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Freedom of Information Office
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Our Ref: FOI /515/09/JS

Your Ref:

Date: 29 October 2009

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Mr N Smith

By Email

Dear Mr Smith,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 515/09

I refer to your email of 7 October 2009, in which you requested information in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

I have repeated your questions hereunder, for your ease of reference;

1) What levels of driving authorisations are offered?

- Basic
- Standard
- Advanced
- Standard Motorcycle Course
- Advanced Motorcycle
- Pursuit Driving
- Security Escort Driving
- Motorcycle Security Escort
- 4 X 4 on and off road
- Category D1 Driving course (mini-bus)
- Category D Driving Course (PCV)
- Category C1 Driving Course (Vehicle Under 7.5 tonne)
- Category C Driving Course (Vehicle Over 7.5 tonne)

2) What do each of the driving authorisations allow the holder to do?

BASIC – Drive any motor car confined to speed limits. Cannot drive vehicle in Emergency Response mode – I. E. blue lights and sirens.

STANDARD – Drive any low or medium performance car in emergency response mode.

ADVANCED – As above but can also drive high performance vehicles.

STANDARD MOTORCYCLE COURSE – Allows the rider to ride the motorcycle in emergency response mode. Capped to speed limit + 30mph.

ADVANCED MOTORCYCLE COURSE – Allows the rider to ride the machine in emergency response mode with no speed restrictions.

PURSUIT DRIVING – Allows advanced drivers to carry out vehicle pursuits in line with the ACPOS Manual of Guidance.

SECURITY ESCORT DRIVING – Allows the driver to drive in Security Escort situations – VIP/Royalty escorts etc.

MOTORCYCLE SECURITY ESCORT – Allows the rider to ride his motorcycle in security escort situations.

4X4 – Drive 4X4 vehicles in on road and off road situations

CATEGORY D1 DRIVING COURSE – Authorised to drive category D1 vehicles.

CATEGORY D DRIVING COURSE (PCV) - Authorised to drive category D vehicles.

CATEGORY C1 DRIVING COURSE - Authorised to drive category C1 vehicles.

CATEGORY C DRIVING COURSE - Authorised to drive category C vehicles.

3) What training is required for each of the driving authorisations and how are the candidates assessed? How long in length are the courses for each of the respective driving permits?

BASIC - Approximately 1 hour practical driving assessment by a Police Driving Instructor. Knowledge of highway code also tested.

STANDARD – 4 week driving course which entails continual assessment as well as progress/final assessment drives. In addition there are theory examinations on the Roadcraft manual and Highway Code. Emergency response training is carried out on week 4 following successful completion of weeks 1 to 3. This is continual assessment as well as a final assessed drive.

ADVANCED – Four week course carried out at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan.

STANDARD MOTORCYCLE COURSE – Three week course which entails continual assessment as well as progress/final assessment rides. In addition there are theory examinations on the Roadcraft manual and Highway Code. Emergency response training is included at the end of the course.

ADVANCED MOTORCYCLE - Four week course carried out at the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan.

PURSUIT DRIVING – Carried out by Scottish Police College following successful completion of the Advanced Driving Course.

SECURITY ESCORT DRIVING – One week course carried out by Scottish Police College.

MOTORCYCLE SECURITY ESCORT – One week course which entails continual assessment and a final assessed exercise.

4 X 4 ON AND OFF ROAD – One day course with continual assessment throughout the day.

CATEGORY D1 DRIVING COURSE (MINI-BUS) – One week course carried out by a qualified D1 Instructor. Examined to Driving Standards Agency (DSA) standards both in respect of practical and theory examinations.

CATEGORY D DRIVING COURSE (PCV) – If required, training would be sourced from an outside training establishment.

CATEGORY C1 DRIVING COURSE (VEHICLE UNDER 7.5 TONNE) - If required, training would be sourced from an outside training establishment.

CATEGORY C DRIVING COURSE (VEHICLE OVER 7.5 TONNE) - If required, training would be sourced from an outside training establishment.

- 4) Are any of the driving authorisation courses which are offered by your Force, provided in a modular basis, (i.e. are they offered in modules of 1 week at a time until the course is complete etc),**

No, there are specific modules, which have to be covered, but they all interlink with each other as the course progresses.

- 5) Which of the authorisations are available to Special Constables?**

Basic is offered to Special Constables. Other authorisations would be considered if they were deemed necessary.

- 6) If any modular courses are offered, are the available to Special Constables?**

As modular courses are not offered, this question is not applicable.

- 7) How many Special Constables in your Force have driving authorisations which allow them to respond (i.e. use blue lights, sirens and allowed the holder to utilise the relevant exemptions**

afforded to them in law with respect of speeding, going through red lights etc),

There are currently no Special Constables who have the sufficient driving authorisation to drive a police vehicle with blue lights and sirens.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries. However, if you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of the decision made by the Force. Should you wish to proceed, please write to Iain Gray, Head of Information Disclosure Unit, Grampian Police, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5AB, within 40 working days of receiving this letter, stating clearly that you request a review and the decisions you wish reviewed.

If, after having been informed of the review decision you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision within six months of the date of the review response. Contact details are Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, telephone 01334 464610.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jody Stewart
Assistant Manager – Freedom of Information