| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1529  Responded to: 13 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I would like clarity on the following statement taken from the police Scotland website with regard to abnormal loads. In particular, when transporting within the Aberdeen area and a full comprehensive list of reasons why a load may require a chargeable escort and what mechanism is used to determine such charges.**

**Does your load require a chargeable Police Scotland Escort?**

**Submit your notification stating your intention to move an abnormal load. The Police Scotland Abnormal Loads Team will assess your Notification. They will inform you of any requirement for a police escort.**

**Your load may require a police escort for a number of reasons. For example due to the geography of the road it’s travelling on, the dimensions of your load, roadworks, etc.**

**Each Notification is dealt with on its own merit. There is not an exhaustive list as to why your abnormal load movement may require a police escort.**

In response to why an abnormal load may require a chargeable escort, the dimensions are assessed in terms of risk to other road users.  The Abnormal Loads team look at the route, weight, width and/or length (including overhang) and the topography of all roads to be used along the route notified.

When a police escort is deemed necessary, the team will assess if the escort can be completed within one hour.  This includes the time it would take officers from the nearest Roads Policing base to travel to meet the load as well as escort it.

If it will take less than one hour then on shift officers will be used, assuming the haulier is content to wait until operational demands allow officers to attend.

If the load will take longer than one hour or if a specific move time is required then a chargeable escort will be arranged.

Chargeable escorts are resourced by officers on days off.  Our minimum fee for a chargeable escort is 5.5 hours at the relevant SPA hourly rate for the rank of each officer used.  This fee is directly linked to Police Regulation 18 which allows officers to claim 4 hours overtime plus travelling time for rest day working.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.