

# 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

Láithreán Gréasain/Website:

[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

Bí linn/Join us  

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000045-2024 Request Part-Granted

Dear

I refer to your request, dated and received on 29th January, 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 wish to apply under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for the following information relating to finance and HR:*

*The number of Protesters Removal Courses run each year for the last ten years*

*The number of gardaí who have completed a protester removal course in each of the last ten years*

*The annual cost of running protester removal courses in each of the last ten years*

*I request the information dating back to 2013.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to part grant your request on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The purpose of this letter is to explain my decision.

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## 1. Findings, particulars and reasons for decision

Upon receipt, details of your request were forwarded to the relevant sections of An Garda Síochána who conducted a search for records containing the information you requested.

The table below outlines the number of protest removal courses and the number of attendees over the past 10 years as requested in the first two parts of your request.

Year	No of Courses	No of Participants
2013	1	58
2014	4	40
2015	2	20
2016	0	0
2017	0	0
2018	1	12
2019	0	0
2020	1	8
2021	0	0
2022	0	0
2023	2	24

*\* Please note this may not reflect exact number of members performing Public order protest removal level 1 duties at this time, due to illness, promotion, resignation, retirement etc*

The third part of your request sought the annual cost of running protester removal courses. The financial system used by An Garda Síochána cannot extract exact expenditure related to individual training courses. Course instructors can deliver multiple different types of training and therefore it is not possible to attribute costs directly to particular training courses. As the record sought does not exist and cannot be extracted from the Garda financial management system, 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*

## 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-000045-2024.

**Freedom of Information Office, An Garda Síochána, Athlumney House, IDA Business Park, Johnstown, 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-000045-2024) 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](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 the FOI Office by telephone at (046) 9036350.

Yours sincerely,



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**PAUL BASSETT**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER**

25 FEBRUARY, 2024.