

20 September 2011

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 0706/2011

Mr Dennis Fallon
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Dear Mr Fallon

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER 0706/2011

I refer to your request for information dated 25 August 2011, which was received by Strathclyde Police on that date. Your request has now been considered and on 20 September 2011, a decision was made to grant your request in full. As such, the information you have requested is detailed below.

I would like to request a FOI disclosure which is basically to understand the annual money payments to Serco and Gatso for the calibration and maintenance of cameras, staff training, and how the speed is calculated as part of the secondary check.

Q1. How many fixed post Gatso (FPG) and Gatso Red Light (GRL) cameras were in use, on an annual basis, by your partnership in the past three financial years?

Please find listed below the number of Gatso camera sites operated by the Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership:

Year	Gatso speed (all year)	Gatso speed (part of year)	Gatso red-light (all year)	Gatso red-light (part of year)	TOTAL GATSO (all/part of year)
2008-9	67	2*	24	0	93
2009-10	67	0	11	13**	91
2010-11	66	1*	7	4**	78

* These fixed speed Gatso sites were removed during the course of the year and were not replaced.

**These red-light Gatso sites were removed during the course of the year and replaced with digital cameras from another supplier.

Q2. For these cameras, for the past three financial years, what were the total cost amounts paid(TCAP) for the annual calibration of these cameras, identifying the TCAP to intermediate agents such as Serco and the company Gatsometer B.V, and the additional amounts of V.A.T added?

The following amounts were paid to SERCO for calibration of the Gatso Camera Units in the Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership area:

Year	Speed cameras	Red light cameras
2008/09	£10,446.95*	£7,356.92*
2009/10	£11623.30	£ 2,260.00
2010/11	£12,638.00	£2415.00

*Note: The 2008/09 figure includes costs for parts, labour and carriage which are not separately detailed on the invoices.

Given that there were changes in the VAT rate between the given dates, the following were applied:

April 2008 – November 2008: 17.50%

December 2008 – December 2009: 15.00%

January 2010 – December 2010: 17.50%

January 2011 to-date: 20.00%

There were no amounts paid to Gatsometer B.V. in the periods stated.

Q3. Please confirm if the partnership have ownership of these cameras, paid in full, or any other arrangement.

Fixed Camera Units are owned by the relevant Roads Authority partner on which the Fixed Camera is located. The Partnership is not a legal entity in its own right.

Q4. Please confirm if the calibration contracts (CC) have been agreed for a fixed term with break penalty clauses or negotiated annually, if the CC are inclusive of a greater contract regarding maintenance, and who signed the contracts on behalf of the partnership.

There are no contracts in place for the calibration of Fixed Site Cameras as Gatsometer B.V. via SERCO is the sole provider of this service. Costs are set annually by SERCO and work is authorised on an 'as required' basis by the Partnership Manager in line with approval from the Scottish Safety Camera Office.

Q5. After the cameras have been returned following calibration please confirm if, apart from the calibration certificate, Gatsometer B.V provide a report on any faults detected and items replaced and, if so, please identify the items, including batteries, that have required replacement.

Items specified on invoices for replacement include: capacitors, batteries, flash shields, interfaces, tension springs, bulbs, intermediate plates, clocks, memory cards, washers, seals, slides, backlights, circuit boards and DCE housing repairs.

Q6. After calibration, please confirm if the cameras are returned with a shutter speed of two photographs at intervals of 0.5 seconds, and if your Camera Enforcement Officers make any adjustments to the shutter speed or flash setting prior to reinstallation and, if so, what are the setting adjustments?.

Gatso cameras are returned with a setting of two photographs at intervals of 0.5 seconds in the case of speed cameras and 1.0 seconds in the case of red light cameras. Camera Enforcement Operators do not make any adjustments to the shutter speed or flash setting prior to reinstallation.

Q7. Regarding the secondary check viewing, please advise how the viewing staff are trained for their task, who does the training, are certificates of completion provided, and are the staff given post training assessments or hard copy reference documentation. Is the work of the viewing staff audited or reviewed at intervals?

Viewing is carried out by Police Officers who have been trained either directly by Serco or by the cascading of information by a person who has previously been trained for this purpose. Certificates of completion are not provided for secondary check viewing.

There is no formal post-training assessment; however, there is a cross reference table that is used for checking speeds based on the distance travelled (i.e. number of lines crossed). Although the work of the viewing staff is not audited or reviewed as a matter of course, viewing officers are regularly required to speak to the offence in court and can be cross-questioned on the photographic evidence, including reference to the secondary check marks.

Q8. For FPG please confirm the distance between the calibration lines on the road which are part of the secondary check, so that one can calculate the speed if five lines are passed.

To clarify, the lines on the road are not 'calibration' lines that form part of the Home Office Type Approval process but rather are simple secondary check markings. In Strathclyde the lines are spaced at 2 metre intervals. Viewing Officers consult a cross-reference table, showing distances and approximate associated speeds in respect of each alleged offence viewed to ensure that the speed shown by the cameras is commensurate with the distance travelled on the road.

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 within six months 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 1217 quoting the reference number given.

Yours sincerely

Andrew McCulloch
Freedom of Information Officer