



**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Mr P Ponting

Please ask for: Jane Pearson  
Telephone: 01772.533587  
Email: [commissioner@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:commissioner@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk)  
Our Ref:  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Mr Ponting

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Further to my email of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can now respond to your request below:

*I would like you to provide me with the regulations on how the Crime Commissioner can use public money for donations and what donations have been made with public money with/without authority.*

*I refer to the following publication where Clive Grunshaw donated a Police Motorcycle to a charity. This is identified here in this article.*

*<https://nwbb-lancs.org/blog/post.php?s=2013-11-25-police-donate-a-bike>*

*While this may be a worthwhile charity, my request is, who decides which charity is in receipt of donations and, with this being public money, what authority does the commissioner have to make such donations to charities that the public may or may not support?*

*It is noticed that the Chairman of this charity is an ex Lancashire Police officer as well as a Freemason and UK Magistrate. It is also noted that the committee and board of trustees of this charity are Freemasons and this concerns me that charities are benefitting due to Freemason and Police links.*

*So, my request is*

- 1. Who provides authority for such donations out of public funds.*
- 2. Please provide a list of all donations via your office since 2010*



I can confirm that the Police and Crime Commissioner does not hold any regulations or information on how he can use public money for donations. Nor does he, or the Office, hold any information relating to donations that have been made with public money with/without authority.

The reason being is that the Police and Crime Commissioner has not used public money for donations.

I appreciate that the press release infers that the motorbike was donated to the Blood Bike Charity. However, this was not the case.

Through the Commissioner's Scheme of Governance approved on the 22 November 2012, the Chief Constable is permitted to dispose of assets other than land, up to the values set out in Financial Regulations.

It is my understanding that Lancashire Constabulary agreed to sell redundant bikes to the Blood Bike Charity as it is an organisation which they are closely aligned to and fits well with the Constabulary's purpose.

The bikes were not donated but were sold on a basis which reflected Value for Money on an assessment of what they might attract at auction. This decision was taken by the Constabulary's Director of Resources under delegated authority from the Chief Constable.

In your e-mail you also ask two further questions in the course of business.

*1. Who provides authority for such donations out of public funds.*

No one has provided authority for such donations out of public funds.

*2. Please provide a list of all donations via your office since 2010*

There have been no donations via the OPCC. For clarity, this response covers the period November 2012 to present. Prior to November 2012, the responsibility rested with the Lancashire Police Authority.

If you have any queries regarding the information provided, please contact me in the first instance for assistance.

If you are dissatisfied with the response and wish to appeal, please write to the address below setting out your reasons within 21 days of receipt of this letter and your request will be dealt with through our internal review procedure:-



Steve Freeman  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire  
PO Box 653  
Preston  
PR2 2WB

If you are still not satisfied with the decision after review, you may complain to:-

The Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

**Jane Pearson**  
**Project Support Officer**  
**Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire**