

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

Bí linn/Join us  

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

## Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI-000279-2022 Request Part Granted

*Dear*

I refer to your request, dated and received on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act) for records held by An Garda Síochána. We received 2 FOI sent on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022. For ease of reference I have broken the requests into 3 therefore you will receive 3 separate correspondences in relation to same. In addition and for clarity I have numbered this request.

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. How many garda officers have and are stationed in each district in Longford and Granard between end of June 2019 to July 21 2022 and how many gardai are currently at the time of the FOI request out on sick leave?*
- 2. A breakdown of these absences as per garda, sergeants, inspectors and superintendents during the same period.*
- 3. How many days have been lost due to ill health among staff including civilian and clerical officers during the same period.*

4. *How many days have been lost owing to 'special leave' one of which includes Covid related absences during the same period.*
5. *How many gardai have been referred for psychiatric or psychological assessment and cognitive behavioural therapy during the same period.*
6. *How many officers in both districts are on so called restricted duties and cannot undertake front line work.*
7. *The numbers of officers in both districts granted early retirement owing to mental health concerns during the same period.*

I wish to inform you that I have decided to **part-grant** your request on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision.

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

Upon receipt your request was forwarded to the relevant sections of An Garda Síochána where searches were conducted in respect of same.

In relation to part 1 of your request please find attached Appendix which details the personnel strength of An Garda Síochána in the Longford and Granard districts. I have been advised there were 15 Garda Members on sick leave as of 27.07.2022.

Please find table below which details the instances of absences of members as sought in parts 2 & 6 of request.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Longford</b>	<b>Granard</b>
Rank - Garda	367	270
Rank - Sergeants & Above*	25	15
Members on Restricted Duties**	3	2

*\* Statistics as recorded on SAMS and reported @ 27.07.2022*

*\*\*As of Quarter 4 of 2021*

Sick Absence for members is recorded as the number of calendar days that a member is absent and includes weekend or/and rest days. Garda Members on restricted duty is not recorded on SAMS and is a manual recording that is done on an ad-hoc basis.

In relation to part 3 of your request I can advise that between 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2019 – 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2022 there have been 14,478 days lost due to ill health among Staff including civilian in the Longford and Granard Districts.

I am refusing the release of records in respect of part 4 of your request and am doing so in accordance under Section 15(1)(a) 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*

I have been advised that the Sick Absences Management System (SAMS) does not record COVID absences as sick leave. In line with other public sector bodies, COVID related absences are recorded as special leave. However, there are several circumstances under which special leave with pay can be granted and the Garda Employee Management System (GEMS) does not differentiate between those reasons. Therefore it is not possible to provide specific data on COVID related absences for members, as GEMS does not have a specific category for COVID related absences. In order to establish details of COVID related absences a trawl through all special leave absences would have to be conducted.

In addition this office has been informed that the CMO does not hold records in relation to part 5 of your request. Therefore in accordance with Section 15(1)(a) as stated above I am refusing this part of your request.

With regard to part 7 of your request I have been advised that a member was medically discharged in the Roscommon/Longford during the time period stated in your request. As the number is so small it could reasonably be expected to lead to the identification of the individual therefore I am refusing to supply the reason in accordance with Section 37 of the FOI Act 2014. I am conscious of my obligations to retain personal information in a confidential and secure manner and prevent personal information from being released into the public domain unnecessarily.

Personal information is defined at section 2 of the FOI Act and includes the following.

### ***Section 2 – Interpretation***

*1. (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,*

### ***Section 37 – Personal Information***

Section 37(1) provides that a public body shall refuse to grant a request if access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information. The release of the member’s reason for dismissal could allow for a person(s) to become more identifiable and possibly named in the public domain and is personal information. I am therefore applying section 37(1) Personal Information 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:

### ***Public Interest Test***

As per section 37(5) 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 by employees 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 was carried out when considering the release of the personal information. Having balanced the factors both for and against the release, I decided that the public interest in preserving the personal information and the reasonable expectation that information can be maintained in a confidential manner by An Garda Síochána in the context of its proceedings outweighs the public interest which would be served were the records released to you.

## **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-000279-2022**.

***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-000279-2022) 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,

  
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**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**  
**PAUL BASSETT**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICER**

18 AUGUST, 2022.

APPENDIX

30/06/2019		Total
GRANARD	DRUMLISH	2
	EDGEWORTHSTOWN	12
	GRANARD	37
	SMEAR	1
<b>GRANARD Total</b>		<b>52</b>
LONGFORD	BALLYMAHON	13
	KENAGH	1
	LANESBORO	6
	LONGFORD	71
<b>LONGFORD Total</b>		<b>91</b>

30/12/2019		Total
GRANARD	DRUMLISH	2
	EDGEWORTHSTOWN	11
	GRANARD	37
	SMEAR	1
<b>GRANARD Total</b>		<b>51</b>
LONGFORD	BALLYMAHON	11
	KENAGH	1
	LANESBORO	6
	LONGFORD	72
<b>LONGFORD Total</b>		<b>90</b>

30/06/2020		Total
GRANARD	DRUMLISH	2
	EDGEWORTHSTOWN	11
	GRANARD	40
	SMEAR	1
<b>GRANARD Total</b>		<b>54</b>
LONGFORD	BALLYMAHON	11
	KENAGH	1
	LANESBORO	5
	LONGFORD	85
<b>LONGFORD Total</b>		<b>102</b>

APPENDIX

30/12/2020		Total
GRANARD	DRUMLISH	2
	EDGEWORTHSTOWN	11
	GRANARD	37
	SMEAR	1
<b>GRANARD Total</b>		<b>51</b>
LONGFORD	BALLYMAHON	10
	KENAGH	1
	LANESBORO	3
	LONGFORD	80
<b>LONGFORD Total</b>		<b>94</b>

30/06/2021		Total
GRANARD	DRUMLISH	2
	EDGEWORTHSTOWN	10
	GRANARD	36
	SMEAR	1
<b>GRANARD Total</b>		<b>49</b>
LONGFORD	BALLYMAHON	11
	KENAGH	1
	LANESBORO	3
	LONGFORD	77
<b>LONGFORD Total</b>		<b>92</b>

30/12/2021		Total
GRANARD	DRUMLISH	2
	EDGEWORTHSTOWN	10
	GRANARD	35
	SMEAR	1
<b>GRANARD Total</b>		<b>48</b>
LONGFORD	BALLYMAHON	11
	KENAGH	1
	LANESBORO	3
	LONGFORD	76
<b>LONGFORD Total</b>		<b>91</b>

APPENDIX

<b>30/06/2022</b>		<b>Total</b>
GRANARD	DRUMLISH	2
	EDGRWORTHSTOWN	9
	GRANARD	35
	SMEAR	1
<b>GRANARD Total</b>		<b>47</b>
LONGFORD	BALLYMAHON	11
	KENAGH	1
	LANESBORO	3
	LONGFORD	77
<b>LONGFORD Total</b>		<b>92</b>

<b>21/07/2022</b>		<b>Total</b>
GRANARD	DRUMLISH	2
	EDGRWORTHSTOWN	9
	GRANARD	35
	SMEAR	1
<b>GRANARD Total</b>		<b>47</b>
LONGFORD	BALLYMAHON	11
	KENAGH	0
	LANESBORO	3
	LONGFORD	79
<b>LONGFORD Total</b>		<b>93</b>