

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

Mr. Sean Dunne,

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000369-2017 Request Partially Granted

Dear Mr. Dunne,

I refer to your request, dated the 24th August 2017 and received on the 25th 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:

'The total Garda spend on protective and special equipment for members of An Garda Síochána for years 2015, 2016 and the first six months of 2017.'

I wish to inform you that I have decided to partially-grant your request on the 18th September 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Details of your request were provided to the Finance Section within An Garda Síochána who conducted a search for records relating to your request.

1

The records sought by you have been the subject of a number of previous Freedom of Information requests and the responses to these are available in our 2015, 2016 and 2017 Finance-Procurement Decision Log which may be accessed by following the attached link:

<http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=15037&Lang=1>

Table A below sets out those decisions relevant to your request, specifically FOI-000298-2017.

Table A:-

2015 Requests	2016 Requests	2017 Requests
FOI-000029-2015	FOI-000063-2016	FOI-000099-2017
	FOI-000388-2016	FOI-000298-2017

In this regard, I am to advise you that I am refusing to release the total Garda spend on protective and special equipment for members of An Garda Síochána for years 2015 and 2016 in accordance with Section 15(1)(d) 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*

However, table B below sets out the total amount paid in respect of the purchase of clothing (protective material and specialised equipment) for the first six months of 2017. These costs are categorised under two financial subheads i.e. ‘Purchase of Clothing – Protective Material’ and ‘Purchase of Clothing – Specialised Equipment’.

Table B:-

	January – June 2017
Purchase of Clothing – Protective Material	€28,148
Purchase of Clothing – Specialised Equipment	€96,467
TOTAL SPEND for 2017	€124,615

The Garda uniform incorporates elements of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which are appropriate for the duties being performed. Certain types of duty require specific PPE elements to be included in the uniforms such as Motorcycle and Air Support duties.

On entering the Garda College, a student is provided with a standard uniform which consists of the following items:

- Hat
- Hat Cover
- Epaulettes
- Shirt
- T-Shirts
- Tie
- Tie Pin
- Trousers
- Belt
- Shoes
- Fleece
- Waterproof navy Jacket
- High Visibility waterproof Jacket
- High Visibility light weight jacket
- Body Armour

Each member of the force is required to maintain an operational and a formal uniform. It is a disciplinary offence not to comply with An Garda Síochána dress code or to be untidy in uniform.

The specialist equipment assigned to each member of An Garda Síochána serves an operational requirement within the environment in which they operate. Equipment such as Riot Helmets, Riot Shields and Protective Pads are required in highly volatile situations to protect Garda members when dealing with public disorder and violent incidents. The equipment serves as a protective measure in these types of situations allowing Gardaí to carry out their functions to protect society and preserve the peace.

The Body Armour is a vital part of equipment issued to members of An Garda Síochána for their personal protection providing ballistic and anti-stab protection. The specialist firearms units are provided with mission specific higher grade body armour which is more appropriate in planned situations. The Hi-Visibility jackets are also a very important part of Garda protective equipment and the jacket is designed to provide a high level of visibility when a Garda is on outdoor duty, especially at night time and when on traffic-related duties.

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-000369-2017**.

***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-000369-2017) 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

 **SEPTEMBER 2017**