

OFFICIAL

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2387
Date: 16th December 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.

I am writing to make a request for a fleet list of current vehicles being used by Police Scotland to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please send me:

A complete list of vehicles used by Police Scotland and their branch attached to. (I do NOT want roof codes, number plates, etc. Simply make and models and the branch they're attached to.)

In relation to the make and model of our marked fleet, this information is available on Police Scotland's web page. As such I am refusing to provide you with it in terms of Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

"Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information"

The information you are seeking is available at public source and can be accessed using the link provided below:

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/fleet-information/>

In relation to the branch vehicles of our marked fleet are attached to and all information relating to the unmarked fleet and the departments which vehicles are assigned to, this information is considered to be exempt and the following exemptions are 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 branches each marked vehicle is attached to and details of our unmarked fleet would highlight vehicle resources and capabilities. Revealing this information would substantially weaken the effective use of vehicle

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

resources with a corresponding risk to law enforcement and to the safety of both the public and officers.

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. In addition accountability for the use of public funds is also a persuasive argument.

That said, I would 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/officer safety.

Accordingly, I consider that the public interest in disclosing the information requested is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption detailed above.

I'd also like to know the different departments that fall under the Roads Policing Unit and Armed Response Unit.

In response to your question regarding departments within policing units I can advise that Road Policing Scotland is a national department within Police Scotland, which has 3 areas, North, East and West.

Road Policing has many work streams and areas of business, however it does not have separate departments.

With respect to Armed Policing I can advise that Armed Policing unit is comprised of the following:

- Armed Policing Operations
- Armed Police Training
- Armed Policing Policy and Compliance Unit

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

OFFICIAL

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, Dalrnarnock, 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.