

# 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

Bí linn/Join us  

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

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

**Ms. Laura Colgan,  
The Irish Daily Star.**

## **Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000167-2017 Request Refusal**

*Dear Ms. Colgan,*

I refer to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) and your submission to this body dated the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and received on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 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:

- 1. Details of the number of calls made to the Crimestoppers freephone number in 2015 and 2016, broken down by month and year.*
- 2. Details of the rewards paid out as part of the Crimestoppers Reward initiative between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2016, including the number of rewards paid out to individuals each year and the value (monetary) of each reward.*
- 3. Details of the number (percentage) of people eligible to claim rewards that actually did so in 2015 and 2016 respectively.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to refuse your request on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

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

I wish to advise you that An Garda Síochána became subject to Freedom of Information under the FOI Act, 2014. Under Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act a number of agencies were defined as “*partially included*” and An Garda Síochána is listed as one of them.

The FOI Act specifically states that An Garda Síochána is subject to the Act in relation to “*administrative records relating to human resources, finance or procurement matters*” only. The term “administrative records” is understood to mean records relating to the processes of running and managing a business or organisation. The records you have sought do not come within the ambit of this partially included agency as set out in Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act.

I am therefore refusing your request as it falls outside the scope of the FOI Act insofar as it pertains to An Garda Síochána.

However in order to assist you I am providing the following information by way of administrative access.

The **Irish Crimestoppers Trust** is a registered charity that operates independently. It works in partnership with An Garda Síochána to support local Gardaí. Crimestoppers is a joint initiative between the business community and An Garda Síochána.

Crimestoppers offers support to Gardaí in a number of methods:

- **It operates a confidential Free Phone number**
- **It runs Appeals and Information Campaigns**
- **It promotes the giving of information by the provision of Monetary Incentives and Rewards**

### **Free phone Number – 1800 25 00 25.**

Crimestoppers Confidential Phone line is a free and anonymous phone line that offers members of the public a method to pass information to Gardaí on criminal activity. Crimestoppers provides members of the public an opportunity to give An Garda Síochána information in the strictest of confidence. Callers are assured that their identity and personal information will not be passed onto any other party.

Calls are handled by Detective Gardaí who are trained to take information from anonymous callers in such a way as it can be useful in an investigation. All information is assessed and actionable information is sent to local investigators for follow up.

Callers are not required to leave their name or contact details. This service has proved effective in getting actionable information to local investigators under strictest confidence. This confidential phone line is integral in all Crimestoppers supported appeals run to assist investigators. Each appeal is a call to action to the public, urging them to make contact with Crimestoppers if they have information which could assist in an investigation.

### **Appeal / Information Campaign.**

Crimestoppers can provide assistance on a range of Garda investigations from local drug dealing, missing persons to murder. One of the primary opportunities Crimestoppers can offer investigators is providing published material and information campaigns. Information campaigns can be run on a local, regional or national basis. Crimestoppers has previously supplied some or all of the following depending on the needs of investigators:

- **Posters**
- **Leaflets**
- **Online and Social Media Campaigns**
- **Information Cards / Leaflets**
- **Billboards**
- **National information campaigns**

Crimestoppers supported by the Garda Press and Public Relations Office, will decide what type of a public appeal is most appropriate to in each case.

**The Communications materials (e.g. press release, posters, leaflets) will be designed and printed by Crimestoppers Trust**, based on the information provided and in conjunction with the Garda Press and Public Relations Office and the Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) / investigating member.

All communications materials will highlight the Crimestoppers freephone number.

### **Incentives and Momentary Rewards.**

Where appropriate, Crimestoppers Trust may offer a reward for **information which significantly helps** an investigation. If a reward is to be paid out, the amount is determined in partnership between the SIO and Crimestoppers. Crimestoppers can also act as a conduit for other persons to offer rewards in a safe and secure manner.

Monetary rewards are a joint initiative between the Gardaí and the business community which operates by encouraging people to report crime by calling the Crimestoppers freephone number.

The offering of monetary rewards is decided on by the members of Crimestoppers Trust board and the SIO of the particular investigation.

### **How to start a Campaign.**

To initiate a campaign the Senior Investigating Officer / investigating member must complete a Crimestoppers Appeal Application Form and forward the form to the Garda Press Office through the District Officer.

### **Dial To Stop Drugs – Confidential Phone Line.**

Crimestoppers trust and Dial to Stop Drugs are in partnership to offer two services through the same confidential phone line. This service allows for a more targeted approach to certain

information campaigns. Local investigators are encouraged to promote this confidential service to provide information on local drug dealing.

The objective of the **Dial To Stop Drug Dealing** campaign, in association with **Crimestoppers**, is to provide people with a safe and confidential means to pass on information on drug dealing. Using the Freephone **1800 25 00 25** number, members of the general public can anonymously report drug dealing activity. The line is open from 7am to 12am daily. Messages may be left outside those times.

## **Recent Appeals**

### **Trevor Deely Crimestoppers Appeal - €100,000 reward offered.**

Gardaí at Pearse Street are renewing their appeal to the public in tracing the whereabouts of Trevor Deely who was last captured on CCTV passing the Bank of Ireland ATM machine on Haddington Road, at approximately 4.14 a.m. on the 8th December, 2000.

### **Crimestoppers is appealing for information on the murder of Detective Garda Adrian Donohoe.**

Crimestoppers is appealing for information on the murder of Detective Garda Adrian Donohoe. Adrian was protecting his community on the night he was murdered. If you have any information at all please contact Crimestoppers. Your call is free and anonymous. You do not need to leave your name or address

### **Dial to Stop Drugs – Tallaght Poster Campaign.**

A local campaign was funded and supported by Crimestoppers trust and Dial to Stop Drugs where 100 posters were placed in the Tallaght area to encourage local people to pass information to An Garda Síochána through Crimestoppers anonymously.

### **Mind your personal property – National Campaign for personal security awareness.**

The Keep it Safe campaign is in support of the Gardai's Supporting Safer Communities campaign. Crimestoppers is asking people to be vigilant. Don't leave valuable items in an unattended car and keep a close eye on your wallet and mobile phone when you're out socialising.

In relation to the above I am in a position to provide you with the following link that provides the total amount of calls made in 2015 this may be of some assistance to you <http://www.mkc.ie/press/calls-crimestoppers-2015-helped-tackle-drugs-crime-robberies>.

The Crimestoppers Trust has the responsibility for publishing the 2016 figures and can be contacted at by email at [media@crimestoppers.ie](mailto:media@crimestoppers.ie).

## **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 **F01-000167-2017**.

*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:** BOFIIIE2D

**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](http://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 OFFICE**

**2<sup>ND</sup> MAY, 2017.**