

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

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:

www.garda.ie



Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Please quote reference number FOI-000095-2017

Date:

Mr. Gordon Deegan

RE: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000095-2017 Granted

Dear Mr. Deegan,

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 6th March 2017, 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:

- The individual amounts paid out by the Gardaí to named individuals/firms last year for media training and PR services in 2016 and in 2015.
- The number of Gardaí to receive media training last year and their rank.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

A search of the financial management system was conducted at Finance Section, Garda Headquarters to identify the companies that were paid from the Garda Vote relating to public

relations and media training services. As a result of that search two companies were identified for years 2015 and 2016.

Emagine Media Ltd., was identified as providing services relating to the design and delivery of information posters, audio-visual elements, and various displays for items of historical value held in the Garda Museum now situated in the Treasury Building in the Lower Yard in Dublin Castle. Further information can be obtained from the Garda website at <http://garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=2283&Lang=1>.

Whilst no specific media training was provided by Emagine Media Ltd. the company were involved in ensuring the Garda museum was presented in the best possible manner to enhance the experience of each visitor and therefore it could be considered a public relations service.

With reference to a previous decision letter for FOI Request 000180-2016 (available at <http://www.garda.ie/Documents/User/FOI-000180-2016%20Decision.pdf>) An Garda Síochána awarded a contract, after a public procurement competition, to the Communications Clinic in respect of *Media Training for Personnel in An Garda Síochána*.

The media training programme for Senior Officers and Managers enables An Garda Síochána to provide more spokespeople to the media in order to keep the public informed about how An Garda Síochána prevents and tackles crime. The reference number T.003/2015 can be used on the eTenders website to locate the details and documents for the specified lot i.e. Framework Agreement, Contract and Request for Tender at www.etenders.gov.ie. The fees paid to both companies are shown below as per your FOI request.

Vendor Name	2015	2016		Total
EMAGINE MEDIA LTD		13,829.62		13,829.62
THE COMMUNCIATIONS CLINIC LTD Total	10,400.00	92,954.96		103,354.96

The second part of your request relates to the number of persons who received media/public relations training last year (2016). Training courses were run in Media as well as Speech Writing and Report Writing which involved, in total, 253 Garda staff. 14 members attended the Speech Writing course while a further 13 attended the Report Writing Course. 8 members of staff attended a Media Training Course specifically catering for Irish Speakers. Out of the 253 personnel trained in various elements of the media such as Speech Writing and Report Writing the vast majority (218) received Media training.

Table A below shows the number of persons attending the media training courses by rank/grade for 2016. As previously stated above the media training programme for Senior Officers and Managers enables An Garda Síochána to provide more spokespeople to the media in order to keep the public informed and to provide better engagement with the public in general.

Table A

Rank /Grade	Number Trained
Deputy Commissioner	1
Assistant Commissioner	6
Chief Superintendent	30
Directors	4
Garda Síochána Analysis Service	4
Superintendent	127
Assistant Principal Officer	1
Inspector	24
Sergeants	16
Garda	5

1. 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 **F01-000095- 2017**.

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 FOI-000095-2017 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.

3RD APRIL 2017