

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

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000126-2016 Request Partially Granted

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) and your submission to this body, dated 30th March 2016 and received on 31st March 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:

Please give me a full breakdown of how much has been spent on segways in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Please indicate how many were bought in each year and from which companies.

Please also provide details of any other costs associated with the segways in each year – training courses, repairs etc – and which companies received the monies.

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 reason 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 mixed, but mostly 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.

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 | Service Provider |
|------|-----------|---|---|
| 2012 | 1640.76 | Cost to fit Garda markings to two Segways | Refused Section 32(1)(a)(ix) of the FOI Act |
| 2013 | 0 | | |
| 2014 | 1640.76 | Cost to fit Garda markings to two Segways | Refused Section 32(1)(a)(ix) of the FOI Act |
| 2015 | 2568.11 | Repairs and servicing to two Segways purchased in 2012* | CP Adventure |
| 2016 | 944.30 | Repairs to two Segways purchased in 2014* | CP Adventure |

*Repair costs relate to general servicing and replacement wheels

I am refusing the provision of the name of the service provider for the fitting of Garda markings on the Garda fleet in 2012 and 2014 under Section 32(1)(a)(ix) of the FOI Act. The provision of such information could, in my opinion, reasonably be expected to create a risk to the security of the premises of the service provider involved if such information were to be released.

Section 32 of the FOI Act states:

Law enforcement and public safety

32. (1) *A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to —*
- (a) prejudice or impair —*
 - (ix) the security of a building or other structure or a vehicle, ship, boat or aircraft, or*

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.

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 **F01-000126-2016**.

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.

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

27th April 2016