

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

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Ms. Aubrey Robinson

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000334-2017 Request Refused

Dear Ms. Robinson,

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 27th 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:

'The period I am interested in is January 2016 – July 2017

I am seeking a breakdown of costs for subsistence allowance, overnight expenses and backfill costs for Gardaí acting as witnesses in court cases, broken down per region, for the following periods: a) 2016 – 2017 b) 2017 – present'

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 21st August 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

On receipt of your request, your request was forwarded to the Finance Directorate where a search was conducted on the Financial Management System within An Garda Síochána. In this regard, I am to advise you that the specific financial records sought by you do not exist.

Expenses sought by Gardaí acting as witnesses in court cases are claimed as part of travel and subsistence expenditure. There is no specific project code for the payment of witness expenses and in the absence of such a project code, it is not possible to identify the costs.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify and locate the records requested by you. As the records concerned do not exist, I must therefore refuse your request on this basis. Section 15(1)(a) of the Act 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
(a) The record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken,

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 **F01-000334-2017**.

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 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

 **AUGUST 2017**