

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

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000464-2017 Request Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated the 21st October 2017 and received on the 23rd October 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 looking to find out how many applications there were for the latest Garda Reserve recruitment drive in May and how many applicants were successful. I would also like to know if there is a specific budget for ongoing training, refresher courses and CPD for Reserves. I would like to know what is the role of the Garda Reserve office and the role of the Superintendent.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to grant your request on the 8th November 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

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.

An Garda Síochána launched a fresh recruitment drive for new applicants to its popular Reserve programme in March 2017 as the organisation seeks to diversify its ranks further under its

Modernisation and Renewal Programme. This recruitment process was conducted by the Public Appointments Office (PAS) who conduct all recruitment competitions for the civil and public service.

The selection process to become a Garda Reserve is comprehensive, with candidates required to undertake a range of relevant assessment tests and exercises over a number of selection stages. The tests and exercises are designed to identify candidates suitable to be a Garda Reserve. The numbers called forward to each stage of selection will be determined from time to time having regard to the location and number of vacancies to be filled.

The Public Appointments Service conduct the initial selection stages (i.e. Stage 1 & Stage 2) on behalf of the Garda Commissioner. Names and details of candidates who are successful and are placed highest on the order of merit following the selection stages conducted by the Public Appointments Service are forwarded to An Garda Síochána for further consideration (i.e. Stage 3).

While the competition is conducted by the Public Appointments Service, I can advise you that in respect of the first part of your request wherein you seeking *'how many applications there were for the latest Garda Reserve recruitment drive in May and how many applicants were successful'*, 2,394 applications were received for the most recent competition of which 463 have been successful at interview stage.

Garda Reservists are voluntary members of the police service. The programme affords members of the public an opportunity to develop hands-on policing experience in their locality. Tasks involve dealing with public order incidents, high-visibility patrolling, traffic management, attending major events, carrying out administrative duties, and providing general support to full-time Garda members.

New figures show that the Reserve programme is being used by many as a stepping stone to a full-time career in the Gardaí. Since 2006, more than 200 Garda Reservists have gone on to pursue full-time careers in the organisation, including 130 since last year alone. The current Reserve intake is represented by 20 different nationalities including people who are Iranian, Polish, Lithuanian, Albanian Indian and Chinese which allows the Garda Organisation to be more connected to the communities that we serve. The backgrounds of current Reserve intake are also diverse and varied including fitness instructors, firemen and bank clerks.

The second part of your request is seeking *'to know if there is a specific budget for ongoing training, refresher courses and CPD for Reserves'*. Following consultation with the Garda College, I can now advise you that there is no specific budget for ongoing training, refresher courses and CPD for Reserves. The costs associated with the training of Garda Reserves is taken from the training budget for the organisation.

The Garda Reserve Management Office was re-established in June 2016. It is staffed at present by a Superintendent, a Sergeant, a Garda and a Clerical Officer.

The six key functions of the Garda Reserve Management Office overseen by the Superintendent can be listed as follows:

1. Drafting Policy
2. Updating Garda Reserve Regulations
3. Marketing of the Garda Reserve

4. Retention of Serving Reserve Gardaí
5. Monitoring of Probationer Reserve Gardaí
6. Running Recruitment Campaigns for the Garda Reserve

A member of the Garda Reserve may only be assigned duties by, or on behalf of, their relevant District Officer. It is the role of District Officer to ensure that the policing requirements of their District are enhanced by the deployment of the Garda Reserve members. Divisional Liaison Officers are appointed in each Garda Division with responsibility for Garda Reserves.

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-000464-2017**.

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: BOFIII2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000464-2017) 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



NOVEMBER 2017