

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-000397-2018 Request Refused

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 19th September 2018 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) for records held by An Garda Síochána. Your request was further clarified with this office on 20th September 2018 and therefore the timeframe for this request commenced from that date.

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:

Original Request:

The number of speeding fines issued to gardaí not attending an emergency call (i.e. where speeding is not a necessity)

The number and cost of speeding fines filed and paid for under Garda expenses

Clarified Request:

I am seeking the cost of fines incurred by gardaí.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 2nd October, 2018.

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The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

On receipt of your email, your request was forwarded to the Roads Policing Section of An Garda Síochána where a search was conducted in respect of same. The sections of the Act which deny access to information are known as its exemptions.

Part 1 of your request is seeking ‘*The number of speeding fines issued to gardai not attending an emergency call (i.e. where speeding is not a necessity)*’.

Section 6(2)(a) of the FOI Act provides that an entity specified in Schedule 1, Part 1 of the Act shall, subject to the provisions of that Part, be a public body for the purposes of the FOI Act. Schedule 1, Part 1 contains details of bodies that are partially included for the purposes of the FOI Act and also details of the certain specified records that are excluded. If the records sought come within the description of the exclusions of Part 1, then the FOI Act does not apply and no right of access exists.

Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act provides that An Garda Síochána is not a public body for the purposes of the FOI Act other than in relation to administrative records relating to human resources, or finance or procurement matters.

The term “administrative records” is understood to mean records relating to the processes of running and managing a business or organisation. I am therefore refusing part 1 of your request as information regarding the number of speeding tickets issued falls outside the scope of the FOI Act insofar as the records do not meet the criteria of administrative records as defined in the Act.

Part 2 of your request is seeking ‘*the number and cost of speeding fines filed and paid for under Garda expenses*’. I would refer to Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act above which outlines the criteria of an administrative record and advise that I am again refusing to release the number of speeding fines filed as this information falls outside the scope of the FOI Act. In addition, I am applying Section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act to the cost of speeding fines filed and paid for under Garda expenses. Section 15(1)(a) is as follows:

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

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-000397-2018**.

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: IE86BOFI90001710026896

BIC: BOFIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000397-2018) 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**
SHARON KENNEDY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

02 **OCTOBER, 2018**