

An Garda Síochána

Oifig Saorála 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

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000346-2016 Partially Granted

Dear

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and your submission to An Garda Síochána dated 27th September 2016 and received on 28th September 2016.

Part 1 (n) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 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.

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by An Garda Síochána:

- (1) The total Garda budget for Education for Garda members for years 2014, 2015 and 2016.*
- (2) The total Garda budget for Education for civilian Staff for years 2014, 2015 and 2016.*
- (3) The total spend on 3d level education for (1) Garda members and (11) Civilian members for the years 2014,2015 2016(3rd Level= NFQ Level 7 and above)*
- (4) The total spend on Education at level 6 or less on the NFQ scale for (1) Garda members and (11) Civilian Staff for the years 2014,2015 and 2016.*
- (5) The number of (1) Gardaí and (11) Civilians who trained on 3rd level under the Garda budget for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.*

I have now made a final decision to partially grant your request on 8th November 2016.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

On receipt of your request, a number of searches for administrative records were conducted with the Human Resources & People Development Section (HRPD) of An Garda Síochána in respect of your request. The Garda College was subsequently contacted and the following information has been provided.

Part 1 & 2 of your request sought:

- (1) The total Garda budget for Education for Garda members for years 2014, 2015 and 2016*
- (2) The total Garda budget for Education for civilian Staff for years 2014, 2015 and 2016.*

Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act states:

*'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.'*

There is no set budget assigned specifically for 3rd Level Qualifications for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016. The Garda College have the responsibility for managing the National A03 Training Budget and as such all applications for training, not just 3rd level, fall to be paid from this budget. All applications are considered on their own merits and may be approved or not approved depending on the needs of the organisation and budget funds available in the National A03 training budget at the time.

In the case of applications received via the Code (F)13 and Sponsored Courses, these are processed through the Academic Office and an Educational Funding and Adjudication Board make the final decision on who receives funding and how much that funding that should be. Sponsored courses must be in line with the requirements of the organisations and essential to the role and professional development of the staff member concerned. The overall amounts approved under this process are then factored into the National A03 Budget. The Garda College Finance Office then process and arrange payments of these claims when they are received.

I am to inform you that I am refusing Parts 1 & 2 of your request under Section 15(1)(a) as the records do not exist. However, I can advise you of the amount spent on 3rd level Education for both Garda & Civilian staff for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016. Please see Table A below outlining same:

Table A: Garda Budget for Education for Garda & Civilian Staff

	2014	2015	2016 (up to 20/10/2016)
Garda	€295,606.93	€404,216.52	€122,057.80
Civilian	€75,860.33	€54,231.99	€53,095.75

The figures outlined above include those members of staff who have undertaken 3rd level qualifications both through the F13 formal process and also those staff where there is a requirement in the position they hold within the organisation to upskill themselves for the purpose of their role.

Applicants are invited to apply for a refund of fees through HQ Directives advertising Education Courses in accordance with Code (F)13 and Sponsored Courses. Refund of fees under this Directive may vary from 33% to 100%.

Further courses may be advertised during the year through HQ Directives which eligible applicants may apply for. These courses previously included: McCabe Fellowship Exchange Programme, Irish Language Gaeltacht Course, Master of Law Human Rights in Criminal Justice School, MSc in Education and Training Management, MA in Ethics (Corporate Responsibility) and an Advanced Diploma in Juvenile Justice through The Honorable Society of Kings Inn. These courses provide a scholarship for the successful candidates which may include a partial or full payment of the course.

Parts 3 & 4 of your request sought:

- (3) *The total spend on 3d level Education for (i) Garda members and (ii) Civilian members for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 (3rd Level= NFQ Level 7 and above)*
(4) *The total spend on Education at level 6 or less on the NFQ scale for (i) Garda members and (ii) Civilian Staff for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.*

An Garda Síochána do not record the NFQ values associated with each course and therefore I am not in a position to provide this information to you. In this regard, I am to inform you that I am refusing parts 3 & 4 of your request under Section 15(1)(a).

Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act states:

- 'A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –*
(b) *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 sought *'the number of (i) Gardaí and (ii) Civilians who trained on 3rd level under the Garda budget for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016'.*

Table B below outlines the number of staff broken down by Garda and Civilian who have trained on 3rd level under the Garda budget for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016

Table B – Number of (i) Gardaí & (ii) Civilians who trained on 3rd level under the Garda budget for the years 214, 2015 & 2016

	2014	2015	2016 (up to 20/10/2016)
Garda	124	189	55
Civilian	32	29	15

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 **F01-000346-2016**

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 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.

 **14th November 2016**