



South Coast British Columbia
Transportation Authority
Police Service

307 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC
Canada, V3L 1A7
Tel 604-515-8300
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May 06, 2013



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Request for Access to Records

Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your request for access to records under *the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the 'FOIPPA'), which was received by the Transit Police on March 15, 2013. You have requested:

[...I understand Transit Police purchased portable x-ray scanners at one time and trained members in multi-mode threat detection. It is my understanding these machines are not in use any longer. Is this true? How much did the scanners cost? Why aren't they being utilized now? How many were purchased, when, what year? How much did it cost to train members to use the devices, why aren't they being used now?. ...]

In preparation for the 2010 Winter Games, in June 2006, Transport Canada implemented a three-year contribution program (Transit Secure)¹ to address immediate high-risk security priorities in Canada's major urban transit systems.

The program targeted the high volume passenger areas of commuter rail and urban transit, with a focus on major urban transit systems and equipment. This program provided financial assistance to commuter rail and public transit operators in designated major metropolitan areas to accelerate the implementation of new and enhanced security measures. The value of the program was over \$70 Million, of which Vancouver received \$15.7 Million in contribution funds.

In response to the Transit Secure Contribution Program, one portable x-ray machine was purchased at a cost of \$86,981.36 of which 75% (\$65,236.02) was paid by the program. Two multi-mode vapour detectors at a cost of \$92,500 were also purchased, 75% (\$69,375) again paid for by the program. The remaining balance for the equipment was paid by TransLink. Training of eight members of the Transit Police was included in the purchase price for the equipment.

¹ <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/railsecurity/menu.htm>

Transit Police took possession of the portable x-ray in June 2009 and the multi-mode detectors in August of 2009 and they were operationally deployable for the 2010 Winter Games.

While there was good rationale for these purchases given the potential security risks associated with the 2010 Winter Games, subsequent review determined that the equipment and suggested role best resided with the existing specialty teams/units. In 2012, with the approval of Transport Canada as the original sponsor of the equipment, the portable x-ray machine and one multi-mode vapour detector were transferred to these existing specialty units.

The second multi-mode vapour detector has been loaned to another unit to determine if they could employ such a device. The final disposition of this device has yet to be determined.

Under s.52 of the Act, you may ask the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review our response to your request. You have thirty (30) days from the receipt of this letter to request a review by writing to:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
P.O. Box 9038, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9A4
Telephone (250)387-5629 Fax (250)387-1696

If you have any questions or require clarification on the information that has been sent to you, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

Yours sincerely

Original letter signed by

Johanne Howsham
Information Management Coordinator