

10/03/2015

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-0231



Sir Stephen House QPM
Chief Constable

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002
SUBJECT: Electronic systems and equipment

I refer to your email dated 30/01/2015 regarding the above which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Question 1

Which manufacturer and models of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) are used in the force and who was this procured through?

Response

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD): There are three different command and control systems currently in use within Police Scotland, dependent on location, across the country. Details are exempted as per the rationale below. Although some information has previously been released regarding the type of systems utilised, this information is historic and no longer accurate as Police Scotland move towards a single solution in terms of this process.

Question 2

Which manufacturer and models of ICCS (or Console) are used for the force and who was this procured through?

Response

All details of the various Integrated Command and Control System (ICCS) currently in use by Police Scotland are exempted as per the rationale below;

Question 3

Which manufacturer and models of *Records Management System* are used in the force and who was this procured through? *You clarified as records management storing case files like 'niche'.

Response

I would advise that whilst Police Scotland is moving towards the implementation of one common recording system across the country, the Police Scotland Divisions continue to use several different historical systems in relation to the recording of both incidents and crimes, many of which were developed by the legacy area. Details are exempted as per the rationale below.

To be of further assistance, you may be interested to know that the Service is in the process of implementing a computer system called i6 which is currently being developed in house to meet the future needs of Police Scotland.

Question 4

Which manufacturer and models of voice recording systems for radio and telephony are used in the force and who was this procured through?

All details of the various voice recording systems for radio and telephony currently in use by Police Scotland are exempted as per the rationale below;

Question 5

Which manufacturer and models of interview recording systems are used in the force and who was this procured through?

Response

Although the digital interview equipment in use by Police Scotland is currently stand alone, the longer term plan is to share this resource with other key stakeholders through a common network arrangement. There is no timeline for this as yet as there are final business protocols to be agreed and developed before this scheme can be piloted. As such, having considered this request I consider the details are exempted as per the rationale articulated below.

Question 6

Which manufacturer and models of body worn camera are used in the force and who was this procured through?

Response

A Video Badge Camera manufactured by Edesix is currently in use as a body worn camera. The tendering process, through the European procurement format, was won by Scottish Communications.

Question 7

***Which manufacturer and model of Crime recording and **investigation systems** are used in the force and who was these procured through?
** You clarified as applications that aid the investigating officer's to manage there investigations work***

Response

Police Scotland Divisions continue to use many different historical systems in relation to the investigations of crimes, many of which were developed by the legacy area. I can also confirm that some specialist commercial systems may be used which includes (but is not prohibited to) Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (H.O.L.M.E.S), Scottish Intelligence Database (SID), Criminal History System (CHS) and Police National Computer (PNC) although their details and procurement are also exempted as per the rationale below.

Your request for information has now been considered as articulated above and a decision was made to withhold part of the information requested. The information requested by you is considered to be exempt in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act). Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland to provide you with a notice which: (a) states that it holds the information, (b) states that it is claiming an exemption, (c) specifies the exemption in question and (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies. Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided.

Section 35 (1) (a) & (b) – Law Enforcement**Section 39 (1) – Health, Safety and the Environment**

I believe the disclosure of the requested information would provide an indication of the operational capabilities of the Service and specifically would give an indication of the facility held by Police Scotland to employ Command and Control systems in addition to a specific method of voice recording and telephony. Furthermore, the release of the requested information would point

to the Service's ability to respond to incidents which could then be used by individuals intent on wrong doing to gauge with some accuracy the probability of detection during the commission of crime and take steps to prepare which would provide them with an advantage when planning or perpetrating crimes. In furtherance, this would also be likely to endanger not only the officers concerned but also members of the public who could be injured as a result of such action.

The disclosure of the requested information pertaining to specific brands could potentially place these companies, if utilised, and their employees in a vulnerable position in terms of their exposure and the subsequent opportunities for them to be corrupted by those who are involved in the commission of serious and organised crime.

The cumulative effect of those individuals who are intent on criminality gathering information from the public domain would undoubtedly have even more impact when linked to other information gathered from various sources about police systems. The more information disclosed over time will give a more detailed account of the information infrastructure of not only a divisional area, but also the country as a whole.

Section 33(1)(b) Commercial Interests and the Economy

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the commercial interests of any person (including without prejudice to that generality, a Scottish public authority).

If held, the information requested is a specific part of the contract details with Police Scotland and the service provider. As you may be aware the tendering process is open to competition and if utilised, companies are invited to submit their tender bid with details of the costs and processes they would use for the successful completion of the contract. As a result any company who submits a tender bid is required to give detailed information regarding the capabilities and financial ability of the company to complete a contract. Public disclosure of such information is likely to give competitive advantage to other similar companies and as a result would have a damaging impact on the company concerned.

If held, any relevant information supplied by a successful tender company is provided in the expectation that whilst remaining relevant, details within their tender bid, which is commercially sensitive, will be held by Police Scotland and not disclosed to another organisation who may gain a competitive advantage in receiving this information. However, if the information was disclosed this may, in the future, reduce the number of companies tendering for the supply of goods and services, they being aware that the Police will disclose commercially sensitive information. Potentially therefore reducing the opportunities for the service to purchase the most efficient and cost effective service in the future and prejudice the commercial interests of Police .

This is a non absolute exemption which requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test

While it could be argued that public debate and accountability in terms of the use of forms of various systems and the methods and equipment employed would favour disclosure, Police Scotland needs to consider the impact of the release of this information into the public domain and I would argue that the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the service in a key law enforcement role and the preservation of public safety favours non-disclosure of the information requested. In conclusion, it is considered that the public interest in disclosing the information requested by you is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption as detailed above.

On balance, the PIT favours retention as it may be felt that Police Scotland should disclose the information requested, in terms of accountability for public funds. However, the grounds for disclosure in this case are outweighed, as disclosure may prejudice the flow of information between Police Scotland and the interests of third parties (in other words the commercial business interest of the company who, when required, submit a tender bid in confidence and their staff).

I trust that the information available is of assistance and should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me on 01463 720555 quoting the reference number given.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled in the first instance and within 40 working days of receiving this letter to request a review of the decision made by the Service. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; Police Scotland, FOI Central Processing Unit, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH. (Or email foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk).

Once informed of the review decision, if you are still not satisfied, then you are entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. The contact details are: Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, telephone 01334 464610. Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

Yours sincerely

Donna Quick
Information Management

Freedom of Information