

# 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](http://www.garda.ie)

*Bí linn/Join us*  

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: [foi@garda.ie](mailto:foi@garda.ie)

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000132-2016 Request Partially Granted

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) and your submission to this body, dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and received on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

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:

1. *Details and the cost and number of new segways for gardaí in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.*
2. *Details and the cost of maintenance for segways for gardaí in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.*
3. *Details of the number of segways currently held for gardaí and the stations/locations they are held in.*
4. *A breakdown of the cost of safety gear, including but not limited to helmets and high-visibility clothing, for gardaí that use the segways from 2012 to 2015.*
5. *The cost of training gardaí to use the segways between 2012 and 2015 and how many gardaí are permitted to use the segways now.*
6. *The details of the training gardaí undertook to use the segways from 2012 to 2015.*

I wish to inform you that your request has been partially granted.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

## 1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

In 2012 a feasibility study was conducted by An Garda Síochána on the deployment of Segways in a police setting. The Segway PT (Personal Transporter) is a battery operated, two wheeled single person transport device. A Segway is classed as a mechanically propelled vehicle in Ireland. An Garda Síochána, were issued with a permit authorising the use of Segways on footways, cycle tracks and pedestrian areas in the normal course of duty.

The study identified that a Garda on a Segway could cover an area more than nine times larger than on foot patrol because he/she can travel 3-4 times walking speed. The Segway can negotiate places a car or even bicycle cannot go such as going into buildings or pedestrian areas. It can travel at speeds up to 24miles/38Km on a single charge. It can be charged on a standard wall socket and a full charge takes between 8-10 hours.

The Garda Segway pilot was launched in Dublin city centre based at Pearse Street on the 31st October 2012. The pilot was later extended to Store Street Garda Station.

High visibility policing is a key police strategy and many communities actively campaign for increased high visibility patrols. The introduction of Segways patrols were seen as a tool to assist An Garda Síochána in satisfying the community demand for high visibility patrols. Community reaction to Segway patrols has been largely positive. The use of Segways in pedestrian areas in Dublin City centre has had a positive impact on public engagement. A pilot review in 2013 indicated a very positive reaction to Garda Segway patrols within the community. The favourable reactions have been expressed at meetings with communities and the patrol officers.

In relation to Parts 1, 2 & 3 of your request:

1. *Details and the cost and number of new segways for gardaí in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015.*
2. *Details and the cost of maintenance for segways for gardaí in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.*
3. *Details of the number of segways currently held for gardaí and the stations/locations they are held in.*

I wish to inform you that there are four Segways currently in operation in the Dublin Metropolitan Region which are allocated to duty specifically in the Dublin 1 and 2 areas of the city centre.

In 2012, Dublin City Centre Business Association (DCCBA) donated two Segways to An Garda Síochána. In 2014, Dublin Town donated two additional Segways to An Garda Síochána. The four Segways were subsumed into the Garda fleet.

The table below outlines the costs associated with the fitting of Garda markings, servicing and repairs of the four Segways:

| Year | Costs (€) | Breakdown                                 |
|------|-----------|---|
| 2012 | 1640.76   | Cost to fit Garda markings to two Segways |
| 2013 | 0         |   |

|      |         |  |
|------|---------|--|
| 2014 | 1640.76 | Cost to fit Garda markings to two Segways              |
| 2015 | 2568.11 | Repairs and servicing to two Segways purchased in 2012 |
| 2016 | 944.30  | Repairs to two Segways purchased in 2014               |

In relation to Part 4 of your request:

4. *A breakdown of the cost of safety gear, including but not limited to helmets and high-visibility clothing, for gardaí that use the segways from 2012 to 2015.*

It has been determined that these specific records do not exist in the format in which you have requested them. A unique Garda uniform does not exist for the use of Segways, however only appropriately trained and equipped members of the relevant Divisional Mountain Bike Unit(s) are deemed suitable for additional training to facilitate deployment on Segways.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act, I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify and locate the requested records.

Part 4 of your request is therefore refused under Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act which states:

15. (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,*

In relation to Part 5 & 6 of your request:

5. *The cost of training gardaí to use the segways between 2012 and 2015 and how many gardaí are permitted to use the segways now.*  
 6. *The details of the training gardaí undertook to use the segways from 2012 to 2015.*

It has again been determined that these specific records do not exist in the format in which you have requested them. I wish to inform you that there were no training costs to the Garda vote as Segway training was provided with the units when donated to An Garda Síochána by the DCCBA and Dublin Town.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act, I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify and locate the requested records.

Part 5 & 6 of your request is therefore refused under Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act which states:

15. (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,*

Further to the above 'how many gardaí are permitted to use the segways now' is also refused under Section 32(1)(a)(i) of the FOI Act as I am of the opinion that this information can be reasonably

expected, if used inappropriately, to prejudice or impair the Garda Organisation's operational capabilities in:

- (i) *“the prevention, detection or investigation of offences, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders or the effectiveness of lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures employed for the purposes of the matter aforesaid”*

The data sought, if released, will, in my opinion, unnecessarily expose the operational capabilities of An Garda Síochána in this particular area of high visibility patrols, therefore it is reasonable to expect that it would impair or prejudice the Organisation's capability to enforce current legislation and investigate crime.

## **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 **F01-000132-2016**.

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](http://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**

4<sup>th</sup> May 2016