

# 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  

Please quote reference number

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:

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

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

**Mr. Craig Hughes**

## **RE: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000257-2017 Request Part Granted**

*Dear Mr. Hughes,*

I refer to your request, dated and received on 7<sup>th</sup> June 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:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I am seeking the following:*

- *A breakdown of expenditure relating to external interpreter services – to include but not limited to – the provider, language interpreted, total cost.*

*I wish for my request to cover the time between 1/1/12 – 31/12/16.*

As per our telephone conversation on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 you have agreed to be provided with details of companies that provided a service over €5,000.

I have now made a decision to part grant your request on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

## 1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

Details of your request were provided to the Finance Section of An Garda Síochána to identify records held which show the fees paid to companies relating to translation services. The table below shows the financial figure for translation services which includes services such as written translations, person to person translations, telephone interpretation services, sign language etc. The costs associated with translations for the Garda organisation are paid to numerous companies and individuals.

### Translation Services Expenditure report for 2012 - 2016

Vendor	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Translation.ie – Forbidden City LTD</b>	843,211	1,448,124	1,294,182	1,149,040	1,340,318
<b>Word Perfect Translations</b>	200,211	171,328	225,693	163,403	214,221
<b>Context</b>	22,626	25,754	19,464	12,521	29,436
<b>Languageline Ltd</b>	13,548	10,648	10,558	10,648	6,671
<b>Lionbridge International</b>	12,097	8,777	-	-	-
<b>Bridge Interpreting Ltd</b>	5,404	6,668	5,233	-	5,657
<b>Interling Translations</b>	-	9,681	17,699	15,704	60,127
<b>MS Interpreting &amp; Translation</b>	-	6,128	-	-	-
<b>*Others</b>	18,044	14,104	9,740	16,935	16,308
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,115,141</b>	<b>1,701,212</b>	<b>1,582,569</b>	<b>1,368,251</b>	<b>1,672,738</b>

\*This includes vendors who have received a total payment of less than €5,000 per year.

Section 42 refers to the restrictions included in the FOI Act with regard to records that are exempt for release by An Garda Síochána.

In this regard, a number of records are refused under Section 42 (b) wherein it states that:

***Restriction of Act***

**42.** *This Act does not apply to—*

*(b) a record held or created by the Garda Síochána that relates to any of the following:*

- (i) the Emergency Response Unit;*
- (ii) the Secret Service Fund maintained by it;*
- (iii) The Special Detective Unit (SDU);*
- (iv) the witness protection programme sponsored by it;*
- (v) the Security and Intelligence Section;*
- (vi) the management and use of covert intelligence operations;*
- (vii) the Interception of Postal Packets and Telecommunications Messages (Regulation) Act 1993;*
- (viii) the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005 ;*
- (ix) the Criminal Justice (Surveillance) Act 2009;*
- (x) the Communications (Retention of Data) Act 2011;*

An Garda Síochána current contracts for interpretation and translation commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2009 and these have been extended on a month to month basis since following a 2008 Garda tender for panels of companies on a Regional basis.

A new Garda tender for interpretation and translation services on a Regional basis, see RFT (T.013/2013) was advertised in 2013 and the outcome of this tender was challenged in 2015. The tender went into the judicial review process in March 2015 and, it was decided to compromise the action in 2015 as the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) were about to launch a Government wide framework. The OGP published their framework and mini competitions in December 2015 but following a legal challenge the mini competition was cancelled. The OGP Framework is still in place and it is understood that a mini competition for interpretation services for An Garda Síochána will commence during Q3 -2017.

An Garda Síochána do not have statistics for the individual languages and the variance in languages sought each year can change, however the following languages are the most frequently requested for translation/interpretation.

- Albanian
- Chinese
- Polish
- Russian.
- Lithuanian
- Latvian,
- Romaniana/Moldovan
- Portuguese
- Arabic/Kurdish /Sorani, Pushtu
- Spanish
- French

## 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-000257- 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:** BOFIE2D

**You must ensure that your FOI reference number FOI-000257-2017 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](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.**

 JULY 2017