

13/10/2014

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2014-1894

[request-228819-f458457f@whatdotheyknow.com](#)



Sir Stephen House QPM
Chief Constable

FOI Central Processing Unit
173 Pitt Street
Glasgow
G2 4JS

[xxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xxxxxx.xx](#)

Dear Mr McLean

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002
SUBJECT: Details of all Police Scotland vehicles

I refer to your email dated 09/09/2014 regarding the above which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

QUESTION

A list of all vehicles used / owned / operated by Police Scotland. The data I'd like is Registration number, Make, Model, Base colour, Marking type (Full high vis/basic markings/unmarked), Primary use (dog, public order, traffic, etc.) and primary location/base.

I would also like to know what equipment is carried in each type of vehicle, though I imagine this would not be in the same list.

RESPONSE

Members of the public can readily identify highly visible marked Police Scotland vehicles and this information is effectively already in the public domain. In this respect, the vehicle registration mark (VRM), make, model and colour of vehicles which are marked with the Police Scotland badge and livery are listed

in the attached spreadsheet. Please note this will only provide a snapshot of the fleet on the day on which the data was collated and this changes on a regular basis in line with the vehicle replacement programme.

Details of unmarked vehicles are not given and are exempted below. The purpose of any vehicle's operational purpose or where it is based is also not provided as this would indicate overall deployment and potentially assist criminal activity. These are exempted as follows;

Section 39(1) – Health, Safety and the Environment

The release of information pertaining to the function and location of particular police vehicles would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the safety of officers and the general public. The disclosure of this information would enable those intent on wrong-doing to estimate the level of vehicle resources deployed by the Police in specific areas and would assist them in circumventing the efficient and effective provision of law enforcement by the police service, which in turn would have an adverse impact on the safety of the officers involved and the general public. This is a class-based non-absolute exemption and requires the application of a Public Interest Test as follows;

Section 35(1)(a)&(b) (Law Enforcement)

The information is considered to be exempt, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. I consider that the disclosure of information pertaining to the function and location of Police vehicles would indicate the force's resource capability in specific areas, particularly in relation to specialist vehicles.

Disclosure of this information would allow criminals or terrorists to assess the likelihood of obstructing the deployment of vehicle resources (including specialist vehicle resources), during the commission of crimes, particularly in those areas where smaller numbers of vehicles are based. As such, disclosure would have an adverse impact on the ability of the Police to carry out its law enforcement role effectively, and thereby prejudice substantially the prevention and detection of crime.

Public Interest Test

Public awareness would favour a disclosure on this subject as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the use and deployment of vehicle resources by the Police, particularly specialist vehicles.

However, in contrast, there is no public interest in disclosing information which is likely to damage the efficient and effective conduct of the police service in relation to its law enforcement role, or which is likely to have an adverse impact upon public safety. As explained above, this would allow those intent

on wrong-doing to gauge, with some accuracy, the level of vehicle resources in existence in specific areas, thus affording them the opportunity to take steps to circumvent the ability of the Police to deliver effective law enforcement provision, and placing themselves, members of the public and the police force at increased risk.

I consider that the decision must fall in favour of preventing crime and safeguarding the health and safety of the public. Accordingly, on balance, the public interest in disclosing the information requested is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemptions detailed above.

All vehicles are appropriately equipped for general policing purpose and may commonly include items such as first aid kits and fire extinguishers which are routinely checked to ensure any equipment is serviceable. Specialist vehicles will carry equipment specific to their primary role.

I trust that the information available is of assistance and should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me on 01463720555 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 Force. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; Police Service of Scotland, FOI Central Processing Unit, 173 Pitt Street, Glasgow, G2 4JS. (Or email xxx@xxxxxxxxx.xxx.xxxxxx.xx)

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. Contact details are; 'Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS', telephone 01334 464610.

Yours sincerely

Andrene Macleod
Information Management
Freedom of Information