

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

Ríomh-phoist/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000202-2024 Request Part-Grant

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 5th June, 2024 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) 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:

I am seeking the following under the Freedom of Information Act -

Gardai

- 1. Can you provide the overall amount received by Gardai in retirement lump sum payments in 2023 and in 2022.*
- 2. Can you provide the top 20 amounts received by Gardai in 2023 in retirement lump sums and the county in which they operated and their rank?*
- 3. Can you state how many Gardai last year received lump sum payments last year.*
- 4. Can you state the rank of those who retired last year?*

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e.g. Four Chief Superintendents - eight Superintendents, 22 inspectors etc

5. *The amount paid out in pensions last year to Gardai who have retired over the years and the number of former Gardai in receipt of pensions.*

(I placed this with the Dept of Justice previously but i was told the best agency to respond would be An Garda Síochána)

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part-grant your request on the 14th June 2024. 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 within An Garda Síochána and some records have been retrieved. I have numbered your requests for ease of reference.

In response to part 4 of your request, the following table outlines the number of Garda Members, by Rank who retired in 2023. Figures include Voluntary Retirements, Compulsory Retirements, Cost Neutral Early Retirements and Medical Retirements, and these members would have been paid both a pension and gratuity.

Rank	A/Comm	C/Supt	Supt	Insp	Sgt	Garda	Total
Number	1	8	19	26	88	201	343

Garda pensions, HRM, process the paperwork for members retiring. All matters in relation to the calculation of pensions and gratuities are carried out by the Pensions Administration Section of the Department of Justice. These calculations are then forwarded to Garda Pay Section, which comes under the National Irish Shared Services Office (NSSO), for payment. An Garda Síochána would be made aware of an individual's payments, retrospectively, but these records are kept on the individuals file and are not recorded or stored centrally.

In order to reply to parts 1, 2, and 3 of your request, a list of all members who retired in 2023 would have to be retrieved, each individual file requested from archives, the files would have to be reviewed and then payment amounts recorded. This would be considered voluminous and also amount to creating a new record which we are not obliged to do under the Freedom of Information Act.

In the case of part 5 of your request, ongoing pension payments to retired Garda members are processed by NSSO and An Garda Síochána has no role in these payments.

Since An Garda Síochána does not hold these records centrally, I am refusing parts 1, 2, 3, and 5 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

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-000202-2024**.

Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, 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: An Garda Síochána Imprest Account

Account Number: 30000302

Sort Code: 951599

IBAN: IE28DABA95159930000302

BIC: DABAIE2D

You must ensure that your FOI reference number (FOI-000202-2024) 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,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PAUL BASSETT

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

14 **JUNE, 2024**