

I refer to your e-mail received in this office on 23 March 2016 made under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 requesting information relating to the Garda Trainee campaigns.

In response to your request I can release the following information with regard to the Garda Trainee 2013 campaign.

**1. There were a total of 24,702 applicants (all of whom applied between 12 December 2013 and 9 January 2014)**

**2. Gender:**

16708 Male applicants  
7994 Female applicants

**3. Age/age range:**

18-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50
3,404	10,274	6,663	3,678	401	103	27

51-55	56-60	61-65	66-70	No Age Given	TOTAL
6	4	1	0	141	24,702

**4. Nationality, County of residence (or country of residence if not Ireland)**

The application form asked applicants to indicate from a selection of three areas/locations, where they lived at time of application. The following is based on responses given:

(a) Dublin City or County	5,296 applicants
(b) Outside Dublin but with in Ireland	18,376 applicants
(c) Abroad	1,019 applicants

In the case of 11 applicants they did not indicate any of the above.

In relation to citizenship of candidates:

23,638 applicants indicated Irish citizenship,  
893 applicants indicated EEA citizenship and  
171 applicants indicated citizenship of a country outside of the EEA.

**5. Highest level of educational achievement at the time of application:**

Eligibility criteria are set out in Statutory Instrument No 470 of 2013 Garda Síochána (Admissions & Appointments) Regulations 2013. These were also made available in the Notes for Applicants and Conditions of Service Booklet published in connection with the Garda Trainee 2013 competition. These are as follows:

Paragraph 6 of Notes for Applicants and Conditions of Service Booklet states:

- (A) (i) Have obtained an Irish Leaving Certificate with a grade D3 minimum in five Subjects at ordinary level, or  
(ii) a Level 5 Certificate (Major award) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), or  
(iii) a qualification that, in the opinion of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) is of a standard in terms of both level and volume of learning that is not lower than the standard of the qualifications specified at (i) and (ii) above.

and

- (B) Must have a proven proficiency in two languages; one of which must be Irish or English. Such competency may be proven by achieving the relevant grades or qualifications specified in (A) above, or for English or Irish through such assessments as set out by the Public Appointments Service.

At the latter stages of the selection process candidates are requested to furnish their educational qualifications under which they claim eligibility. As all candidates' qualifications are checked to ensure that they meet the minimum requirement, the Public Appointments Service does not keep statistics regarding highest level of educational achievement attained by individuals.

As information with regard to the highest level educational achievement, at the time application, is contained in candidates application forms and is given in confidence, I am claiming exemption from the release of this information under Section 37 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Section 37(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 which provides as follows:-

*"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)".*

**6. Garda Trainee 2016 campaign**

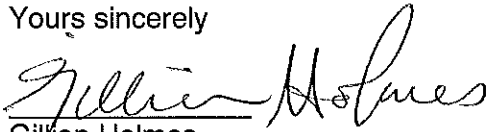
In connection with the Garda Trainee 2016 campaign, I can inform you that there were a total of 16650 applicants, however, as the competition is ongoing I am refusing, under Section 29 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the release the rest of information requested by you at this time.

Under Section 29 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, *"A head may refuse to grant an FOI request — (a) if the record concerned contains matter relating to the deliberative processes of an FOI body (including opinions, advice, recommendations, and the results of consultations, considered by the body, the head of the body, or a member of the body or of the staff of the body for the purpose of those processes"*

If you are not satisfied with the level of information provided in this letter or with any aspect of my decisions in relation to the records listed in the schedule, it is open to you to have your request for information internally reviewed by this office. Requests for internal review should be submitted in writing to Ms Catherine Dobbins, Assistant Principal, F.O.I. Unit, Public Appointments Service, Chapter House, 26-30 Abbey Street Upper, Dublin 1. Such a request for review must be submitted **within four weeks** of receipt of this letter and must be accompanied by a **fee of €30**. The Public Appointments Service must complete the internal review within three weeks and the review process must normally be completed before an appeal may be made to the Information Commissioner.

However, if you have not received a reply to your application for internal review within three weeks, this is deemed to be a refusal and you may appeal direct to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



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