

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2023-0003
Date: 31 January 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. Do police cars carry aeds?

Not all of Police Scotland's fleet carry AEDs.

2. What type of first aid kit does each level of police car carry?

Police vehicles carry a first aid kit which contains the following:

- Gloves
- TuffCut Shears
- CAT Gen 7 Tourniquet
- Compressed Gauze
- Compression Bandage
- CPR Mask
- Russell Chest Seal
- Standard dressings
- Sterile wipes
- Plasters
- Burns dressings
- Burns Gel

In addition standard first aid kits carried within AP vehicles contain the following equipment:

Ambu Rescue Mask
Fabric plasters (box of 100 assorted)
Airway kit
Chest seal kit (See below)
Emergency kit (See below)
Burn kit (See below)
Heart start FRX Defibrillator
FRX Smart pads cartridge
FRX Battery

CHEST SEAL KIT:

Russell chest seal
CAT tourniquet (Orange) x2
Blast bandage (10x10cm) x2
Olaes dressing 4" x4
Celox gauze z fold
Gloves, Nitrile (pairs)

EMERGENCY KIT:

Ambulance dressing No. 3
Ambulance dressing No. 4
Pelican belt seat cutter
Triangular bandages
Emergency foil blanket
Baymes wipes (10)
Tweezers
Conforming bandages 10 cm
Conforming bandages 7.5 cm
Conforming bandages 5 cm
Gauze swabs 5x5cm (10)
CAT tourniquet (Orange) x2
Celox gauze z fold
Micropore tape
Gloves, Nitrile (pairs)
Tuffcut scissors
Eye pad dressing
HSE dressing 12 x 12
Blue DOT Sterile eye & wound irrigation x 4

BURN KIT:

Reliburn sachets
Reliburn gel 125ml
Cling film 15 M
Eyewash 250 ml
Burn Dressing Burn Stopp 400 x 2

Enhanced first aid kits carried within AP vehicles contain the following additional equipment:

BOC Medical grade oxygen
Bag valve mask
Timesco handheld aspirator
Sam pelvic sling
Sam splint roll
Stiff neck select collar
Naso Pharyngeal x 4
Guedel Airways x 6

3. Do police officers carry any first aid equipment on them?

Police officers currently carry a "resuci pouch with vent aid".

The resuci pouch contains a mouth piece with guard, gloves and wipes. I would ask that you note that a new pouch/first aid kit will be introduced in the near future.

In addition, Officers within Armed Policing (AP) are issued individual first aid kits containing the following equipment:

Asherman Chest Seal
CAT tourniquet (orange)
Emergency Bandage
Trauma shears
Saline pod 20ml
Antiseptic wipes (10 pack)
Sterile swabs (5 pack)
Nitrile gloves (2 pair)

4. If on body first aid equipment is not provided, would they be allowed to purchase there own for there duty belt?

Police Scotland provide equipment, as listed at question 3, accordingly there is no further response.

5. On activation of the orange "panic button" on the handheld radios, does the radio the button was pressed make any noise?

The device makes a short audible tone that alerts the user that the activation has been successful.

6. On activation of the panic button, can the control operator see the location of the officer?

A controller will be provided with the most recent location of the terminal where the activation occurred.

7. How many ARVs are in the whole of Scotland?

The above requested information is considered to be exempt in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act). Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland to provide you with a notice which: (a) states that it holds the information, (b) states that it is claiming an exemption, (c) specifies the exemption in question and (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies. Where information is considered to be exempt, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice that information is held and an explanation of the appropriate exemption is provided.

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

Disclosure of the requested information would give an indication of the operational capabilities of the Service and the capability of Police Scotland in relation to the deployment of Armed Response Vehicles (ARV's) throughout the Service area.

By way of background, Police Scotland currently protects 28,168 square miles of Scotland – from urban areas to rural remoteness – with policing specifically tailored to the individual needs of the various communities. Although we are now the second largest Police Service in Britain after the Metropolitan Police, we are vastly different because we Police a whole Country rather than a City. For example, the Metropolitan Police cover a much more condensed area (620 square miles) with around 31,000 officers, whereas the Police Scotland are required to cover a much wider area (28,168 square miles) with approximately 17,251 officers.

Consequently, release of the requested information would indicate the Services ability to respond to incidents which could then be used by individuals intent on wrong doing to gauge with some accuracy the likelihood of the deployment of an ARV during the commission of crime and take steps to prepare for such deployment which would provide them with a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating crimes. Furthermore, this would also be likely to endanger not only the officers concerned but also members of the public who could be injured as a result of such action.

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

Section 31 (1) – National Security and Defence

The requested information, if disclosed, may assist terrorist organisations to identify, with some accuracy, the likelihood of the deployment of an ARV during the commission of crime and take steps to prepare for such deployment which would provide them with a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating their terrorist plans and activities and cause the maximum impact of destruction and disruption.

Furthermore, when such a request is replicated to all Police Forces within the United Kingdom it would allow comparisons to be made across the United Kingdom and enable terrorists to build a picture of where policing resources are in place.

The security of the United Kingdom is of paramount importance and Police Scotland will not disclose further details if it would impact on National Security, law enforcement and the health and safety of the community.

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

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

Once more, disclosure of the requested information would allow those persons intent on committing crime to gauge with some accuracy the likelihood of the deployment of an ARV during the commission of crime and take steps to prepare for such deployment which would provide them with a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating crimes.

This ability would leave both police officers and members of the public at risk from injury and as such Police Scotland cannot release information which would be detrimental to the safety of the public. In this instance disclosure would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of an individual.

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

Public Interest Test

The exemptions listed above are non-absolute and require the application of the Public Interest Test. While it could be argued that public debate and accountability in terms of ARV's would favour disclosure, the Service needs to consider the impact of the release of this information into the public domain and I would argue that the need to ensure the efficient and effective conduct of the service in a key law enforcement role and the preservation of public safety favours non-disclosure of the information requested.

Moreover, the United Kingdom currently faces a sustained threat from violent terrorists and extremists. The current threat level for international terrorism for the UK is assessed as 'severe'. This means that an attack is highly likely and may occur without warning, but there is no specific intelligence of a terrorist attack.

As you may be aware a response under the Act is a public disclosure, accordingly it is considered that the public interest in disclosing the requested information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemptions as detailed above.

8. Do any police cars carry portable oxygen?

Yes some of Police Scotland's fleet carry oxygen.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Glasgow at – foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk – 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.pnn.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.

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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.