

29 November 2011

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 0706/2011

Mr Dennis Fallon
Email: request-84054-33334438@whatdotheyknow.com

Information Management
Police Headquarters
173 Pitt Street
GLASGOW
G2 4JS

Tel: 0141 435 1217

Fax: 0141 435 1218

Dear Mr Fallon

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER 0706/2011

I refer to your recent email requesting further clarification dated 22 November 2011, which was received by Strathclyde Police on that date. It is indeed unfortunate some misunderstandings and assumptions have occurred on this issue, however I hope the following information now resolves the matter.

For ease, I have responded to each point in turn.

I am of the opinion that Gatso cameras are becoming obsolete technology so I was trying to ascertain the current financial trends regarding Strathclyde police.

It is unfortunate that there has been confusion regarding site and camera numbers and I have been surprised that Strathclyde have probably spent over £250,000 on 'dummy' cameras when the majority of partnerships have deemed them unnecessary (44 dummy speed cameras at £4,800 and 14 dummy red light cameras at unknown cost).

There is still an element of clarification required regarding the red light sites / cameras.

In 2008/2009 there were 24 Gatso redlight cameras (GRL) sites but in 2010/2011 there were only 7 GRL sites (covered by 4 GRL cameras) and 14 dummy red light units, and also an unknown number of digital replacements.

Obviously there has been significant reduction in the use of GRL cameras and these are very expensive kit at about £20,000 each.

Please confirm the number of GRL cameras held in 2008/2009, which I would presume to be 10, and as only 4 are currently in use, please confirm what has happened to the surplus units, including the surplus dummy units, since they have been removed from use and if there are any plans for selling them off.

There were 5 Gatso red light (GRL) cameras held in 2008/09, the Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership has never had more than this number. Further, this figure reduced to 4 in 2009/10 when one camera required a repair which was not financially viable.

The redundant dummy units are currently in storage. There are no plans for selling them off as there is no known second-hand market for this type of equipment. The move to digital technology is, as you say, because 'wet film' equipment is becoming obsolete.

Further, as almost all of these items were purchased not by the force but by Local Authorities before the Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership came into being (some as far back as 1993), they have all been well used for many years for their intended purpose.

Please confirm that as 13 GRL `sites` were replaced by digital `sites` in 2009/2010, and 4 GRL `sites` replaced in 2010/2011, how many digital redlight cameras have actually been purchased, what is the type of digital camera, and how many dummy digital cameras have also been purchased.

13 digital red light camera replacements were purchased in 2009/10 and 4 in 2010/11. All are Red Speed International cameras. These cameras are fixed within their housings and cannot be rotated around locations; therefore, there are 17 actual cameras and no dummy units.

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, Information 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