



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-02588

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI Fleet

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- Disclose information in response to Question 1 – 4 & 6 in full;
- Disclose information in response to Question 5 pursuant to the provisions of Section 31 (1)(a)(b) of the Act.

Question 1

Please could you provide the following information for both the marked and unmarked vehicle fleet for PSNI. Total number of cars on fleet (latest available date).

Answer

1598 cars.

Question 2

Number of vans up to and including 3.5 tonnes on fleet (latest available date).

Answer

210 vans.

Question 3

Main funding method cars.

Clarification received: The reference to main funding method is the method used to fund the largest proportion of vehicles on the fleet. Typically, this is either contract hire, outright purchase or finance lease.

Answer

Outright purchase.

Question 4

Main funding method vans.

Answer

Outright purchase.

As previously outlined information in relation to Question 5, information is provided pursuant to Section 31(1)(a)(b). Disclosure of all information is likely to significantly impact on the functions of the PSNI. These functions include the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. Information in relation to vehicles used in specialist areas/units for operations has been withheld and an explanation is provided below.

Question 5

Brands of car current on fleet (i.e. manufacturer make, not model) with breakdown of number of cars by brand.

Answer

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 31 (1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and therefore we are obliged to carry out the public interest test and evidence the potential harm.

Harm

Disclosing all vehicle makes used by PSNI could compromise effective operational law enforcement. Release of such information could potentially present criminals with an opportunity to commit crime against the person or persons associated with those areas. This could both directly and indirectly impact on the prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals by the PSNI as officers' ability to carry out specific operations throughout the province, could be hindered.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Release – Section 31

When information disclosed relates directly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Service or its officers with regard to the prevention of crime, in this case when referring to the makes of police vehicles, it is a matter that the Service should hold up to public scrutiny to enhance accountability and justification. Disclosure would enhance and contribute to the quality and accuracy of public debate with regard to the Service's ability to prevent crimes being committed.

Factors Favouring Retention – Section 31

Disclosure of vehicle makes used in specialist areas/units of PSNI would be valuable knowledge to criminals and the current or future law enforcement role of the PSNI would be likely to be compromised by the release of such information.

Decision

Releasing details of makes of PSNI vehicles used in specialist areas/units in Northern Ireland would not be in the public interest. The factors in favour of release are outweighed by the factors favouring non-release. Disclosing information in relation to the makes of vehicles would assist criminals' intent on committing crimes against the public and attacks on police, potentially increasing the risk to public

safety. The safety of the public and Police Officers is paramount and the PSNI will not disclose information which may put individuals at risk. It is therefore considered that the need to withhold the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing it.

Please see the table below detailing car makes currently in use by PSNI.

Makes of Cars	
AUDI	53
FORD	330
HONDA	12
MAZDA	22
MITSUBISHI	10
NISSAN	7
RENAULT	17
SEAT	29
SKODA	323
TOYOTA	82
VAUXHALL	507
VOLKSWAGEN	159

Question 6

Brands of van currently on fleet (i.e. manufacturer make, not model) with breakdown of number of vans by brand.

Answer

Please see the table below detailing a breakdown of van makes currently in use by PSNI.

Makes of Vans	
CITREON	2
FIAT	1
FORD	49
LDV	4
MERCEDES	1
RENAULT	5
TOYOTA	11
VAUXHALL	36
VOLKSWAGEN	101

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing xxx@xxx.xxx.police.uk

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain

dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.