

# 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](http://www.garda.ie)

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: [foi@garda.ie](mailto:foi@garda.ie)

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## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000383-2017 Request Refused

*Dear*

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

*The Garda Síochána policy on cancellation of the award of the Scott Medal in the event of individual misconduct/conviction.*

*The number of times the Scott medal has been cancelled/rescinded following proven misconduct/conviction.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1

## **1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision**

On receipt of your request, a search was conducted in the Human Resource Directorate Office of An Garda Síochána.

Following a detailed search in the office outlined above, I am to advise you that no records have been identified in respect of your request. In this regard, I am refusing your request in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states:

### ***Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests***

*15(1)(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken*

The criteria for the awarding of the Scott Medal was set by Colonel Walter Scott in 1923 and is outlined hereunder:-

*“No action, however heroic, will merit the award of the Scott Medal unless it takes the shape of an act of personal bravery, performed intelligently in the execution of duty at imminent risk to the life of the doer and with full previously knowledge of risk involved”*

The Scott Medal Award is the highest award for bravery that An Garda Síochána can bestow upon a member of the service and will only be awarded to the most deserving of members who have performed an exceptional act of bravery; risking their life in full knowledge of the risk concerned. Exceptional zeal, intelligence, devotion to duty or investigative ability cannot be taken into account in the award of the medal, nor will general misconduct if a member's courage and heroism are such as clearly entitle him/her to the award.

The decision to award a Scott Medal will be adjudicated by the Award Review Board. This Board will comprise of a Deputy Commissioner and two Assistant Commissioners nominated by the Commissioner on an annual basis. The Awards Review Board will submit their recommendations to the Commissioner for decision.

Scott Medals of Gold, Silver and Bronze will be awarded by the Commissioner, each recommendation having been tested by the criteria as set out above by Colonel Walter Scott. Gold medals may be awarded to members who have displayed exceptional courage and heroism involving risk to life in the execution of duty.

The Silver and Bronze medals may be awarded annually to members who have performed similar acts in the execution of duty, but with less risk to their lives and who are next in order of merit.

Each member receiving a Scott Medal will also receive a wooden citation outlining the details of the incident for which they received the award. A monetary award may also be presented to each medal recipient.

A First, Second, or Third Class Commendation, shall be recommended by the Award Reward Board and awarded by the Commissioner, for acts of bravery involving risk to life in exertions to save human life, or for such courageous conduct where the risk of life is not of



exceptional character essential for the granting of a Scott Medal. A certificate under the Scott Medal Award Scheme will issue to members awarded commendations.

The Commissioner may withhold the issue of all, or any, of the medals for a particular year if there are no deserving cases.

Scott Medals may be awarded to members of all ranks including Student Gardaí who are acting in the course of their training duties, Garda Reserve members when on duty and members on overseas duty.

A member may be awarded a Scott Medal Award after retirement, resignation, or posthumously for an action that is carried out while in the service of An Garda Síochána.

Since the introduction of the Scott Medal Award system, a medal has never been cancelled or rescinded following proven misconduct/conviction.

## **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-000383-2017**.

***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 (FOI-000383-2017) 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](http://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**

**25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**