

**From:** FOI [REDACTED]@scot.and.pnn.police.uk  
**Subject:** FOI/E/140 - Police Equipment and Riot Training  
**Date:** May 14, 2013 at 5:52 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@access-nfo.eu



**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

Dear Morgane,

Please find undernoted a legacy response on behalf of the former Lothian and Borders Police force. This Information Management matter has been researched by my colleagues in our Edinburgh office. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to get back in touch with me and I will pass them on.

Kind Regards

Inspector Graeme Cuthbertson

Police Service of Scotland  
Freedom of Information Central Processing Unit

Tel: [REDACTED]

---

**Sent:** 13 May 2013 15:04  
**Subject:** FW: FOI/E/140 - Police Equipment and Riot Training

Dear Morgane

**Request for Information: Police Equipment and Riot Training**

I refer to your request for information, which has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

1. What legislation governs the use of equipment at the disposal of police forces in protest situations?

There is currently no specific legislation regarding the use of equipment, other than the ACPO/ACPOS Keeping the Peace Manual of Guidance  
<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/uniformed/2010/201010UNKTP01.pdf>

2. What types of equipment are police forces permitted to use in protest situations? (For example: batons, shields, water cannons, rubber bullets, etc.)

While there is no legislation specifically governing this, relevant information can be found in the Keeping the Peace manual as above, therefore Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies: information otherwise accessible.

3. For all the equipment types available for use by police officers in situations of protest that are supplementary to normal police equipment, please provide me with data including:

- a. The number of items in the possession of police forces for each equipment type;
- b. The amount of times that such equipment types have been used in the last five years;

a. I am afraid that I am unable to disclose the equipment available within Lothian and

Borders Police. While I appreciate the level of interest for the general public in terms of the equipment used and the accountability for using this equipment, I am afraid that the release of this type of information would provide an indication of the policing capabilities of this Force. The disclosure of these details could inform individuals within society to an extent where they would be in a position to gauge which equipment the Force could deploy if they were to partake in committing a crime. This information would assist in evading the police and subsequent prosecution. Therefore I consider this information to be exempt under section 35 (a) and (b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002: information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention and detection of crime AND the apprehension of offenders.

b. This information is not recorded, therefore Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies: notice that information is not held.

4. What guidance and training are police provided with on use of equipment for dealing with protest? Please send a copy or direct website link to any guidance documents regarding the use of force in such situations.

Officers who are allocated to a Public Order role within a Police Support Unit will receive an initial course of 5 days followed by 2 x 2 day blocks of refresher annually. The principles and understanding pertaining to the use of force are covered as part of the core training. This training also covers the correct use of any equipment officers may have access to :

<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/adapting-to-protest-nurturing-the-british-model-of-policing-20091125.pdf>

5. Has the police or government compiled any evaluation reports on the policing of protests in the past five years? If so, please send a copy of the evaluation documents or direct me to the direct on-line link.

The following links may be of assistance to you:

<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/policing-public-order-20110208.pdf>

<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/adapting-to-protest-nurturing-the-british-model-of-policing-20091125.pdf>

If you have any questions about the above or I can help in any other way, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me again. However, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, you have the right to appeal if you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have dealt with your enquiry. This should be done within 40 working days of receiving this email. If you wish to appeal please contact Rachel Watson, Head of Force Information Unit, Lothian and Borders Police, Police Headquarters, Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh, EH4 1RB. Please note that subsequent to this internal review there is a right of appeal within 6 months to the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Kind regards

Paul Wallace  
Force Information Unit  
Lothian and Borders Police

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

-----  
The information in this e-mail and any attachment(s) is private and may also be LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. It is intended only for the addressee. If you are not the intended recipient or responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, disclosure, review, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this e-mail is strictly prohibited.

If you have received this e-mail in error please advise the sender immediately by using the reply facility in your e-mail software or contact POLICE SCOTLAND on [REDACTED] and delete the e-mail. (Out Mail)