

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

Ríomh-phoist:/Email: foi@garda.ie

Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000490-2017 Request Part Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on the 31st October, 2017 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:

A spreadsheet/database of the number of gardai injured during the course of duty broken down by district or station (whichever is more convenient) for the period 2008 to date of this request.

A spreadsheet/database of the number of gardai injured during the course of duty broken down month by month for the period 2008 to date of this request.

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on the 23rd November, 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

On receipt of your request, a detailed search was conducted in the Health & Safety Section of An Garda Síochána in respect of same.

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Please see attached at **Appendix A**, the number of occupational injuries to Gardaí broken down by District on an annual basis from 2008 up to 17th November 2017.

Also attached at **Appendix B**, is the number of occupational injuries to Gardaí broken by month on an annual basis from 2008 to 17th November 2017.

An Garda Síochána have a duty of care to their members in the event of an occupational injury. In this regard, there are a number of services available to members who suffer an injury on duty.

The primary service available is that of the Occupational Health Service whose role is to advise the Garda Commissioner on fitness for duty, and to protect, maintain and promote the health of all Garda employees. The Service consists of the Chief Medical Officer, two other Specialist Occupational Health Physicians, five Occupational Health Nurses and Administration staff. The service is complemented by additional specialist medical advisors.

An Garda Síochána is very mindful to the significant occupational demands placed on its members and the exposure to very stressful and traumatic situations. In this context, the implementation of 24/7 independent counselling service for Garda members, reserves and Civilian staff attached to An Garda Síochána is now available to all members of the force.

Requests for counselling service by members can be sought after a traumatic incident dealt with by an individual member or a number of members of An Garda Síochána. Counselling services are available for local management to utilise at their discretion to ensure the health and welfare of their staff. Members dealing with traumatic incidents, such as fatal road traffic collisions or sudden deaths and other such events will be on occasion require the expertise of professional counselling service to reduce the possible impact of dealing with an upsetting event.

Under the FOI Act, records are released without any restriction as to how they may be used and thus, release under the FOI Act, is in effect, regarded as being released to the world at large. As a result, I am conscious of my obligations to retain personal information in a confidential and secure manner and prevent this information from being released into the public domain unnecessarily.

Section 2 – Interpretation

In this regard, I am refusing to provide the records broken down by station as it is my opinion that the information contained therein comes within the ambit of the definition of *Personal Information* as per Section 2 of the FOI Act.

2. (1) *In this Act—*

“personal information” means information about an identifiable individual that, either—

(a) would, in the ordinary course of events, be known only to the individual or members of the family, or friends, of the individual, or

(b) is held by an FOI body on the understanding that it would be treated by that body as confidential,

and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes—

- (i) *information relating to the educational, medical, psychiatric or psychological history of the individual.*

Section 37 – Personal Information

Due to the small number of incidences that occurred at station level, releasing the injury on duty statistics broken down by station, may lead to the identification of the Garda members involved. This decision is made in accordance with Section 37(1) of the FOI Act which states:

37(1) Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).

As per Section 37 of the FOI Act, I have considered the public interest issues which arise in this case and have taken account of the following factors in favour of release:

- Ensuring openness and transparency of organisational functions to the greatest possible extent,
- The public interest in members of the public exercising their rights under the FOI Act,
- That there is more than just a transitory interest by the public in this information,
- The right to privacy is outweighed by the needs of the public.

In considering the public interest factors which favour withholding the records, I have taken account of the following:

- Allowing a public body to hold personal information without undue access by members of the public,
- The public interest is not best served by releasing these records,
- That the Organisation can conduct its business in a confidential manner,
- That there is a reasonable and implied expectation that sensitive personal information will remain confidential,
- That there is no overriding public interest that outweighs the individual's right to privacy.

A public interest test was carried out when considering the release of this information but having balanced the factors both for and against the release, I decided that the public interest in preserving personal information and the reasonable expectation that information can be maintained in a confidential manner by An Garda Síochána outweighs the public interest which would be served were the records released to you. In my opinion, the release of the number of injuries on duty broken down by station can reasonably be expected to lead to the identification of the Garda members involved. There is also a reasonable expectation by Garda members that this type of information would remain confidential. It is my opinion that the public interest is satisfied by releasing the records at District level.

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-000490-2017**.

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

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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-000490-2017) 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,


SUPERINTENDENT
SHARON KENNEDY
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER

23 NOVEMBER 2017

Occupational Injuries to Gardaí for Period 2008 to Date (17/11/2017)

Division	District	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
CAVAN / MONAGHAN												
	BAILLEBORO	4	3	2	4	0	2	1	2	2	2	22
	CARRICKMACROSS	2	2	5	2	0	4	4	2	5	1	27
	CAVAN	2	4	3	2	2	5	4	5	4	9	40
	MONAGHAN	4	3	6	5	3	2	1	5	1	2	32
	CAVAN / MONAGHAN Total	12	12	16	13	5	13	10	14	12	14	121
CLARE												
	ENNIS	10	7	11	6	5	3	7	6	5	10	70
	KILRUSH	0	3	6	5	5	1	9	2	6	3	40
	CLARE Total	10	10	17	11	10	4	16	8	11	13	110
CORK CITY												
	ANGLESEA STREET	9	8	12	14	5	9	13	14	15	12	111
	GURRANABRAHER	3	2	1	5	2	4	3	2	4	5	31
	MAYFIELD	2	9	5	4	3	5	2	6	13	4	53
	TOGHER	9	7	5	2	3	1	9	6	7	5	54
	CORK CITY Total	23	26	23	25	13	19	27	28	39	26	249
CORK NORTH												
	FERMOY	1	3	4	3	2	5	2	1	2	4	27
	MALLOW	9	4	3	2	3	2	1	4	4	5	37
	MIDDLETON	3	4	3	4	2	5	6	10	5	8	50
	CORK NORTH Total	13	11	10	9	7	12	9	15	11	17	114
CORK WEST												
	BANDON	0	1	4	0	7	2	1	7	7	3	32
	BANTRY	0	4	0	0	2	1	1	4	3	5	20
	CLONAKILTY	1	3	1	1	4	2	1	0	1	0	14
	MACROOM	4	0	3	1	0	1	3	1	1	2	16
	CORK WEST Total	5	8	8	2	13	6	6	12	12	10	82
D.M.R. EAST												
	BLACKROCK	6	5	8	5	7	10	12	5	8	7	73
	DUN LAOGHAIRE	9	6	8	15	4	16	15	7	15	12	107
	D.M.R. EAST Total	15	11	16	20	11	26	27	12	23	19	180

Appendix A

	BALLINASLOE	1	0	3	4	1	3	3	10	2	2	29
	CLIFDEN	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	1	0	2	10
	GALWAY	9	1	7	9	14	4	7	19	8	12	90
	LOUGHREA	3	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	2	7	19
	SALTHILL	0	0	0	7	0	1	1	6	3	2	20
	TUAM	1	3	2	4	0	5	3	8	0	1	27
	GALWAY Total	15	6	15	26	15	14	18	45	15	26	195
KERRY												
	KILLARNEY	6	3	6	2	2	7	10	21	18	10	85
	LISTOWEL	11	6	6	3	4	3	6	5	1	0	45
	TRALEE	4	5	3	3	1	12	12	14	13	11	78
	KERRY Total	21	14	15	8	7	22	28	40	32	21	208
KILDARE												
	KILDARE	2	7	3	6	9	4	7	9	6	6	59
	LEIXLIP	1	0	4	5	3	4	9	3	2	1	32
	NAAS	2	3	7	2	3	1		1	4	4	27
	KILDARE Total	5	10	14	13	15	9	16	13	12	11	118
KILKENNY/CARLOW												
	CARLOW	4	4	0	4	2	6	7	5	10	9	51
	KILKENNY	11	0	5	3	3	8	11	6	4	0	51
	THOMASTOWN	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	10
	KILKENNY/CARLOW Total	15	4	9	7	5	14	20	13	16	9	112
LAOIS / OFFALY												
	BIRR	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	3	10
	PORTLAOISE	5	5	15	4	2	4	4	7	20	12	78
	TULLAMORE	4	2	0	5	5	5	3	6	4	2	36
	LAOIS / OFFALY Total	9	9	15	9	7	10	8	16	24	17	124
LIMERICK												
	BRUFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
	HENRY STREET	14	11	15	16	12	14	9	9	21	10	131
	NEWCASTLE WEST	6	2	5	0	0	3	1	5	5	1	28
	ROXBORO ROAD	0	8	3	5	2	6	4	6	4	4	42
	LIMERICK Total	20	21	23	21	14	23	14	21	31	15	203

LOUTH	ARDEE	1	0	0	1	2	2	4	4	2	1	17
	DROGHEDA	8	8	5	7	5	9	9	10	5	3	69
	DUNDALK	3	2	5	1	7	12	12	10	12	4	68
	LOUTH Total	12	10	10	9	14	23	25	24	19	8	154
MAYO	BALLINA	2	4	3	0	4	2	3	3	5	2	28
	BELMULLET	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
	CASTLEBAR	2	1	2	1	1	6	4	0	3	3	23
	CLAREMORRIS	0	3	3	2	2	3	1	3	1	6	24
	WESTPORT	2	2	1	3	0	3	0	1	1	1	14
	MAYO Total	6	10	9	7	7	15	8	7	11	12	92
	MEATH	ASHBOURNE	4	7	8	5	3	4	4	6	5	7
KELLS		3	3	2	1	1	3	5	1	3	0	22
NAVAN		1	0	2	3	3	3	6	4	3	11	36
TRIM		3	1	2	4	3	1	5	2	1	1	23
MEATH Total		11	11	14	13	10	11	20	13	12	19	134
ROSCOMMON / LONGFORD	CASTLEREA	1	2	1	3	0	4	2	2	3	2	20
	GRANARD	0	0	2	0	1		1	1	3	5	13
	LONGFORD	2	2	4	1	2	4	4	4	8	3	34
	ROSCOMMON	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	3	2	2	13
	ROSCOMMON / LONGFORD Total	3	4	9	6	3	9	8	10	16	12	80
SLIGO / LEITRIM	BALLYMOTE	1	0	3	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	11
	LEITRIM	0	0	6	2	5	4	1	1	10	9	38
	MANORHAMILTON	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	SLIGO	5	2	5	3	2	8	6	5	8	1	45
SLIGO / LEITRIM Total	6	2	15	5	7	13	9	8	19	11	95	
TIPPERARY	CAHIR	7	3	3	1	2	11	4	5	9	3	48
	CLONMEL	11	7	4	5	5	4	11	9	13	12	81

Appendix B

Occupational Injuries to Gardai for Period 2008 to Date (17/11/2017)												
Month	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	
JAN	31	32	27	35	34	25	52	44	61	53	394	
FEB	26	22	33	37	37	52	38	60	55	44	404	
MAR	30	36	33	36	44	35	39	54	63	64	434	
APR	40	35	37	28	31	32	39	42	43	52	379	
MAY	38	29	25	34	36	43	69	61	49	50	434	
JUN	31	43	36	28	26	51	40	54	52	61	422	
JUL	34	22	33	37	32	40	47	43	65	56	409	
AUG	37	27	48	41	36	42	66	59	58	45	459	
SEP	38	28	39	38	26	42	46	46	55	38	396	
OCT	36	30	45	33	33	60	65	56	52	32	442	
NOV	40	20	35	34	49	47	68	52	64	5	414	
DEC	34	36	36	43	19	44	60	59	45	0	376	
Total	415	360	427	424	403	513	629	630	662	500	4963	