

# 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)

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

**Ms. Emma Jane Hade,  
Irish Daily Mail**

## **Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000330-2017 Request Part Granted**

*Dear Ms. Hade,*

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 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:

*I wish to be supplied with the following information:*

- 1. Details of all external PR firms and consultants that have been hired by An Gardai Siochanna since January 2012. This data should include a list of each firm, when their service was employed, how long they were engaged with an Garda Siochanna for and how much money has been give them to date.*
- 2. Copies of tenders submitted by external PR firms and consultants who were competing for the contracts.*
- 3. Details of how many staff there has been on the internal PR/communications team since January 2012. I would also like details about how long each member has worked in the press office, if they are still working there, when they started working there and their salary range.*

The FOI Act does not confer a general right of access to information; rather it confers a right of access to records. Therefore, your request for information has been treated as a request for access to records containing the information you seek.

I have now made a final decision to part grant your request on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017. The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision. I have numbered your request for ease of reference.

### 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 firms and consultants.

I advise that I am refusing Part 1 of your request as detailed below:

- 1. Details of all external PR firms and consultants that have been hired by An Garda Síochanna since January 2012. This data should include a list of each firm, when their service was employed, how long they were engaged with an Garda Síochanna for and how much money has been give them to date.***

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* and the contract was signed on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. 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. Under this training programme over 100 senior officers and managers have received media training. This has also seen The Communications Clinic provide advice on communication initiatives.

I advise that the details of, and expenditure on, public relations/media/communications firms and consultants by An Garda Síochána have been the subject of a number of requests under the FOI Act. 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 and associated records on the Garda website ([www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)) in the Freedom of Information section.

The following requests relate to your request:

Request Number	Section	Year
FOI-000103-2015*	Finance Procurement	2015
FOI-000180-2016	Finance Procurement	2016
FOI-000021-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000037-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000095-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000098-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000135-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000157-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000158-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000201-2017	Finance General	2017

\*released to requester on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016

I am therefore refusing the release of these records pursuant to section 15(1)(d) and (i)(i) of the FOI Act, which states:

*Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests*

15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –

- (d) the information is already in the public domain,
- (i) the request relates to records already released, either to the same or a previous requester where –
  - (i) the records are available to the requestor concerned

However, in order to provide you with the most up to date information in relation to Part 1 of your request, I am providing details of the total payment of €49,702 to The Communications Clinic Ltd. from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

I advise that I am refusing Part 2 of your request as detailed below:

**2. Copies of tenders submitted by external PR firms and consultants who were competing for the contracts.**

I advise that a number of FOI requests relating to the details of, and expenditure on, public relations/media/communications firms and consultants by An Garda Síochána have been the subject of a number of requests under the FOI Act. I draw your attention specifically to **FOI-000180-2016** which relates to the contract with the Communications Clinic in respect of *Media Training for Personnel in An Garda Síochána*. 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 and associated records on the Garda website ([www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)) in the Freedom of Information section.

The following requests relate to your request:

Request Number	Section	Year
FOI-000103-2015*	Finance Procurement	2015
<b>FOI-000180-2016</b>	<b>Finance Procurement</b>	<b>2016</b>
FOI-000021-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000037-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000095-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000098-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000135-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000157-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000158-2017	Finance General	2017
FOI-000201-2017	Finance General	2017

\*released to requester on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016

I am therefore refusing the release of these records pursuant to section 15(1)(d) and (i)(i) of the FOI Act, which states:

*Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests*

15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –
- (d) the information is already in the public domain,
  - (i) the request relates to records already released, either to the same or a previous requester where –
    - (i) the records are available to the requestor concerned

I advise that I am refusing Part 3 of your request as detailed below:

- 3. Details of how many staff there has been on the internal PR/communications team since January 2012. I would also like details about how long each member has worked in the press office, if they are still working there, when they started working there and their salary range.**

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 and associated records on the Garda website ([www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)) in the Freedom of Information section. I draw your attention specifically to **FOI-000103-2015** which was released to you on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and relates to the records you have requested in Part 3 of your request.

I am therefore refusing the release of these records pursuant to section 15(1)(d) and (i)(i) of the FOI Act, which states:

*Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests*

15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –
- (d) the information is already in the public domain,
  - (i) the request relates to records already released, either to the same or a previous requester where –
    - (i) the records are available to the requestor concerned

However, in order to assist you with this part of your request I am providing the most up to date information relating to the staffing levels of the Corporate Communications Office as requested which is appended at Appendix A.

## **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-000330-2017**.

**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-000330-2017 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**

21<sup>st</sup> **AUGUST 2017**

<b>Role in PRO</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017 *</b>	<b>Years Service in An Garda Síochána</b>	<b>Assigned to PRO</b>	<b>Current Status in PRO</b>
<b>Director of Communications</b>					
Director of Communications(1)			2	Oct-08	Not assigned to PRO since March-13
Director of Communications(2)	In situ	In situ	3.10	Oct-13	In situ
<b>Press Office Superintendent</b>					
Superintendent(1)			30	Oct-08	Not assigned to PRO since July-12
Superintendent(2)			32	Jul-12	Not assigned to PRO since June 14
Superintendent(3)			31	Jun-14	Not assigned to PRO since May-15
Superintendent(4)			24	Jul-15	Not assigned to PRO since Aug-16
Superintendent(5)	Assigned to PRO Aug-16	In situ	31.5	Aug-16	In situ
<b>Corporate Communications Superintendent</b>					
Superintendent(1)			35	Aug-08	In situ
<b>Press Office Inspector</b>					
Inspector(1)			35		
Inspector(2)	Assigned to PRO Oct-16	In situ	21	Oct-16	In situ
<b>Higher Executive Officers</b>					
Higher Executive Officer(1)			4	Nov-08	Not assigned to PRO since Nov-12
Higher Executive Officer(2)	In situ	Retired	4.8	Nov-12	Retired
<b>Executive Officer</b>					
Executive Officer		Promoted early 17	11	Sep-07	Transferred on promotion 11/8/17
<b>Sergeants</b>					
Sergeant(1)	In situ	In situ	35	Dec-00	In situ
Sergeant(2)	In situ	In situ	25	Jul-07	In situ

Sergeant(3)	In situ	In situ	21	Jun-13	In situ
Sergeant(4)	In situ	In situ	20	May-08	In situ
Sergeant(5)	In situ	Tem Transfer	18	Apr-09	Tem Transfer
Sergeant(6)	In situ	In situ	24	Apr-09	In situ
Sergeant(7)	In situ	In situ	32	May-08	In situ
Sergeant(8)	Dec-16	On Secondment	13	Dec-16	On Secondment
<b>Clerical Officers</b>					
Clerical Officer(1)	In situ	In situ	33	Sep-07	In situ
Clerical Officer(2)	On Secondment	Promoted early 17	13	Sep-07	Transferred
Clerical Officer(3)	In situ	In situ	13	Sep-08	In situ
Clerical Officer (4)	In situ	In situ	24	Dec-15	In situ
Clerical Officer(5)	In situ	In situ	9	Dec-15	In situ
Clerical Officer(6)				Mar-09	Not assigned to PRO since Aug 2013
Clerical Officer(7)			5	Aug-13	Not assigned to PRO since Jun 2015
Clerical Officer(8)			8	Dec-13	Not assigned to PRO since May 2015

\* Figures provided are operational and liable to change and are correct as of 17th August 2017