

19 January 2009

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 0981/2008

Dr Geraint Bevan

E mail:- request-4818-48de4dd2@whatdotheyknow.com

Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters
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Dear Dr Bevan

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER 0981/2008

I refer to your request for information dated 17 December 2008, which was received by Strathclyde Police on that date. Your request has now been considered and on 19 January 2009, a decision was made to grant your request in full. As such, the information you have requested is detailed below.

I should be obliged if you would tell me what means police officers have of determining the insurer of a motor vehicle?

The power granted to a constable to require the production of a certificate of insurance is outlined in Section 165 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

This legislation can be viewed on the website of the Office of Public Sector Information at the following web address:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1988/ukpga_19880052_en_14#pt7-pb1-11g165

Where a police officer requires to ascertain insurance details he/she would require production of the insurance certificate from the driver/owner of the relevant vehicle under the above legislation. If the driver/owner did not have this document in his/her possession at the time of the requirement then he/ she must produce it at a police office within seven days of the requirement being made.

Details of insurers are also on the Motor Insurers database on the Police National Computer.

Please also tell me what procedures, if any, are in place for Strathclyde police officers to notify a vehicle's insurer of damage to that vehicle on the owner's behalf; and under what circumstances this would happen?

I have interpreted your question as meaning damage caused to a motor vehicle as a result of the vehicle being involved in a road crash. Strathclyde Police do not notify insurance companies of damage to motor vehicles on behalf of the owner of a vehicle; rather, this is the

responsibility of the owner. When a road crash is reported to the police an investigation is carried out and a road crash report recorded. An extract of this report is available on request and payment of a fee to insurance companies acting for persons involved in a crash. This extract contains very brief details as to the extent or location of visible damage to any vehicle. It could by no means be considered as a comprehensive assessment of damage incurred.

I hope this information is helpful, 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 request such a review, please write to Mrs Sheena Brennan, Disclosure Manager at the above address within 40 working days of receiving this letter.

Once informed of the Review Panel's decision, if you are still not satisfied, then you are entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision. Contact details are; Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, telephone 01334 464610.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Strathclyde Police. Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me directly on 0141 435 1204 quoting the reference number given.

Yours sincerely

John Cameron
Sergeant