR South Central	8,162,497	7,668,685
DMR West	3,719,402	6,007,853
Donegal	882,329	1,113,595
Galway	1,437,938	1,222,099
Kerry	526,553	757,980
Kildare	872,589	1,064,747
Kilkenny/Carlow	752,449	1,090,379
Laois/Offaly	1,516,397	1,534,495
Limerick	1,462,738	1,171,207
Louth	1,440,296	1,959,349
Mayo	1,224,295	1,454,373
Meath	968,720	1,102,637
Roscommon/Longford	733,054	644,340
Sligo/Leitrim	591,180	478,389
Tipperary	861,869	1,153,072
Waterford	884,965	853,773
Westmeath	486,258	561,167
Wexford	616,131	884,566
Wicklow	631,534	723,506
Total	44,844,809	54,369,132

*Figures for 2016 are from January to October 2016.

The nature of Garda work and the requirement that the Garda authorities respond, in some cases at short notice, to immediate policing demands means that there is a necessity to incur overtime expenses to ensure effective policing. Accordingly, there will always be a need for a certain level of overtime to allow An Garda Síochána flexibility when responding to circumstances that require additional resources for specific operations. These additional resources will have to be over and above those available from Gardaí on rostered duty thus ensuring the continuation of normal policing duties unabated.

In addition a number of police led operations, in various years, required the deployment of extra resources on overtime. This includes the implementation of anti-crime and anti-burglary initiatives such as Operation Anvil and Operation Thor. Similarly non-crime related events and events organised by interest groups within the general public can require overtime to police effectively as additional Gardaí may need to be deployed to ensure public safety.

Part 5 of your request sought the top 20 overtime payments to Gardaí in 2016 and their rank. Table C below outlines the top 20 overtime earners in 2016. This is broken down by amount and rank. It should be noted that overtime is only payable to members at Garda, Sergeant and Inspector Rank.

Table C:

Top 20 Overtime Earners 2016 - details up to payday 08/12/2016.

Current Rank	Payment
SERGEANT	€64,243.66
SERGEANT	€62,148.71
SERGEANT	€56,210.04
GARDA	€54,638.10
GARDA	€53,456.99
GARDA	€53,259.01
GARDA	€52,699.01
GARDA	€52,259.68
SERGEANT	€52,050.10
SERGEANT	€51,707.57
GARDA	€50,404.40
GARDA	€50,194.66
GARDA	€49,979.87
SERGEANT	€49,808.71
GARDA	€49,507.51
SERGEANT	€48,912.26
SERGEANT	€48,860.55
SERGEANT	€48,782.71
INSPECTOR	€48,316.47
GARDA	€47,941.27

2. Rights 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-000447-2016**.

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: IE86BoF190001710026896
BIC: BOFIIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number **FOI-000447-2016** 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
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER.

19th December 2016