Freedom of Information request 751-12

Who is the operator for the CCTV cameras at British Transport Police stations/offices other than your headquarters?

Are these CCTV cameras under the control of the train station CCTV operator?

Clarification received:

I wish to know whether the CCTV cameras affixed to British Transport Police stations/offices are owned by and operated by the British Transport Police or another organisation such as the train station operator.

Many of your offices are on or near railway property and there are already many CCTV cameras operated by train companies and/or train station operators (eg Network Rail) in the area, so I wished to know whether these CCTV cameras are part of the rail station's network of cameras or independent British Transport Police CCTV cameras.

A photograph of a British Transport Police station with a CCTV camera affixed to the building can be found in the link below (Edinburgh Waverley), the camera is to the right of the police sign:

http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2377744

I wish to know whether that camera is a British Transport Police CCTV camera or a train station CCTV camera and the identity of the organisation receiving the footage from the camera (eg Network Rail) or confirmation that this CCTV camera is controlled by the British Transport Police.

I have the same question in respect of all British Transport Police stations and offices with CCTV cameras attached.

I wish to know if another organisation (eg train companies and/or train station) monitor the cameras on your behalf.

RESPONSE

Your request for information has now been considered. Unfortunately British Transport Police cannot supply all of the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires British Transport Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:
(a) states the fact,  
(b) specifies the exemption in question and  
(c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

**Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

Section 12 of the FOIA provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the *appropriate limit*.

In relation to your request for whether the cameras affixed to British Transport Police stations/offices are owned and monitored by BTP, the information you have requested cannot be easily retrieved. While British Transport Police does install CCTV systems on some premises, they are currently all independent local systems and following installation they become local (BTP) operational assets. Therefore, we do not keep a centralised record of which premises have CCTV installations. Further, as we own no properties freehold, in most cases we have no control over what is fixed to premises we occupy and we therefore maintain no records identifying whether any of our premises have non-BTP CCTV cameras affixed. Also, many of our offices are in premises which are not in our sole occupation and we may not always have control or knowledge of what cameras are mounted on buildings which we occupy.

Therefore to provide the answer to this question we would need to contact each BTP office separately to establish what information they hold in relation to your request. There are more than 140 different sites that would need to be contacted and it is estimated that it would take an average of 15 minutes per site to establish the information requested. Therefore, we estimate that it would take in excess of 35 hours to comply with your request.

It is estimated that the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In the case of the police service, the appropriate limit is £450 which has been calculated to equate to a total of 18 hours of work. If any part of the request exceeds the fees limit then Section 12 applies to the whole request.

This letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Although excess cost removes the force’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.
The CCTV camera at British Transport Police Edinburgh Waverley office is owned by British Transport Police. It is the British Transport Police office at Edinburgh Waverley that receives the footage.