

Freedom of Information

I wish to make a Freedom of Information request under the Freedom of Information Act, 2014.

1. I wish to know the total amount of complaints against members of the Garda Síochána from 1 January 2023 to 8 November 2023.
2. I would like these figures broken down by the rank of the members.
3. I would also like to know the total amount of complaints that were categorised as "Abuse of Authority complaints."

Please find below information as requested.

A few items to note.

- The figures below are drawn from complaints (and allegations contained therein) received in from 1 January 2023 to 8 November 2023, as specified in your FOI request.
- Please note that the below information should be treated as indicative only. It was retrieved on foot of your request and does not represent official, published, statistical information from GSOC. Information on cases, by its nature, is dynamic, and subject to update on foot of further information received during the course of an investigation.
- Further information on the admissibility process is also provided in the notes at the end of this document for context and background.

That all outlined, please see the below.

FOI request 1: I wish to know the total amount of complaints against members of the Garda Síochána from 1 January 2023 to 8 November 2023

From 1 January to 8 November 2023, a total of **1,246** complaints were opened by GSOC. The 1,246 complaints contained 2,553 allegations (one complaint can contain more than one allegation).

FOI request 2: I would like these figures broken down by the rank of the members.

The below table provides the number of cases in this time period in which records currently indicate the rank of the member subject to a complaint.

Important note on the below table:

- As noted above, information on cases, by its nature, is dynamic, and subject to update on foot of further information received during the course of an investigation.
- The count of cases in this table does not correspond to the total number of complaints. It represents a count of cases in which there is a record – at the time of this query – of the rank of the member subject to a complaint.
- The count of cases figure does not align to a number of individual members. It is possible that one member of a given rank is involved in more than one complaint. It is equally

possible for one complaint to involved more than one member of the same or differing ranks.

Garda Rank	Count of Cases
Detective Chief Superintendent	1
Detective Garda	15
Detective Inspector	2
Detective Sergeant	10
Detective Superintendent	1
Garda	397
Inspector	10
Sergeant	68
Superintendent	7

FOI request 3: I would also like to know the total amount of complaints that were categorised as "Abuse of Authority complaints"

Of the 1,246 complaints received to date in 2023 and following the admissibility process, **768** complaints were deemed admissible and admitted for further investigation. Of these admitted complaints, **193** complaints contained allegations of Abuse of Authority.

Further Information

Admissibility: a note on how complaints are assessed by GSOC

All complaints received by GSOC are assessed against criteria listed in the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 to determine if they are admissible. For a complaint to be admissible, it must meet the following criteria:

According to section 87 of the Act, GSOC can admit a complaint if it:

- It must be made by (or, in certain circumstances. On behalf of) a person who is directly affected by, or who witnesses, the conduct subject of complaints;
- It must relate to behaviour which would, if proven, constitute a criminal offence or a breach of Garda discipline by a member of the Garda Síochána;
- It must be made within the time limit of within one year of the incident subject of the complaint;
- It must not relate to the general direction and control of the Garda Síochána by the Garda Commissioner; and
- It must not relate to the conduct of a member of the Garda Síochána while the member was off duty, unless the conduct alleged would, if proven, be likely to bring discredit on the Garda Síochána

If a complaint does not meet the criteria it is deemed inadmissible and no further action is taken by GSOC.

After a complaint is deemed admissible it can be dealt with in a number of ways depending on what is alleged.

All allegations of criminal offences by Gardaí are investigated by GSOC investigators under section 98 of the Act.

If breaches of discipline have been identified these complaints can be dealt with in a number of ways, such as:

- unsupervised disciplinary investigations (under section 94 of the Act), conducted by Garda Superintendents
- Supervised investigation (under section 94(5)). These are also conducted by Garda Superintendents but are supervised by GSOC investigators. These investigations are conducted by Garda Superintendents in line with Garda Discipline regulations.
- Non-criminal investigations (under section 95 of the Act) are carried out by GSOC investigators.