

Our ref: CRS 569183  
Your ref:

Andrew Daws  
Workstream Leader  
C6  
5 Broadway  
Broad Street  
Birmingham B15 1BL

Direct Line: 0121 678 8372  
Fax: 0121 678 8122

18 February 2008

Dear

**FOI Request - Traffic Officer Patrol Vehicles**

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested initially on 18<sup>th</sup> January and then reaffirmed after clarification was sought. The latter confirmed by your further e-mail of 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008.

A copy of the information is enclosed against the specific questions asked (highlighted in **bold text**)

**Question 1. I would like to see the Specification Tender for the sourcing of such vehicles and the justification for the selectee vehicles / manufacturers.**

In my e-mail of 22<sup>nd</sup> January I explained that in response to your question I would be able to explain the process we used to select our vehicles.

I also explained that our vehicles are procured via a Contract Hire + Maintenance arrangement rather than purchase. Therefore on the issue of a "Tender Specification", because we have secured the vehicles via an existing government contract we have not gone out to formal tender.

However as agreed and as confirmed in our exchange on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January I have attached in PDF format a copy of the current specification document and appendices that we used against via the procurement method we have selected.

The choice of vehicles for the fleet has been made at specific times with a match against our requirements and best value principles, which underpin Government Procurement. The detailed practicalities and logistics of delivery and in particular the availability of suitable vehicles influenced vehicle choice. The selection process involved providing our lease company with details of our requirements (specification and delivery) and then asking them to source vehicles that matched those requirements in the numbers and to set delivery dates.

The attached documents also in PDF format explain some of the work undertaken against set fleet dates:

- Appendix A - First Tranche Traffic Officer Vehicles 2003/4
- Appendix B - Tranche 2 Traffic Officer Vehicle Procurement 2005/6
- Appendix C - 2006/7 Fleet Replacements -- Fleet Changes

**Question 2. I would like to know the Performance Criteria specified by the DfT (or responsible agency, if different) which relates to these vehicles' operational requirements.**

In my e-mail of 22<sup>nd</sup> January I explained that in response to your question there is no performance criteria specified by an outside department or agency. However the criteria we have applied is in the attached PDF document and against the answer for Question (1) above.

**3. I would like to know the "On the Road" cost of each vehicle, to include base purchase price and conversion costs.**

In my e-mail of 22<sup>nd</sup> January I explained that we do not purchase our vehicles but rather take them on a contract hire arrangement and fund their conversion.

The following are typical costs, rounded up as you agreed and against the range of vehicles we have taken to date for TO patrol activity.

Vehicle Make	Model	Hire terms	Approx Monthly Rental (excl VAT)	Approx Conversion (excl VAT)	Comments
Land Rover	Range Rover	24 month -- 150,000 miles	£1300	£9,000	Model off fleet 2007
	Discovery	18 month - 150,000 miles	£1400	£9,000	2006/7 rental
	Discovery	18 month - 150,000 miles	£1500	£9,000	Current
Mitsubishi	Shogun	18 month - 150,000 miles	£1200	£10,000	2006/7 rental
	New Shogun	18 month - 150,000 miles	£1500	£10,000	Current
Nissan	Pathfinder	18 month - 150,000 miles	£1200	£10,000	Model off fleet 2007
Toyota	Landcruiser	18 month - 150,000 miles	£1200	£9,000	2006/7 rental
	Landcruiser	18 month - 180,000 miles	£1300	£9,000	Current

**Towing by Traffic Officers**

In your original e-mail you made reference to the issue of towing.

The Highways Agency has a duty, and in emergency situations the power, under the Highways Act 1980 to clear obstructions from the highway for which it is responsible. Traffic Officers As officers of the Highways Agency, Traffic Officers have the power to tow or drive vehicles to the hard shoulder for carriageway clearance purposes. Specifically, where those vehicles are considered to be an obstruction to other users of the highway and the person responsible for the vehicle is unable to move it himself within a time, which would avoid danger to other users.

Under section 1(2)(b) of the Traffic Management Act 2004, Traffic Officers can be assigned duties in respect of any other functions of the Secretary of State in his capacity as a traffic or highway authority. Accordingly Traffic Officer's would be acting within duties assigned to them.

#### **4. What is the Highways Agency doing to reduce its carbon footprint from its patrol vehicles?**

In the new 2007/8 Sustainable Action Plan 2007/8 (see HA website for details) by March 2008 we set out to review the strategy for provision of TOS vehicles and against usage and deployment of vehicles to determine if a reduction in CO2 against the 2007/08 baseline can be achieved in future years whilst operational capability and requirements are maintained

This is being taken forward in a number of phased activities as follows:

- The strategy of vehicle provision (procurement) was confirmed in 2007, changes in number and vehicle type have been agreed and implemented, for example dropping the Nissan Pathfinder and Land Rover Range Rover models
- New and replacement vehicles are being delivered as part of the annual fleet procurement activity.
- Usage information including mileage is now being recorded via a new weekly process, which whilst running is still under development
- Fuel usage information now being delivered by roll out of a new internal reporting system in May 2007
- 2007/8 baseline for CO2 will not be available until April/May 2008, based on actual levels of mileage on fuel used over 12 month period
- Consultants AEA Technology will report on fuel saving options, which will be incorporated into new Best Practice guidance that will be issued in March/April 2008

I have identified a new area of work identified for 2008/9 for my team which will build on the above and involve further dialogue with Department for Transport and internal Directorates

#### **General Comments**

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. We will, therefore, be simultaneously releasing to the public the information you requested, together with any

related information that will provide a key to its wider context via our website:  
<http://www.highways.gov.uk/>

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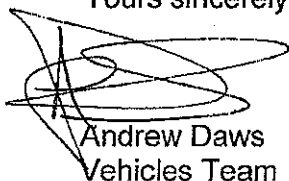
If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. A leaflet detailing our internal review process is available. If you require a copy, please phone the Highways Agency Information Line on 08457 50 40 30; or e-mail [ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk). You should contact me if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Daws  
Vehicles Team

Email: [andy.daws@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andy.daws@highways.gsi.gov.uk)