

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

Bí linn/Join us



Láithreán Gréasain/Website: www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000452-2016 Request Refused

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 6th 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 sought:

1. *The amount spent since 2012 on Segways for members of An Garda Síochána.*
2. *The amount spent on maintenance costs, as well as the amount spent fitting each Segway with specialist Garda markings.*
3. *Details of any Segways gifted to the force.*
4. *Under what specific circumstances are the vehicles deployed i.e. in pedestrianized areas only, or during once off, high profile events?*
5. *Is it the case that only trained and equipped members of the Divisional Mountain Bike Unit are permitted to use the Segways while on duty?*

I wish to inform you that I decided to refuse your request on the 20th December 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that 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

The sections of the Act which can apply to deny access to documents are known as its exemption provisions.

In relation to Parts 1, 2, 3 & 5 of your request I wish to advise that they being refused under Section 15(1)(i) as the questions have been previously answered in request FOI-000132-2016 which has been published and is available on the Garda website. You may access the decision log by following the attached link:

<http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=16975&Lang=1>

Section 15(1)(i) of the Freedom of Information Act states that:

*'A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where -
(i) the request relates to records already released, either to the same or a previous requester'*

Decision logs are published monthly and reflect all FOI requests received and answered in Freedom of Information Office of An Garda Síochána.

Part 4 of your request *'Under what specific circumstances are the vehicles deployed i.e. in pedestrianized areas only, or during once off, high profile events?'* is being refused under section 32(1)(a)(iii) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014. I am of the opinion that this information can be reasonably expected, if used inappropriately, to prejudice or impair An Garda Síochána in:

(iii) *"lawful methods, systems, plans or procedures for ensuring the safety of the public and the safety or security of persons and property"*

However, high visibility policing is a key police strategy and many communities actively campaign for increased high visibility patrols. The introduction of Segway 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 Segway's 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.

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 **F01-000452-2016**.

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: BOFIIIE2D

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

21st December 2016