

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

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:
www.garda.ie

Bí linn/Join us  

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000357-2017 Part Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 14th August, 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:

How many full-time Garda officers are there stationed at each station in Donegal as of today, August 14 2017?

How many full-time officers were stationed in each station in Donegal in each of the last ten years?

Can I get this information in list format, ie broken down by each station individually.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on the 8th September 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Details of your request were forwarded to the Human Resource Directorate of An Garda Síochána who conducted a search of their records for the information that you have requested.

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A part of the core functions of An Garda Síochána is the operational necessity to meet public demands with regard to security and public safety. The allocation of resources within the confines of a Garda Division are proportionate to the requirements necessary to meet the core functions of An Garda Síochána in any given area within that Division.

The redistribution of staff within a Garda Division can be a gradual process as public needs dictate, for e.g. in response to changing crime trends and/or demographics. It can also be as a result of an immediate response to a significant change in security requirements. Extra resources will be sourced and allocated to a particular Garda Station(s) to provide for particular security needs. This type of resource allocation is made based on security risk assessments and as an operational requirement.

It should be noted that the allocation of Gardaí within a Division is determined by the Chief Superintendent of that Division who has the responsibility to ensure that the allocation is carried out appropriately and equitably.

The Sections of the FOI Act which deny access to information are known as exemptions.

I am refusing the first part of your request for 'How many full-time Garda officers are there stationed at each station in Donegal as of today, August 14 2017' including the staffing figures at each Garda Station for 2017 under Section 15(1)(f) of the FOI Act, on the basis that An Garda Síochána intends to publish the figures on the Garda Síochána website at www.garda.ie

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—

(f) *the FOI body intends to publish the record and such publication is intended to be effected not later than 6 weeks after the receipt of the request by the head,*

In relation to the second part of your request I wish to advise that the Garda organisation is only subject to the provisions of the FOI Act 2014 and was not subject to the provisions of the FOI Act of 1997. As a result, the start date for the provision of records, excluding personal records, as set out in section 2(1) of the FOI Act for An Garda Síochána is 21st April 2008. This date is known as the *effective date* which is outlined below.

"effective date" means:

(c) *in the case of an entity that immediately prior to enactment of this Act, was not a public body within the meaning of the Act of 1997, but is a public body within the meaning of this Act, 21 April 2008, unless provision is made to the contrary by order under section 6;*

On that basis I am refusing to provide information for 2007 as sought by you in respect of your request seeking: 'How many full-time officers were stationed in each station in Donegal in each of the last ten years?' However, I am in a position to provide you with the staffing figures in respect of years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Please find a breakdown at Schedule A, B and C attached.

I wish to draw your attention to the staffing levels of An Garda Síochána (2011 to 2016), detailed to District level, which are available on the FOI Publication Scheme of the Garda website and can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.garda.ie/Documents/User/Garda%20Staffing%20Levels%202011-2016.pdf>

I am aware that the information in relation to staffing figures at each Garda Station for years 2011-2016 was the subject of an article in 'The Times' newspaper on 16th November 2016. You may access this article by following the link below where the figures for 2011-2016 are published:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dozens-of-stations-have-no-working-gardad0zff3mq8>

The staffing figures in the Donegal Division broken down by Station for 2016 was also the subject of a Parliamentary Question (PQ 36503/16) and may be accessed by following the link below:

[http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/WebAttachments.nsf/SvLookupByConstructedKey/dail~20161123/\\$File/Daily%20Book%20Writtens%20Unrevised.pdf?openelement](http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/WebAttachments.nsf/SvLookupByConstructedKey/dail~20161123/$File/Daily%20Book%20Writtens%20Unrevised.pdf?openelement)

On that basis, I am therefore refusing to release the staffing figures for years 2011 - 2016 under Section 15(1)(d) which states:

*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.*

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-000357-2017**.

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-000357-2017 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

8th SEPTEMBER, 2017

SCHEDULE A

2008	Total
Station	Members
AILT AN CHORRÁIN	2
AN BUN BEAG	8
AN CHARRAIG	2
AN CLOCHÁN LIATH	9
AN CRAOSLACH	1
AN FÁL CARRACH	6
ANAGAIRE	2
ARD AN RÁTHA	3
BALLINTRA	1
BALLYBOFEY	25
BALLYSHANNON	36
BUNCRANA	50
BUNDORAN	12
BURNFOOT	16
CARNDONAGH	4
CARRAIG AIRT	2
CARRIGANS	5
CASTLEFIN	4
CLONMANY	2
CLOUGHER	1
CONVOY	4
CULDAFF	1
DONEGAL TOWN	36
DÚN FIONNACHAID	4
DUNKINEELY	1
GLEANN CHOLM CILLE	1
KERRYKEEL	3
KILMACRENNAN	2
LETTERKENNY	134
LIFFORD	13
MALIN	5
MILFORD	30
MÍN AN LÁBÁIN	1
MOUNTCHARLES	2
MOVILLE	9
MUFF	3
NA BROCACHA	1
NA CEALLA BEAGA	7
NA GLEANNTA	26
NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM	4
PETTIGO	1
RAMELTON	4
RAPHOE	4
RATHMULLEN	1
Grand Total	488

SCHEDULE B

2009	Total
Station	Members
BALLINTRA	2
BALLYSHANNON	35
BUNDORAN	10
DONEGAL TOWN	37
DUNKINEELY	0
MOUNTCHARLES	1
NA CEALLA BEAGA	6
PETTIGO	1
BUNCRANA	49
BURNFOOT	15
CARNDONAGH	5
CLONMANY	1
CULDAFF	0
MALIN	4
MOVILLE	6
MUFF	4
ANNAGRY	1
ARDARA	3
BUNBEAG	8
BURTONPORT	2
CARRICK	2
CLOUGHER	1
DOOCHARY	0
DUNGLOE	12
GLEANN CHOLMCILLE	1
GLENTIES	26
BALLYBOFEY	23
BROCACH	1
CARRIGANS	5
CASTLEFIN	4
CONVOY	4
LETTERKENNY	123
LIFFORD	13
NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM	4
RAPHOE	4
CARRIGART	3
CHURCHILL	1
CRAOSLOCH	1
DUNFANAGHY	3
FALCARRAGH	9
KERRYKEEL	4
KILMACRENNAN	2
MILFORD	28
RAMELTON	4
RATHMULLEN	0
Total	468

SCHEDULE C

2010	Total
Station	Members
BALLINTRA	2
BALLYSHANNON	47
BUNDORAN	8
DONEGAL TOWN	34
MOUNTCHARLES	1
NA CEALLA BEAGA	6
PETTIGO	1
BUNCRANA	57
BURNFOOT	5
CARNDONAGH	3
CLONMANY	2
MALIN	4
MOVILLE	6
MUFF	4
ANNAGRY	1
ARDARA	3
BUNBEAG	11
BURTONPORT	1
CARRICK	2
CLOUGHER	1
DUNGLOE	9
GLENTIES	29
BALLYBOFEY	25
BROCACH	1
CARRIGANS	5
CASTLEFIN	4
CONVOY	4
LETTERKENNY	114
LIFFORD	16
NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM	4
RAPHOE	2
CARRIGART	3
CHURCHILL	1
CRAOSLOCH	1
DUNFANAGHY	3
FALCARRAGH	8
KERRYKEEL	4
KILMACRENNAN	2
MILFORD	27
RAMELTON	4
RATHMULLEN	1
Total	466