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Harvey Temple  
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Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Tel No.: (DDI) 01622 654413

FOI Ref.: 6481-2008

Dear Mr Temple,

### INFORMATION REQUEST

I write in connection with your request for information received by Kent Police on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2008. I am conscious that this response arrives with you sometime after the twenty working day time limit permitted by information legislation has expired and for this failure in our service I apologise. As explained to you in my e-mail dated 17<sup>th</sup> September, this request relates to the environmental impact of Kent Police Operations, and therefore I must deal with your request under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. However, as we are providing the information wherever possible this is only a technical point which I include for your information.

Kent Police have received a number of information requests relating to the policing of the Climate Camp for Change near Kingsnorth Power station (Operation Oasis). A huge amount of information has been created after such a large operation and it has not all been sorted or catalogued. As I am sure you can appreciate, this makes actually locating the information very difficult.

We recognise and respect the considerable public interest in our policing of the climate camp and we will shortly be publishing on our website a compendium of information including material relating to strategic and tactical considerations and decision-making, costs, numbers of arrests and articles confiscated during the operation.

For ease of reference, I have separated your questions into three, and answered them in turn.

*1) I'd like to know how much was spent on fuel, what type of fuel and; how much fuel (in litres or gallons) was burned by the Essex Police Helicopter under the auspices of "Operation Oasis" at the 2008 Climate Camp*

The helicopter uses an average of 180 litres of Jet A1 Aviation fuel per hour (price - £0.52litre), and flew for 41.35 hours. This amounts to 7,443 litres of fuel costing £3,870.36

*2) a) I also want to know the type of helicopter and any details that you have as to its fuel efficiency and the distance it flew. I want to know this information so that I can work out the amount of carbon dioxide that was dumped into the atmosphere by the helicopter during your operation.*

The aircraft is a Eurocopter EC135 T2+. In effect this a CAA approved police role-equipped helicopter with two Turbomeca - Arrius engines. Kent Police do not hold any information regarding the vehicle's fuel efficiency, such as carbon emission figures, and this may be available from the manufacturers. They have a website at <http://eurocopter.co.uk> which contains their contact details and a good deal of technical data about their vehicles.

As previously stated, the aircraft was used for 41.35 hours during the Climate camp operation flying 63 flights (take off to landing again), which covered 71 incidents. Flights can only be measured in flying time, not distance, and so this part of the information is not held.

To reduce flying time, the aircraft was held nearby at Rochester (its Kent base) as opposed to returning it to Essex after each deployment. Among the operational considerations when deploying the aircraft are whether the task can be done by other means or is it more cost effective to utilise the aircraft both in terms of the speed of deployment and/or the risk to officers.

*2) b) I trust that Kent Police Authority, concerned as it is with the health and safety of the public, is considering offsetting the considerable pollution that it must have created for example by replacing routine city centre car patrols with bicycle units.*

This part of your question asks for comment, which is not a form of information the Authority is required to provide under FOI or EIR. However, the Kent Police Transport Services strategy takes full account of the EU commitment under the Kyoto protocol of the UN convention on climate change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the Climate Change (Commercial and Public Service Sectors) Bill to reduce energy usage. This includes examining the feasibility of alternative modes of transport where appropriate.

*3) I'd also be interested in seeing the environmental impact assessment that was carried out into the use of the helicopter and other police resources. At night-time, Kent Police's disruption of the life of the local community due to noise pollution as well as by the burning of fossil fuels was very serious - I'm sure that a proper assessment must have been carried out. If not I believe that this is an issue that should be addressed in future operations.*

Answer: A specific, environmental impact assessment was not carried out and so to this extent this information is not held. However, minimising the disruption to the community by the activities of both protestors and the police was taken into consideration during the planning stages and formed part of the strategic objectives for the operation. Also, the operational briefings to officers included maps highlighting which areas surrounding the camp were Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and information on legislation aimed at protecting wildlife and the environment.

Kent Police's intentions in policing the Camp for Climate Change are best expressed by the Gold Commander, Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas in his strategy document for Operation Oasis:

"The intention of the police operation is to safeguard the rights of all persons involved in or affected by the protest. The public are entitled to peacefully protest in a free society and the police must safeguard this right. Others engaged in lawful economic activities should also be able to do so without hindrance or disturbance from protestors."

#### Strategic Objectives

- The protection of life
- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The facilitation of lawful protest
- The investigation of criminality, dealing proportionately and fairly with offenders and securing the best evidence for any prosecutions
- To minimise disruption to the local community and to provide reassurance more generally
- To ensure a swift return to normality

I have also included at Appendix 1 a larger excerpt from the Gold Commander's strategy document that demonstrates how a number of environmental concerns were considered during the planning of the operation.

Thank you for your interest in Kent Police and I hope that the information I have provided has been useful. A sheet, which summarised your rights, was enclosed with the acknowledgement sent to you and as suggested therein, should you have any further issues concerning this matter, please contact me quoting the reference number shown above.

Yours sincerely,

**Nigel Amos**  
**Freedom of Information Advisor**