

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1764
Date: 13 September 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

- 1. How many electric vehicles does your police force currently have in its fleet?
Please break down by make/model and state how many of each there are.**
- 2. What was the total cost of purchasing these electric vehicles?**

Firstly, I must advise that all Police Scotland vehicles are part of a national fleet.

Having considered your request for information regarding Police Scotland electric vehicles, in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held
Whilst we accept that you may have a particular personal interest in being informed as to whether or not the information sought is held, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting individuals' right to privacy and the expectation of confidence that the public have in Police Scotland as regards their information.

If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act

I consider the following exemptions applicable.

Section 35 – Law enforcement

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Disclosure of the requested information would impact on the process of investigating this case. One of the main purposes of the Police Service is to prevent crime but to release this information would be contrary to that purpose.

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This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

Section 39(1) – Health, safety and the environment

The release of this information would circumvent the efficient and effective provision of law enforcement by the police service for the reasons described above. This would in turn increase the risk to the personal safety of individuals and to the safety of the police officers responding to incidents.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

I recognise that public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the overall nature of vehicle resources available for deployment by the Police.

I would, however, contend that the efficient/effective conduct of the service and public safety favours retention of the information as it cannot be in the public interest to release information that would prejudice law enforcement or which is likely to have an adverse impact upon public safety.

- 3. How many police stations with vehicle facilities does your force have?**
- 4. How many of your police stations with vehicle facilities are equipped with electric vehicle chargepoints?**
- 5. How many of your police stations with vehicle facilities have electric vehicles stationed at them?**
- 6. How many of your police stations with vehicle facilities have both electric vehicle chargepoints fitted and electric vehicles stationed at them?**
- 7. What is the total number of electric vehicle chargepoints at police stations with vehicle facilities in your force's area?**

In respect to questions 3 to 7, in terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, there is no held record of which station has vehicle facilities.

- 8. Does your force have a policy for charging electric vehicles and, if so, what is it? For example, are these vehicles charged on-site at police stations or are public chargers used?**

In terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation Police Scotland does not have a policy on charging electric vehicles, we charge at both public and private network chargers.

Police Scotland issues each vehicle with a Charge Place Scotland RFID card, these provide access to 3000 public chargers in Scotland. The same card allows access the BP Pulse/Charge-master network across the UK.

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Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.