

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

**Ms. Denise Calnan,
Independent.ie,**

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000375-2017 Part Grant

Dear Ms. Calnan,

I refer to your request, dated 29th August, 2017 and received on 31st 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:

I am making a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act in relation to offers of employment made to garda graduates in the graduation year of 2017.

I am requesting;

- 1. How many gardai graduated this year of 2017, and same for 2016 and 2015*
- 2. What departments/areas of work were the new gardai recruited to, and same for 2016 and 2015*
- 3. what districts received new garda graduates this graduation year of 2017, and same for 2016 and 2015*

4. *how many new garda graduates were sent to each district, and same for 2016 and 2015*
5. *Were any special requests made not to work in the Dublin Met Region or any denials made to offers in the Dublin Met Region*

Please note that I have numbered the parts your request for various records for ease of reference.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on the 19th September, 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt of your request, details of same were forwarded to the Human Resource Management Section of An Garda Síochána who conducted a search for records containing the information you have requested.

In relation to **Part 1** of your request ‘*How many gardai graduated this year of 2017, and same for 2016 and 2015*’. The table below outlines the number of probationer Gardaí allocated from the Garda College in the years you have requested:

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 286 | 391 | 488 |

*figures correct as of 11.9.17.

In relation to **Part 2** of your request ‘*What departments/areas of work were the new gardai recruited to, and same for 2016 and 2015*’ I wish to advise you that all probationer Gardaí have been allocated to frontline operational policing duties.

I advise that I am refusing **Part 3** ‘*what districts received new garda graduates this graduation year of 2017, and same for 2016 and 2015*’ and **Part 4** of your request ‘*how many new garda graduates were sent to each district, and same for 2016 and 2015*’, pursuant to Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act.

Section 6(2)(a) of the FOI Act provides that an entity specified in Schedule 1, Part 1 of the Act shall, subject to the provisions of that Part, be a Public body for the purposes of the Act. Schedule 1, Part 1 contains details of bodies that are partially included for the purposes of the Act and also details of the certain specified records that are excluded. If the records sought come within the description of the exclusions of Part 1, then the Act does not apply and no right of access exists.

Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act provides that An Garda Síochána is not a public body for the purposes of the FOI Act other than in relation to administrative records relating to human resources, or finance or procurement matters.

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 core business of An Garda Síochána is safeguarded from release under the provisions of the FOI Act. A part of the core

functions 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. Therefore the allocation of staff is considered an operational matter and does not meet the components of an administrative record as per the FOI Act.

It should be noted that the allocation of Gardaí within a Division can be determined by the Chief Superintendent of that Division and in such a situation the function of HRM is to ensure that the allocation is carried out appropriately and equitably. This shows that the HRM allocation of resources at an administrative level is to Garda Division but beyond that it is an operational function.

I am therefore providing information as attached at **Appendix A** detailing the allocation of probationer Gardaí to Garda Divisions throughout the State from 2015 to date.

It is important to keep in mind that newly attested Gardaí have a further 16 months of practical and class-room based training to complete in order to receive their BA in Applied Policing. To ensure that they are properly supported and supervised and have opportunities to gain the breadth of policing experience required, the Garda Commissioner's policy is to allocate them to specially designated training stations which have the required training and development structures and resources in place, including trained Garda tutors and access to a permanently appointed supervisory Sergeant who is thoroughly familiar with their responsibilities under the training programme.

In relation to **Part 5** of your request '*Were any special requests made not to work in the Dublin Met Region or any denials made to offers in the Dublin Met Region*'. I wish to advise that probationer Gardaí may be allocated to any Training Station in a Garda Division nationwide. No special requests or denials were made and all probationer Gardaí took up their allocations as directed.

Therefore, as the record does not exist, I am refusing **Part 5** on administrative grounds under section 15(1)(a) which states:

Section 15 – 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,

Garda resources are continually monitored and reviewed by the Garda Commissioner to ensure the optimum use is made of Garda resources and that the best possible service is provided to the general public by An Garda Síochána. The allocation and transfer of Gardaí is determined by a number of factors, including crime and non-crime workload, minimum establishment, population, area, policing arrangements, operational strategies and transfers applications, including welfare issues.

The resourcing of each Garda Region is fully considered within the overall context of the needs and requirements of Garda Regions throughout the country. The commitment to Garda

recruitment will allow the Commissioner to allocate new Garda members to areas requiring further resourcing as they become available. The allocation of resources within each Division is a matter for the Divisional Officer concerned.

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-000375-2017**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, 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-000375-2017 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

21st SEPTEMBER, 2017

APPENDIX A

| DIVISION | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Total |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| D.M.R. EAST | 9 | 19 | 24 | 52 |
| D.M.R. NORTH | 19 | 34 | 39 | 92 |
| D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL | 22 | 44 | 42 | 108 |
| D.M.R. SOUTH | 19 | 33 | 43 | 95 |
| D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL | 21 | 42 | 43 | 106 |
| D.M.R. WEST | 29 | 35 | 38 | 102 |
| KILDARE | 14 | 19 | 25 | 58 |
| LAOIS / OFFALY | 9 | 20 | 27 | 56 |
| MEATH | 5 | 19 | 12 | 36 |
| WESTMEATH | 5 | 5 | 17 | 27 |
| WICKLOW | 7 | 0 | 9 | 16 |
| CAVAN / MONAGHAN | 10 | 8 | 8 | 26 |
| DONEGAL | 10 | 5 | 9 | 24 |
| LOUTH | 10 | 17 | 17 | 44 |
| SLIGO / LEITRIM | 5 | 5 | 3 | 13 |
| KILKENNY/CARLOW | 9 | 10 | 20 | 39 |
| TIPPERARY | 5 | 14 | 16 | 35 |
| WATERFORD | 14 | 10 | 15 | 39 |
| WEXFORD | 14 | 10 | 17 | 41 |
| CORK CITY | 7 | 5 | 15 | 27 |
| CORK NORTH | 0 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| CORK WEST | 5 | 0 | 10 | 15 |
| KERRY | 9 | 0 | 11 | 20 |
| LIMERICK | 9 | 17 | 8 | 34 |
| CLARE | 10 | 5 | 5 | 20 |
| GALWAY | 5 | 5 | 0 | 10 |
| MAYO | 5 | 0 | 10 | 15 |
| ROSCOMMON / LONGFORD | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Totals | 286 | 391 | 488 | 1165 |