

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. Laura Colgan,

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000380-2017 Part Granted

Dear Ms. Colgan,

I refer to your request, dated 3rd September 2017 and received on 4th September, 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:

Details of the number of new members entering the force in each garda station in each month between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2017.

I am aware that a member of staff of my Office was in contact with you on the 25th September, 2017 and you have clarified that you are seeking records in relation to:

The number of probationer gardaí allocated from the Garda College to Garda Stations on an annual basis.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on 26th September, 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions

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

The sections of the Act which can apply to deny access to documents are known as its exemption provisions.

Refusal on Administrative grounds to grant FOI requests – Section 15

Section 15 of the FOI Act is provided below.

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 am refusing to provide you with ‘*the number of probationer gardaí allocated from the Garda College to Garda Stations on an annual basis*’ in accordance with Section 15(1)(d) of the FOI Act as the information is already in the public domain.

A decision in relation to the information you have sought is already available on the Freedom of Information page on the Garda website and it may be accessed by selecting the Decision Log (Human Resource Management 2017 Decisions) and choosing **FOI-000375-2017** or by following the link below:

<http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=20355&Lang=1>

The Decision Log contains a list of all the responses to Freedom of Information Requests (excluding requests for personal information) from the commencement date of 14th October 2015. It is divided into the three areas of which An Garda Síochána provide records under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 and also requests handled directly by the Freedom of Information Office.

However, in order to provide you with the most up to date information I wish to inform you that an attestation ceremony took place in the Garda College on 22nd September, 2017 during which 181 trainee Gardaí were attested. Trainee Gardaí, once attested, progress into Phase II and III of their training programme and are in their probationary period.

I am now providing you with the current breakdown of the allocation of probationer Gardaí from the Garda College to Operational Divisions for 2017 which is attached at Appendix A.

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 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.

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 by writing to the address below and quoting reference number **FOI-000380-2017**.

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-000380-2017) 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

27th SEPTEMBER 2017

APPENDIX A

DIVISION	2017
D.M.R. EAST	29
D.M.R. NORTH	52
D.M.R. NORTH CENTRAL	55
D.M.R. SOUTH	53
D.M.R. SOUTH CENTRAL	61
D.M.R. WEST	55
KILDARE	39
LAOIS / OFFALY	37
MEATH	22
WESTMEATH	17
WICKLOW	14
CAVAN / MONAGHAN	15
DONEGAL	9
LOUTH	26
SLIGO / LEITRIM	3
KILKENNY/CARLOW	25
TIPPERARY	16
WATERFORD	25
WEXFORD	26
CORK CITY	20
CORK NORTH	10
CORK WEST	10
KERRY	12
LIMERICK	13
CLARE	5
GALWAY	5
MAYO	10
ROSCOMMON / LONGFORD	5
Totals	669