

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

02 March 2015

Your Ref:

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2015-0262



Sir Stephen House QPM
Chief Constable

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002
SUBJECT: OPERATION QUARTERLIGHT

I refer to your email dated 05 February 2015 regarding the above which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

Your various questions surround Operation Quarterlight which is an ongoing national campaign to tackle car crime and vehicle theft in Scotland. You have specifically mentioned you seek information based on a recent Facebook update from our Edinburgh Division.

For ease, I will answer each question in the order you have asked.

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1) *ARRESTS: 24*

A) How many suspects were you unable to arrest?

Unfortunately we are unable to answer this question in a direct manner. To explain, the Facebook update provided a 'snapshot' of statistics as at the time they were uploaded and published on to the sight. Due to ongoing police enquiries, these figures can fluctuate and change as a result of such investigations.

B) How many arrests led to nothing?

C) Of the 24 arrested how many led to charges?

These questions are slightly ambiguous. In Scotland, police officers will arrest and charge an individual if they have reasonable grounds/evidence to suspect they may have committed an offence. Therefore, for both these questions, 24 individuals have been arrested and charged.

If you are enquiring as to how many of these cases lead to prosecution and conviction I must advise that the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service would hold this information and section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies to Police Scotland – notice that information is not held.

D) Is this a particularly high number? How does this compare to previous operation and Division average?

Unfortunately, part of this question seeks an opinion of which we are not obliged to answer under the Freedom of Information legislation. However, I can provide a response to the remaining part of this question. Since the formation of Police Scotland on the 01 April 2013, no similar national operation has been launched. Therefore we are unable to advise of previous comparable figures. As this information is not held, Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 again applies.

2) *SOLVED CRIMES: 68*

A) How many crimes are unsolved?

Please see answer to question 1a

B) What were said crimes? The post states that over half were motoring offences but this is awfully vague.

In total 46 of these offences relate to motor vehicle crime. A summary of these crimes are as follows;

Theft Motor Vehicle

Attempt theft Motor Vehicle

Theft by Opening Lockfast Place - Motor Vehicle

Attempted by Opening Lockfast Place - Motor Vehicle
Theft from Motor Vehicle
Vandalism Motor Vehicle
Failing to stop
Sec. 2 Road Traffic Act
Sec. 3 Road Traffic Act
No insurance
No licence
No helmet

C) Is this a high number of solved crimes? How does this statistic compare to Division and National (Scottish) averages?

Please see response to question 1D.

3) STOP SEARCHES – 24

A) How many of these searches turned up something useful or led to an arrest being made?

There were 74 searches completed, not 24 as published. Of these, five were classed as positive, i.e. property was recovered that was evidence of an offence. Unfortunately, due to the phrasing of your question, we are unable to advise on the number that 'led to something useful'. To explain, it is possible that a search may recover information of value that does not lead to arrest, such as the development of intelligence.

B) Is this a high number of searches? Is this number above or below the average number of stop searches made during any given operation.

Please see response to question 1D.

4) INTELLIGENCE LOGS – 47

A) What exactly is an information log? What is logged?

Intelligence is defined as information that has been collected, evaluated and interpreted for action and policy making. Intelligence logs are reports submitted onto the Scottish Intelligence Database. The police will record intelligence logs where the intelligence material is likely to be of value in:

- In the interests of national security
- The prevention or detection of crime and disorder
- The maintenance of community safety
- The assessment or collection of any tax or duty or any imposition of a similar nature
- Otherwise serves a significant public interest.

In practice intelligence recorded by the police tends to relate to one of the first two criteria.

Once submitted intelligence logs are assessed, sanitised and gradings are approved by Local Intelligence Officers. A weeding criteria is also applied to each log so it can be reviewed and its continued retention evaluated.

It would not be appropriate to comment on what information has been logged as this could compromise police operations and/or the confidentiality of information sources. As you will understand the information you have requested is sensitive information and may have a detrimental effect to ongoing or future police operations. It is acknowledged that the disclosure of this information would better inform the public as to the type of intelligence the police receive and increase transparency surrounding this. However as the police's primary duty is towards the prevention and detection of crime and the successful apprehension of offenders, it would not be in the public interest to release any information which might prejudice our ability to achieve these objectives. This information therefore falls within the exemption contained under section 35 (1) (a) and (b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 relating to Law Enforcement.

B) What purpose do the information logs serve?

C) Will they be of any use once Operation Quarterlight ends?

Please see answer provided to question 4a

D) Is this a high number of logs? Is this above or below average?

Please see response to question 1D.

I trust that the information available is of assistance and should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me on 0131 311 3901 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

Paul Wallace
Information Management Unit