

# 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 ND62



Freedom of Information Office,  
An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House,  
IDA Business Park,  
Johnstown, Navan,  
Co Meath.  
C15 ND62

Teileafón/Tel: (046) 9036350

Bí linn/Join us



Láithreán Gréasain/Website:  
[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

Ríomh-phoist/Email: [foi@garda.ie](mailto:foi@garda.ie)

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000247-2022 Request Part-Granted

**Dear**

I refer to your request, dated 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2022 and received at this office on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) for records held by An Garda Síochána. I further refer to the clarification of your request received at this office on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, accordingly your request has been amended and your request will commence from this 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:

*Please provide us with all data relating to tenders and payments made in respect of vehicle towing and recovery in Louth, Meath and Monaghan.*

*We make this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.*

Your clarified request sought:

*We refer to previous correspondence and confirm the date renege for the documents we seek is the previous three years.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

### 1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision.

Upon receipt, your request was forwarded to the relevant sections of An Garda Síochána where a search was conducted in respect of same and a number of records identified.

In relation to tenders for vehicle towing and recovery in Louth, Meath and Monaghan in the last 3 years I can advise that the Cavan/Monaghan contract commenced 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013. You can access this tender by following the link attached below;

[https://irl.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/260/0/0?returnUrl=ctm/Supplier/PublicTenders&b=ETENDERS\\_SIMPLE](https://irl.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/260/0/0?returnUrl=ctm/Supplier/PublicTenders&b=ETENDERS_SIMPLE)

The contract for Louth commenced 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. The link below provides access to the tender document;

[https://irl.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/86764/0/1?returnUrl=ctm/Supplier/PublicTenders&b=ETENDERS\\_SIMPLE](https://irl.eu-supply.com/ctm/Supplier/PublicPurchase/86764/0/1?returnUrl=ctm/Supplier/PublicTenders&b=ETENDERS_SIMPLE)

I have been advised that there is no contract in place for the Meath Division. Therefore as the record does not exist I am refusing this part of your request in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states:

#### ***Refusal on administrative grounds to grant FOI requests***

*15(1)(a) the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken*

Towing fees include all vehicles detained under Section 41 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, official Garda vehicles and other vehicles seized or transported by An Garda Síochána for investigative, evidential and technical examination purposes. These figures can include sums paid to non contracted firms who had been requested to remove a vehicle in an emergency situation or in cases where the location of the vehicle presented a danger to other road users and required immediate removal.

The table below details the amount paid by An Garda Síochána under the Towing subhead for Divisions Cavan/Monaghan, Louth and Meath for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. These payments are made by An Garda Síochána to private companies for vehicle recovery and the division the cost was incurred. The Garda Divisions do not necessarily align the border and some Garda Divisions comprise of more than one county. In accordance with this geographical layout, figures are provided for Cavan/Monaghan Division and not specifically for Monaghan.

Division	Item Description	2019	2020	2021
Cavan/Monaghan	Towing - Storage	€76,330	€119,446	€81,141
	Vehicle Towing	€81,762	€49,240	€57,332
Louth	Towing - Storage	€93,791	€111,058	€149,653
	Vehicle Towing	€121,832	€32,880	€16,188



Division	Item Description	2019	2020	2021
Meath	Towing - Storage	€96,925	€183,137	€251,905
	Vehicle Towing	€171,715	€120,888	€83,015
	Towing Disposal	€11,771	€15,299	€10,446

## 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-000247-2022**.

***Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Navan, Co. Meath. C15 ND62.***

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: An Garda Síochána Imprest Account**

**Account Number: 30000302**

**Sort Code: 951599**

**IBAN: IE28DABA95159930000302**

**BIC: DABAIE2D**

**You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000247-2022) 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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

**PAUL BASSETT**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER**

**28<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2022.**