| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1255Responded to: 05 June 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please disclose financial information concerning all payments by your force to the Berla Corporation (berla.co - digital vehicle forensics) for the last five financial years. Specifically I would like to ask for date and amount of payment and what service or product was purchased.**

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.

Whilst we accept that there are arguments in relation to accountability for public funds and better informing the public as to the types of equipment and systems used by Police Scotland, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting the integrity of any investigative techniques employed by the force.

* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of at least one exemption set out in the Act. In this instance, the following exemptions apply:

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

Disclosure would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and apprehension and prosecution of offenders in the sense that it would provide significant insight into the technology available to Police Scotland in this area of policing.

Such information would be invaluable to offenders and whilst we accept that there is a public interest in relation to accountability for public funds and better informing the public as to the types of equipment and systems used by Police Scotland, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting the integrity of any investigative techniques employed by the force.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by email or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by email or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.