

An Garda Síochána

Oifig Saoráil Faisnéise
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

Bí linn/Join us  

Láithreán Gréasain/Website: www.garda.ie

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

**Ms Catherine Murphy,
Dáil Éireann,**

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000085-2017 Request Refused

Dear Ms Murphy,

I refer to your request, dated 1st March, 2017 and received on 2nd March, 2017 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2014 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:

"A breakdown of the numbers of Gardaí based in each of the 563 stations at year end 2016 and;

A breakdown of persons per garda ratio in 2016 on a county by county basis

A list of Garda resources on a county by county basis."

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 23rd March, 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

With regard to the first part of your request, I refer to my conversation with you office where I advised that staffing levels to divisional level are available on the Garda website at the following link <http://www.garda.ie/Documents/User/Garda%20Staffing%20Levels%202011-2016.pdf> . It was agreed that this information was sufficient to satisfy your request.

I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 15(1)(d) which states:

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—

(d) the information is already in the public domain,

I advise that I am also refusing the second and third parts of your request, seeking the persons per garda ratio and a list of Garda resources on a county by county basis.

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, finance or procurement matters". Therefore, only administrative records that relate to human resources, finance or procurement shall be considered.

The FOI Act does not define the term "administrative records" as provided for in Part 1(n) apart from stating that they relate to human resources, or finance or procurement matters. The term "administrative records" is understood to mean records relating to the processes of running/managing a business or organisation. The purpose of Part 1(n) is to restrict the right of access to those functions or processes of An Garda Síochána that relate to the administration or management of the Organisation, and only in relation to matters concerning human resources, or finance or procurement.

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 ratio of Gardaí per head of population and the allocation of non human resources are not administrative records as per the FOI Act.

However, section 11(8) of the FOI Act states:

Access to records

11(8) *Nothing in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting or restricting an FOI body from publishing or giving access to a record (including an exempt record) otherwise than under this Act where such publication or giving of access is not prohibited by law.*

I am prepared to release to you a breakdown of official Garda vehicles allocated by division in Appendix A. As you may be aware, Garda Divisions do not necessarily align with county borders. For example within Cork County there are 3 Garda Divisions (Cork North, Cork City and Cork West) while conversely other Garda Divisions may comprise of more than one county such as Sligo/Leitrim or Kilkenny/Carlow.

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-000085-2017**.

*Freedom of Information, 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 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,



HELEN DEELY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

 **MARCH, 2017**

APPENDIX A - STRENGTH OF GARDA FLEET, BROKEN DOWN BY DIVISION AS AT 13/03/2017

	Cars			Vans Total	Motorcycles Total	4 x 4 Total	Others Total	Total
	Marked	Unmarked	Total					
CAVAN-MONAGHAN	29	15	44	12	3	1	0	60
CLARE	20	16	36	10	2	0	0	48
CORK CITY	38	65	103	22	9	4	11	149
CORK NORTH	24	9	33	12	3	1	0	49
CORK WEST	26	12	38	10	2	1	0	51
DMR EAST	26	12	38	12	3	2	2	57
DMR NORTH	36	46	82	32	1	1	3	119
DMR NORTH CENTRAL	20	35	55	9	4	3	2	73
DMR SOUTH	26	39	65	16	1	2	3	87
DMR SOUTH CENTRAL	19	24	43	15	2	1	1	62
DMR TRAFFIC	9	8	17	3	31	3	1	55
DMR WEST	32	58	90	18	3	1	7	119
DONEGAL	38	14	52	14	3	2	0	71
GALWAY	38	23	61	18	7	3	2	91
GARDA HQ & NATIONAL SERVICES	13	536	549	90	36	51	56	782
KERRY	26	11	37	9	2	0	1	49
KILDARE	23	17	40	12	2	2	2	58
KILKENNY/CARLOW	38	34	72	16	2	5	4	99
LAOIS-OFFALY	26	16	42	12	3	1	3	61
LIMERICK	33	27	60	17	4	3	2	86
LOUTH	22	17	39	9	2	3	1	54
MAYO	25	15	40	13	1	3	2	59
MEATH	26	15	41	13	2	0	1	57
ROSCOMMON-LONGFORD	23	13	36	10	2	0	2	50

	Cars			Vans	Motorcycles	4 x 4	Others	Cars
	Marked	Unmarked	Total	Total	Total	Total		Marked
SLIGO-LEITRIM	21	16	37	13	2	0	1	53
TIPPERARY	31	16	47	11	3	2	1	64
WATERFORD	27	15	42	12	3	1	1	59
WESTMEATH	23	18	41	15	2	3	4	65
WEXFORD	31	17	48	10	2	1	0	61
WICKLOW	27	17	44	11	1	3	1	60
TOTAL	796	1176	1972	476	143	103	114	2808