

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

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Mr. Ruairi Cotter

RE: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000263-2017 Request Part-Granted

Dear Mr. Cotter,

I refer to your request, dated and received on 13th 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 FOI Act, I'm wondering if I could get a breakdown of how many gardai were called upon for overtime over the course of the GAA championship last year, and how much was spent on gardai by the GAA?

*Similarly, is it possible to receive the same breakdown but for overtime for music concerts in the last two years at Croke Park and the Aviva? See concerts below.
Concerts:*

*Ed Sheeran - Croke Park 2015
Rhianna - Aviva Stadium 2016
Bruce Springsteen - Croke Park 2016
Beyonce - Croke Park 2016
The Script - Croke Park 2015
AC/DC - Aviva Stadium 2015*

I have now made a decision to partially grant your request on 30th June 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 who requested a search of the Financial Management System in order to identify records relevant to your request.

During that process, it was identified that the records for *'how many gardai were called upon for overtime over the course of the GAA championship last year'* and *'the same breakdown but for overtime for music concerts in the last two years at Croke Park and the Aviva'* are not recorded centrally but recorded at Garda District level throughout the 6 Garda Regions. There would be a significant amount of time and effort, using Garda resources, required to collate all the overtime records and cross reference them with the dates of GAA matches to provide the number of hours of overtime incurred and Garda resources employed to police such events.

In addition, the fact that a GAA match is being held in a specific Garda District does not automatically limit the number of Garda Districts that would have to be researched for the overtime incurred. In some cases the policing of matches are done by utilising available Garda members from neighbouring Garda Districts and Divisions. Therefore, the fact that a match was held in a single location, does not necessarily indicate that the Gardaí required to police the event on overtime were sourced from that single location.

The extraction of the relevant records across the Garda Organisation for overtime incurred and resources employed as a result of policing GAA matches in 2016 would incur significant time and costs and by reason of the nature of the records and the detailed examination of such records a substantial and unreasonable disruption to the administrative functions of the Garda Organisation will ensue. Consequently, I am refusing part 1 of your request under the provisions of Section 15(1)(c) of the FOI Act which states:

15(1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where (c) In the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason 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.

You subsequently sought *'how much was spent on gardai by the GAA'*.

Under Section 30 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005, An Garda Síochána may provide and charge for police services for events on private property or in areas open to the public, if:

- (a) It is in the public interest and consistent with the functions of An Garda Síochána to provide the services, and
- (b) The Commissioner is satisfied that the person has paid or will pay to the Commissioner the charges for the services.

Non-public duty is performed by members of An Garda Síochána under arrangements made with organisers of events such as football matches, concerts, and race meetings etc. who seek

to engage the services of members of An Garda Síochána to perform duties to which they would not normally be assigned.

Members of An Garda Síochána have been made available for the performance of such duties and the State has charged for their services. This work is normally done by members who would otherwise be off duty. It is generally the practice to charge organisations for the costs of duties performed by members inside the event.

In general, the cost of policing duties performed by Gardaí outside the event such as traffic control, beat patrols and other public policing duties which would be additional to those normally performed at the location, are not paid by the organisation hosting the event but fall to be paid from the Garda Vote but the promoters may be requested to make a contribution towards those public policing costs. In this regard I advise that the level of contribution to be made to An Garda Síochána is agreed by the local District Officer with the organisers, taking into account the nature and size of the event.

Garda members working on public and non-public duty are aware of the policy of An Garda Síochána that the safety of the public must be the ultimate consideration.

I can advise you that An Garda Síochána received €720,763.00 from the GAA in respect of the Championship for 2016.

In respect of the last part of your request wherein you are seeking how much was spent on Gardaí at each of the concerts, I am to advise you that the following concerts have been the subject of a number of requests under the FOI Act:

- *Ed Sheeran - Croke Park 2015*
- *Rhianna - Aviva Stadium 2016*
- *Bruce Springsteen - Croke Park 2016*
- *Beyonce - Croke Park 2016*
- *The Script - Croke Park 2015*

An Garda Síochána, in keeping with section 8 of the FOI Act, maintains a list of decisions made on all non-personal requests, including the full decision letter on the Garda website (www.garda.ie), in the Freedom of Information section. I am refusing the release of information for the concerts outlined above in accordance with Section 15(1)(d) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states:

*15(1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where
(c) The information is already in the public domain.*

This information may be accessed by following the attached links below:

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

However, I can advise you that An Garda Síochána received €30,000 in respect of the AC/DC concert in the Aviva Stadium on the 1st July, 2015.

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-000263- 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-000263-2017 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.

30th JUNE 2017