

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

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000385-2017 Part Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 5th 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:

- 1) The number of student F/T Gardaí that graduated from the Garda Training Centre, Templemore that were born outside Ireland in the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and to-date in 2017 in tabular form. If know could you provide the number per country for which student Gardaí were born*
- 2) The next 3 dates when probationer Gardaí will graduate from Garda Training Centre, Templemore*
- 3) The next 3 dates when persons will enter the Garda Training Centre, Templemore to become members of the AGS.*
- 4) The next 3 dates when Probationer Reserve Gardaí will graduate from Garda Training Centre, Templemore*
- 5) The next 3 dates when persons will enter the Garda Training Centre, Templemore to become Reserve Gardaí*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on 29th 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 and the Garda College who conducted a search for records containing the information you have requested.

Part 1 of your request sought *'The number of student F/T Gardaí that graduated from the Garda Training Centre, Templemore that were born outside Ireland in the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and to-date in 2017 in tabular form. If know could you provide the number per country for which student Gardaí were born'* I wish to advise you that there have been no graduations since Garda training recommenced in September 2014.

2014 was a pivotal year in the Garda Training College as it saw the intake of student Gardaí for the first time since 2009. A new training programme was developed and has been delivered since September 2014.

The training programme was the result of key recommendations from the Training and Review Group who reported in 2009. The programme has taken many years to develop and is accredited by University of Limerick (UL). At the end of the two year programme a BA in Applied Policing at Level 7 on the National Framework Qualifications scale is awarded. The training programme consists of three phases – Phase I, II and III.

Phase I

Phase I of the Garda training programme consists of 32 weeks training in the Garda College. The new programme has moved away from individual subject areas and is organised around thematic modules reflecting the operational roles and responsibilities of members of An Garda Síochána. Students cover 7 modules on Phase I. Each module comprises of a number of units covering all aspects of the skills necessary for daily policing. The delivery of these modules is primarily classroom based utilising Problem Based Learning (PBL) which is a learner centred rather than the traditional instructed lead approach to Garda training. PBL is supported by lectures, skills sessions, tutorials, role plays, file preparation and practical demonstrations.

Phase II

On completion of Phase I Garda trainees are attested. They are then allocated to their relevant Stations and commence Phase II. Phase II is designed for experiential workplace learning. Phase II is of 34 weeks (17 x 2) duration. The newly attested Garda are assigned to Tutor Gardaí for the duration of Phase II. Phase II is divided into two stages: Stage 1 – Assisting and Stage 2 – Assisted.

Stage 1 – Assisting 17 weeks

In this first stage of Phase II the probationer Garda will work with his/her Tutor and will assist the Tutor. Probationer Gardaí attend Divisional Continuous Professional Development classes during the Assisting Stage.

Stage 2 – Assisted 17 weeks

In Stage 2 the Probationer Garda takes the lead role and the Tutor Garda assists in a role reversal of Stage 1. Probationer Gardaí will attend the Garda College periodically between the Assisted Stage and the Autonomous Stage (Phase III).

Phase III

At this stage the probationer Garda becomes an independent member of his/her Garda Unit.

On successful completion of the two year programme, the Probationer Garda will graduate from the Garda College.

The following tables outline the nationality of Gardaí who were attested from 2015-2017 and born outside of Ireland. Please note there were no attestations in 2014.

Year	Place of Birth	No.
2015	United Kingdom	8
	Northern Ireland	8
	Poland	3
	Romania	1

Year	Place of Birth	No.
2016	United Kingdom	13
	Northern Ireland	6
	Poland	2
	Romania	1
	USA	2

Year	Place of Birth	No.
2017	United Kingdom	22
	Northern Ireland	5
	Poland	2
	Romania	2
	Netherlands	1
	Nepal	1

Part 2 of your request sought 'The next 3 dates when probationer Gardaí will graduate from Garda Training Centre, Templemore' in this regard there have been no graduations since Garda training recommenced in September 2014. Graduation ceremonies are held once all aspects of training programmes and probationary periods are successfully completed. The graduation ceremony (now referred to as the Conferring Ceremony) for Intakes 141 and 142 who will have successfully completed their training and probationary periods is scheduled to take place on 18th October 2017 (date subject to change)

The term 'Intake' refers to the group of Garda trainees who are commencing the training programme. This group is attached to an Intake number for the duration of the programme.

Intake 141 refers to the group of Gardaí that commenced training on 15th September 2014. Intake 142 refers to the group that commenced training on 15th December 2014 and so forth. The Intake number refers to the year that an intake commenced training for e.g. Intake 141 and 142 commenced training in 2014. Intake numbers may vary throughout the training programme due to reversions, resignations etc.

Garda trainees are attested once they are sworn in as members of An Garda Síochána. I am providing you with the next three scheduled attestation dates at the Garda College: weeks commencing 4th December 2017, 12th March and 11th June 2018 (dates subject to change). Please note that an attestation ceremony took place on the 22nd September 2017.

Part 3 of your request sought *'The next 3 dates when persons will enter the Garda Training Centre, Templemore to become members of the AGS'* in this regard the following dates are scheduled for an intake of Garda trainees: 6th November 2017, 29th January and 23rd April 2018 (dates subject to change).

Part 4 of your request sought *'The next 3 dates when Probationer Reserve Gardaí will graduate from Garda Training Centre, Templemore'* in this regard there are currently no classes of trainee Garda Reserves at present, therefore the record does not exist relating to dates for graduation from the Garda College. I am therefore refusing your request under Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act as outlined below:

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-

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

Part 5 of your request *'The next 3 dates when persons will enter the Garda Training Centre, Templemore to become Reserve Gardaí'* I wish to inform you that the latest recruitment campaign for Garda Reserves is at interview stage, and dates for the commencement of training for Garda Reserves at the Garda College have not yet been finalised.

I am therefore refusing your request under Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act as outlined below:

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-

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

Further information in relation to careers in An Garda Síochána is available on the Garda website at the following URL:

<http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=213&Lang=1>

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-000385-2017**.

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-000385-2017) 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**