

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2016-026**

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we provide our response below.

You asked:

**I am writing in relation to a new Ford police vehicle with Dorset police markings registered "AK16 VRV" with dual battenburg / gay pride markings. I have three specific questions that I would request to be answered.**

- 1. What was the overall cost of decals/markings on previously stated vehicle (police markings + gay flag markings)?**
- 2. What is a comparable cost of a standard police car's decals/markings (a comparable estate vehicle please e.g. Marked Volvo estate)?**
- 3. Are these markings permanent or temporary (rough removal date estimate if temporary please)?**

**Thank you for your time, as a closing note I am not against gays or bisexuals and nor am I against police, I just don't understand firstly the need for gay people overly advertising their sexuality in the modern day, secondly although police should obviously accept employees no matter their sexuality I believe gay flags are not at all appropriate to be placed on a public sector vehicle.**

Your request for information has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and our response is as follows:

1. The overall cost of the markings used on the police vehicle in support of the 2016 Bourne Free pride festival was £450. The vehicle itself was a demonstrator vehicle on loan to Dorset Police from Ford.
2. The comparable costs for a standard police vehicle livery are £290 for a half-battenburg design (based on a Vauxhall Astra SW Tourer Estate) and £490 for a full battenburg design (based on a Volvo V70 Estate).
3. The markings and use of the vehicle were temporary. As well as the Bourne Free event, the vehicle was used at the Emergency Services Family Fun Day in Poole Park on Saturday 23 July before being returned to Ford on Friday 29 July 2016.

The branded vehicle was arranged by the Office of the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner to encourage LGBT communities to report hate crime, as well as demonstrate Dorset Police's commitment to promoting equality and diversity in the provision of all our services.

Hate crime, in all its forms, is unacceptable and will be dealt with robustly. Hatred not only has the potential to cause serious physical and emotional harm, it damages communities and undermines the diversity and tolerance we should be instead celebrating. Tackling hate

crime is a priority for the Commissioner and the Force. We will continue to work closely with our local partners to further build confidence in reporting hate crime.