

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  

Riomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Mr Ken Foxe

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000098-2017 Request Refused.

Dear Mr Foxe,

I refer to your request, dated and received on 6th 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:

- Copies of the tender notice and/or contract regarding provision of PR services by Communications Clinic to An Garda Síochána.
- Copies of any emails between the Garda Commissioner Noirín O'Sullivan and PR consultant Terry Prone or the Communications Clinic during the period in which those services were provided to AGS.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 4th April, 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions.

An Garda Síochána awarded a contract, after a public procurement competition, to The Communications Clinic in respect of *Media Training for Personnel in An Garda Síochána* and the contract was signed on the 30th September 2015. The media training programme for Senior Officers and Managers enables An Garda Síochána to provide more spokespeople to the media in order to keep the public informed about how An

Garda Síochána prevents and tackles crime. Under this training programme over 100 senior officers and managers have received media training. This has also seen The Communications Clinic provide advice on communication initiatives.

I advise that I am refusing the first of your request seeking records in relation to the tender notification and contracts with the Communications Clinic pursuant to section 15(1)(i)(i) which states:

- 15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where –*
- (i). the request relates to records already released, either to the same or a previous requester where –*
 - (i) the records are available to the requestor concerned*

I advise that these records were subject to a previous Freedom of Information request (FOI-000180-2016). An Garda Síochána publishes all decisions made on requests for non-personal information, including the full decision letter, on its website. The relevant decision and released records are available at the following link: <http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=16976>.

With regard the second part of your request seeking “Copies of any emails between the Garda Commissioner Noirín O’Sullivan and PR consultant Terry Prone or the Communications Clinic...”

Your request was forwarded to the Office of the Commissioner on receipt to carry out searches for all emails between the Garda Commissioner, PR Consultant, Ms. Terry Prone and The Communications Clinic. The period the search was carried out for was between the 30th September 2015 and the 4th April 2017. The following email addresses were searched noirinos@gmail.com, Commissioner’s office email, and noirin.osullivan@garda.ie (Commissioner’s old Garda email). The following key words were used in the searches; Communications Clinic; Finance; Procurement; Human Resources; funding; expenditure; request for tender; RFT; OGP; staff; personnel; recruitment and members. I advise that no records were found.

I am therefore refusing this part of your request subject to section 15(1)(a) of the FOI Act.

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-000098-2017**.

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 (FOI-000098-2017) 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,



HELEN DEELY.
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER .

4th APRIL, 2017.