



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2013-01440

**Keyword:** Organisational Information/Governance

**Subject:** PSNI Vehicle Fleet

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

What is the total number of vehicles in the organisation's fleet?

#### Question 2

How many of the vehicles are cars?

#### Question 3

How many of the vehicles are vans?

#### Question 4

How many of the vehicles are LGV/HGV?

#### Question 5

What percentage of cars are leased?

#### Question 6

Who is the lease provider for cars?

#### Question 7

What percentage of vans, LGV and HGV are leased?

#### Question 8

Who is the lease provider for vans, LGV and HGV?

#### Question 9

Are the vans, LGV and HGV vehicles maintained in a garage owned and operated by the organisation?

#### Question 10

If the organisation does not maintain its own vehicles, please provide the name of the company or organisation that maintains the vans, LGV and HGVs?

#### Question 11

If there is a contract in place for van, LGV/HGV maintenance please advise of the date the contract

was let and when the contract is scheduled to be reviewed?

**Question 12**

How much does the organisation spend on vehicle fleet maintenance in a year?

**Question 13**

Who is the individual responsible for the vehicle fleet?

**Answer**

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information.

I have today decided to:

- disclose information in response to questions 1-9 and to 11-13 in full;
- fully exempt information in response to question 10 pursuant to the provisions of Section 38 of the Act.

**Question 1**

What is the total number of vehicles in the organisation's fleet?

**Answer**

There are 2693 commissioned vehicles.

**Question 2**

How many of the vehicles are cars?

**Answer**

There are 1687 cars.

**Question 3**

How many of the vehicles are vans?

**Answer**

There are 214 vans.

**Question 4**

How many of the vehicles are LGV/HGV?

**Answer**

There are 20 HGVs.

**Question 5**

What percentage of cars are leased?

**Question 6**

Who is the lease provider for cars?

**Question 7**

What percentage of vans, LGV and HGV are leased?

**Question 8**

Who is the lease provider for vans, LGV and HGV?

**Answers 5-8**

PSNI Transport does not lease vehicles.

### **Question 9**

Are the vans, LGV and HGV vehicles maintained in a garage owned and operated by the organisation?

### **Answer**

The vans which are maintained in PSNI workshops are owned and operated by the PSNI.

### **Question 10**

If the organisation does not maintain its own vehicles, please provide the name of the company or organisation that maintains the vans, LGV and HGVs?

### **Answer**

The PSNI do not maintain HGVs and I have decided to withhold the name of the company providing this service.

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

Section 38 (a) (b) – Health and Safety

**Section 38** is a prejudice based exemption and this means that the public authority is required to provide harm that could occur following disclosure of the requested information and must consider the balance of the public interest in releasing the information against the public interest in withholding it.

The summary of the Harm and Public Interest considerations for Section 38 are provided below:

### **Harm Test**

Releasing the names of companies engaged by the PSNI would be likely to bring the company to the attention of terrorists. The terrorist threat can take a number of forms, as terrorists may use a variety of methods of attack to achieve their objectives. By identifying specific companies working for the Police Service under the current level of security threat, the personal safety of their staff and that of their families and/or property could be put at risk of terrorist attack.

### **Public Interest Test**

#### Factors Favouring Release

Releasing information would promote openness and transparency. The public would be better informed about the companies engaged by the PSNI in providing a service and it would assist the understanding of how PSNI spend funds for services provided by outside agencies.

#### Factors Favouring Retention

Terrorist activity is a real and current threat and the PSNI has a duty of care to protect anyone working for the Service. The PSNI will not disclose any information which may increase the risk of harm to any individual providing a service to the PSNI. To highlight these companies could endanger their employees and that of their families.

## **Decision**

Whilst openness and accountability surrounding the use of public funds and the companies used by the PSNI are always strong arguments in favour of releasing information, the balance will always favour retention where there is a significant risk to the safety of individuals. Any outside companies providing a service to the PSNI entrust that appropriate decisions are taken with regard to their protection. At this time, the Service is under severe dissident threat and to release the names of companies providing a service to the PSNI could assist terrorists in targeting these individuals. The safety of individuals is of paramount importance and the PSNI will not put the lives of individuals at risk. All requests made under FOIA are applicant blind. A request must be treated as such and a public authority will always view any disclosure as into the public domain and not just to the individual requesting the information. Therefore, at this time, it is our opinion that for these reasons the information should not be disclosed.

## **Question 11**

If there is a contract in place for van, LGV/HGV maintenance please advise of the date the contract was let and when the contract is scheduled to be reviewed?

## **Answer**

There is no contract in place as work is carried out on a quotation basis.

## **Question 12**

How much does the organisation spend on vehicle fleet maintenance in a year?

## **Answer**

Approximately £6 million is spent on vehicle fleet maintenance in a year.

## **Question 13**

Who is the individual responsible for the vehicle fleet?

## **Answer**

Marcus Belshaw, Temporary Head of Transport Services is the individual responsible for the vehicle fleet.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.