

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

Riomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000363-2016 Partial Granted

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to this body dated 5th October, 2016 and received on 6th October, 2016 and my correspondence to you on the 2nd November 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 is shown below:

-records relating to the money An Garda Síochána has spent on firearms training for its members in the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and up to and including the 31/09/2016.

These records should detail be broken down by year and detail the overall cost per annum spent on firearms training as well as the number of gardai who received firearms training per annum.

I have now made a final decision to partially grant your request on 28th November, 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions.

The costs associated with firearms training refer to the annual amount of subsistence allowance paid to the Firearms instructors for the provision of firearms training. The figures provided below show the total costs for years 2010 to September 2016. The Firearms Training Units are based at Garda Headquarters, Dublin 8 and the Garda College, Templemore. The responsibilities of the Firearms Training Unit are the provision of both basic and refresher firearms training programs, development of training strategies, research into new firearms, equipment and matters related to firearms training within An Garda Síochána. The Firearms Training Unit at the Garda College is responsible for the initial training of the Emergency Response Unit and the Regional Support Unit. It provides ongoing annual refresher training to the Regional Support Unit. The unit carries out training at both Garda and military facilities around the country.

Cost Associated with Firearms Training

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
€250,115.62	€221,332.15	€176,025.88	€179,277.94	€206,478.12	€224,670.58	€183,857.51*

*January to September 2016

The figures below show the number of Gardaí who undertook a firearms training course in years 2013 to 2016. Each Garda trained in the use of a firearm must do a minimum of 2 live firearm refresher training sessions and 1 computer generated situation (known as FATS) each year to retain his/her authorisation to carry a firearm. The figures are compiled from the training centres of Garda Headquarters and the Garda College and amalgamated to provide the overall figure available to end of Q3 2016. Training is ongoing during Q4 2016 and completed figures will not be available until Jan 2017.

Gardaí undertaking Firearm Training

2013	2014	2015	2016
2,655	2,642	2,597	2,155

The FOI Act contains exemption provisions which can be applied to records as necessary. Section 15(1)(c) of the FOI Act is relevant in this case where the records relating to the number of firearms training sessions in 2010 and 2012 are not held electronically and would require a significant amount of time to process and collate into a single comprehensive self explanatory document. The estimated timeframe to produce the records from a multiple of manually held records would cause a significant disruption to the work conducted at the Garda College Firearms Section. As a result the records are not provided in accordance with section 15(1)(C) shown below.

Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests

15. (1) *A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where of the number or nature of the records concerned or the nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of the records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned,*

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-000363-2016**.

Freedom of Information Office,
An Garda Síochána
Athlumney House,
IDA Business Park,
Navan,
Co. Meath
C15 DR90

Please note that a fee applies. This fee has been set at €30 (€10 for a Medical Card51holder). 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.

30TH NOVEMBER, 2016