



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-00345

Keyword: Organisational Information/Governance

Subject: PSNI Vehicles Makes and Models

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I am part of Unite the Union Motor component committee and I am on Motor component national committee which meet up in London. At our last meeting we discussed about the way other country's police service always buy cars and lorries made in there own countries. what I was wanting to know is what make of cars and lorries does the police in Northern Ireland use as we have company's here at home that make parts for cars and lorries.

Could you let me know what make of vehicles you use and we can check if they are made in Britain. If they are not is there anyway we could ask you to look at buying vehicle which are made in Britain.

Answer

Please see list below which gives the makes of Cars the Police Service of Northern Ireland have as Fleet vehicles.

Makes of Cars	Makes of Cars
Audi	Mitsubishi
BMW	Nissan
Ford	Renault
Honda	Seat
Hyundai	Skoda
Landrover	Toyota
Leyland Daf	Vauxhall
Mazda	Volkswagen
Mercedes	Volvo

Information in relation to other vehicles the PSNI use in specialist areas/units for operations has been withheld by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(a) (b) – Law Enforcement, if released would be likely to cause significant damage to the functions of the PSNI. These functions include the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

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

Section 31(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

The exemption is qualified and prejudice based so we are obliged to carry out the public interest test and evidence the potential harm.

Harm

Disclosing the makes of the other vehicles used by PSNI could compromise effective operational law enforcement.

Release of information of this nature in regard to makes of vehicles would be likely to present criminals with an opportunity to commit crime against the person or persons associated with those areas. This would therefore both directly and indirectly impact on the prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals by the PSNI as the PSNI would be hindered in their ability to carry out specific operations throughout the province.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Release – Section 31

When information disclosed relates directly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the service or its officers with regard to the prevention of crime, in this case when referring to the makes of police vehicles, it is a matter that the Service should hold up to public scrutiny to enhance accountability and justification.

Disclosure would enhance and contribute to the quality and accuracy of public debate with regard to the services ability to prevent crimes being committed.

Factors Favouring Retention – Section 31

Disclosures as to which makes of vehicles the PSNI are using in specialist areas/units would be valuable knowledge to criminals and the current or future law enforcement role of the PSNI would be likely to be compromised by the release of information.

Decision

Releasing details of which makes of PSNI vehicles are used in specialist areas/units in Northern Ireland would not be in the public interest. The factors in favour of release are outweighed by the factors favouring non-release. Disclosing information in relation to the makes of vehicles would assist criminal's intent on committing crimes against the public and attacks on police potentially increasing the risk to public safety. The safety of the public and Police Officers is paramount and the PSNI will not disclose information which may put these at risk. It is therefore considered that the need to withhold the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing it.

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, and 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing 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, and 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

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