

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

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

**Mr Josh Prenderville**

## **Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000312-2017 Request Partially Granted**

***Dear Mr. Prenderville***

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to An Garda Síochána dated and received on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

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:

*I request the following records relating to finance within An Garda Síochána:*

*(i) The amount of money that has been taken in by An Garda Síochána in Co. Limerick as a result of speed vans and speed cameras in years 2017 (up to the date of this request), 2016, 2015 and 2014.*

*(ii) Where possible, the amount of fines issued and a breakdown of their locations in years 2017 (up to the date of this request), 2016, 2015 and 2014.*

I have now made a final decision to part grant your request on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

The current legislation for the Fixed Charge Notice (FCN) process allows for the payment of the fixed charge within 28 days of issue of the notice. If payment is not made in this period, an increased charge may be paid within a further 28 day period.

These payments are collected on behalf of An Garda Síochána by An Post. The payments received are used to offset the costs of the outsourced speed cameras contracts. In the event that the income from FCNs exceeds the costs of the contracts the excess is returned to the Exchequer.

If payment of the FCN is not made within the allowable period, court proceedings are initiated by way of summons application. Any fines arising from the court proceedings are not received by An Garda Síochána.

In relation to part one of your request *“The amount of money that has been taken in by An Garda Síochána in Co. Limerick as a result of speed vans and speed cameras in years 2017 (up to the date of this request), 2016, 2015 and 2014”* in this regard please see table below in respect of the Limerick Garda Division which outlines the total amount received in fines and a breakdown of the years it was received.

2014	2015	2016	2017 (9 <sup>th</sup> Aug)
€1,124,640.00	€1,355,960.00	€753,600.00	€297,760.00

Excessive speed has been identified as a factor in one (1) in three (3) fatal road traffic collisions. Safety cameras operate in locations, or speed enforcement zones, which have been identified as ‘high-risk’ areas for speed-related road traffic collisions. Prior to the introduction of safety cameras, approximately 31% of fatal collisions occurred in these zones.

Four (4) years after the deployment of Garda mobile safety cameras An Garda Síochána commenced a collision analysis of the road network, based on collision data, the objective of which was to identify new speed enforcement zones not currently being monitored, and to remove those zones which were no longer considered ‘high risk’ locations. When this analysis was completed, 355 new speed enforcement zones were identified:

- 7% were on Local roads,
- 54% on Regional roads,
- 32% on National roads
- 7% on Motorways

49 zones were removed as no road traffic collisions had been recorded on these sections of road during the period under consideration.

Since May 2016 there are **1,031** speed enforcement zones nationwide where safety cameras are deployed in a fleet of high-visibility marked vehicles. The enforcement zones are identified on the Garda website, [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)



The focus of the Safety Camera operations is on enforcing legislation with a goal of saving lives. The system was never envisaged as a revenue raising exercise which is borne out in "Life Savers Not Revenue Raisers - Safety Cameras In Ireland: A Cost Benefit Analysis" by Derek Rafferty which is available on the RSA website at: <http://www.rsa.ie/Documents/Road%20Safety/Crash%20Stats/Safety%20Cameras%20in%20Ireland.pdf>

In respect of Part 2 of your request I wish to advise that An Garda Síochána became subject to Freedom of Information under the FOI Act, 2014. Under Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act a number of agencies were defined as "*partially included*" and An Garda Síochána is listed as one of them.

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.

The term "administrative records" is understood to mean records relating to the processes of running and managing a business or organisation. As a result the FOI Act excludes operational policing business as opposed to the defined administrative processes of An Garda Síochána.

Part 2 of your request relates to operational policing matters and does not meet the criteria of administrative records as defined in the Act. Therefore part 2 of your request must be refused.

## **1. Rights 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-000312-2017**.

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-000312-2017) 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 will be removed to protect confidentiality where applicable.

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.**

 **AUGUST 2017**