

*Miss Davies A295/58 with her forms since 14/10/65  
A2767/47 " " " " 28/10/65*



Government of Northern Ireland  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

STORMONT, BELFAST 4

Telegrams: Homaff, Belfast

Telephone: Belfast 63210

Any reply should be addressed  
to: THE SECRETARY

Our reference: P.1006  
Your reference: A.295/58

Copies of Reply - 4



29<sup>th</sup> October, 1965.

*Mr. Anderson  
R 374*

Dear Sir,

R.U.C. Transport Fleet

... I have to refer to previous correspondence about the overall establishment of the R.U.C. Transport Fleet, and to enclose two schedules showing:-

- (1) Schedule A - the present location of each item of transport held, by counties and stations, and
- (2) Schedule B - the number of each type and class of vehicle held, by counties.

It is proposed in this letter to examine the position in relation to each class of vehicle and to request your covering approval for the establishments in being, or proposed, as appropriate. At present your approval is held, in very numerous Treasury authorities, for all the vehicles, shown on the schedules, with the exception of lightweight motor-cycles. The figure in brackets beside each class of vehicle below is the present approved establishment.

1. District Mobile Patrol Cars (41) - Large Saloons

Thirty-nine cars were originally authorised. One was added per your A.2767/48 of 5/1/54, and one per your A.716/25 of 19/9/59. It is proposed to maintain the establishment of these cars at 41. *25*

2. Traffic Vehicles *75/0 Road Fund*

(a) Traffic Cars (26) - Large Saloons

Originally approval was held for 32 cars. This was reduced to 26 when 7 Traffic N.C.O. small cars were approved (your A.2767/47 of 6/11/62 refers). Your approval is now sought to have the establishment of these cars increased to 27 in view of the ever growing volume of traffic on the roads and the difficulty of maintaining the cars at full operational strength due to withdrawals to the Ministry's Workshop for repairs and maintenance work.

(b) Traffic N.C.O. Cars (7) - Small Saloons

These were approved as per your A.2767/47 of 6/11/62. A request for one additional vehicle for Co. Fermanagh is at present with you (ref. our P.1006 of 3/5/65). This would provide one such car for each county and two for Belfast and would increase the present establishment from 7 to 8. Your approval for an establishment of 8 is accordingly now sought.

/(c)



(c) Radar Cars (4) - Small Estate Type Cars

Your authorities for these vehicles are A.283/55 of 21/6/57 and 18/9/57<sup>8</sup> (1 each), and A.283/55 of 14/5/59 (2 additional vehicles). It is proposed to maintain the establishment of these Radar Cars at 4. *no change*

(d) Motorway Cars (4) - Large Estate Type Cars

Your approval is held for two vehicles for the Belfast-Sprucefield stretch of the M.1 and for two vehicles for the Birches-Verner's Bridge stretch, on the understanding that these four cars will be sufficient to patrol the entire length of the M.1 from Belfast to Dungannon when completed. It is proposed to maintain the establishment of these cars at 4 for the present but the Ministry would like to reserve the right to apply for an increase if the necessity for this should arise. It is possible that a stretch of the new motorway from the Shore Road, Belfast, to Carnmoney will open towards the end of 1966 and in that event the Ministry will be obliged to reconsider the matter. *see letter d. 10.6.64 A.1001/64*

(e) "Q" Cars (9) - High-powered Saloon Cars of various sizes

Your approval is held for nine of these cars. Although no information is available on the point at present there is always the possibility that the Ministry may be required to approach you again at some time for an increase in their establishment. *letter d. 2.7.64 A.1001/64*

(f) Mobile Traffic Offices (2) - Specially fitted-out large Vans

Two large vans previously in service with the Reserve Force were specially fitted out to serve as Mobile Traffic Offices in co-operation with other traffic vehicles (your approval, reference number is A.1001/64, of 21/5/65. It is proposed to maintain the establishment of these vehicles at 2. *no change*

(g) Traffic Motor-Cycles (Heavyweight) (11) - 650 c.c.

Authority was held for 10 Traffic Motor-Cycles (your A.618/55 of 4/8/56). Authority to use 1 surplus Reserve Force Heavyweight Motor-Cycle was given per your A.295/58 of 26/6/63. It is proposed to maintain the establishment of these motor-cycles at 11. *no change*

3. Heavyweight Motor-Cycles (other than Traffic) (17) - 650 c.c. used for Patrol, Training and Despatch Duties

Your authority to use two surplus Reserve Force Heavyweight Motor-Cycles was

/given *no change*





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given per your A.295/58 of 26/6/63 thus bringing the total number approved to 17.  
The break-down of these 17 machines is as follows:-

Patrol	-	11	<i>Antim</i>
Despatch	-	2	
Advanced Motor-Cycle Courses	-	4	<i>l.d. 8.60</i>
		<hr/>	
		17	

Some of the Patrol and Despatch Motor-Cycles are used for joint work on these duties.

It is proposed to maintain the establishment of these machines at 17.

X 4. Land-Rovers (53) :-

Your approval is held for 53 Land-Rovers. These are used as follows:-

(a) Personnel Carriers (16)

For combined R.U.C./U.S.C. duties.

(b) Livestock (15)

An establishment of 14 was fixed in 1952 and 1 further vehicle was approved in 1956. Total expenditure on these vehicles is recovered from the Great Britain Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) R.U.C. Reserve Force (7)

Held by Belfast Reserve Force.

(d) Patrol Duties at Dunmurry, Co. Antrim (1)

(e) Operational Reserve (3)

Held as replacement vehicles in case of break-down of Land-Rovers in use.

(f) Surplus Land-Rovers stored at Sprucefield (11)

Not required at present. Held as replacements against Land-Rovers which become uneconomical to repair.

It is proposed to maintain the establishment of Land-Rovers at 53.

5. Personnel Carriers (53) - Purpose-Built Vehicles

/Your



*43 in letter 12.11.57 in A. 2647/47*  
*43 x 10 personnel 53 - 6 count as 56*

Your authority is held for an establishment of 53 of these vehicles on the basis of a holding of 47 large personnel carriers, and of 9 small carriers which are to be regarded as equivalent to 6 large ones for establishment purposes. The total holding is therefore 56, of which one is used, with your approval, for the transport of police dogs in specially-fitted cages (see below at Dog Vans).

It is proposed to maintain the establishment at 53 and the total holding at 56 on the same basis as indicated above (and continuing to use one vehicle as a Dog Van).

6. Armoured Vehicles (25)

*letter 2.8.1.1958 in A. 329/50*

Your approval is held for 25 armoured vehicles and the present holding consists of 10 Armoured Humbers and 15 Armoured Commers. It is now proposed that the establishment should be reduced to 20, of which 10 will be the new Armoured Vehicle, construction of which is to be based on the prototype developed at the Ministry's Transport Workshop. A separate submission has been forwarded to you seeking formal approval for the expenditure involved on the production of these 10 new vehicles.

The existing 15 Armoured Vehicles rendered surplus by this proposal will be dealt with as follows:-

- (a) 10 to be "moth-balled" for Civil Defence purposes,
- (b) 1 to be converted for use as a Water Tender, and
- (c) 4 to be disposed of.

Separate submissions regarding (a) and (b) either have been or will be made to you.

7. Detective Cars (8) - Small Saloon Cars

*X* ✓ Eight small Saloon Cars for detectives were authorised in your A.2767/47 of 27/7/61. It is now proposed that this should be increased to an establishment of 9 for the following reason:-

When approval was given for the purchase of the detective cars (1 for each Belfast district and 1 for Londonderry), Musgrave Street District was worked as a single unit for detective purposes. In October 1961 the crime rate in this district was almost twice that of any other City district, and the Inspector General decided that it should be divided into two areas with a Detective Head Constable in charge of each. Because of this, it has been found that the one detective car allocated to this district is inadequate. Musgrave Street covers the entire City centre and presents peculiar problems of investigation in that the resident population is small and crimes are to a greater extent committed by persons living elsewhere, making

/transport





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transport more necessary than in other smaller and more tightly-knit districts. Approval is therefore requested for authority to purchase an additional small saloon car at an approximate cost of £500 for use of detectives in Musgrave Street district.

8. Observation Vans and Cars (10) - 8 vans and 2 cars

One vehicle was held in 1946. Additional vehicles were authorised as follows: 1 per your A.2767/47 of 5/1/48; 4 per your A.329/50 of 17/1/57; 1 per your A.329/50 of 21/8/57; 3 per your A.329/50 of 4/9/57.

It is proposed to maintain the establishment of these vehicles at 10.

9. Training Cars (4) - Large Saloons

Two were held in 1946 and two were added per your A.2767/47 of 9/6/49.

These are used in the R.U.C. Driving School.

It is proposed to maintain the establishment of these vehicles at 4.

10. Escort Cars (5)

Your authority is held for 5 Escort Vehicles and it is proposed to maintain the establishment at this figure. Only one car is in use on this work at present but with the increasing pressure on the Inspector General to provide escorts for explosives, and abnormal indivisible vehicle loads or other loads coming within the ambit of the Traffic Special Types Order and the Track-Laying Vehicles Order the Ministry intends to obtain 4 more small cars to enable these duties to be adequately carried out. Up to the end of May of this year the police have had to provide over 500 escorts and this has been done at the expense of vehicles primarily allocated for other purposes. With the emphasis on development in the Province at the present time both as regards building and road works, and heavy industry, there is no doubt that for many years ahead these abnormal loads are going to increase and as the police have a statutory duty to escort them it is essential to have extra vehicles provided for the purpose.

11. Pool Cars (6) - Large Saloons

Originally there was authority for 8 Pool Cars, but on approval being given for the purchase of the Detective Cars, this number was reduced by 2. Your original approvals were - 4 prior to 1946, plus 3 per your A.2767/47 of 2/5/57, plus 1 per your letter of 20/3/1957.

It is proposed to maintain the establishment of these vehicles at 6.



12. Headquarters Cars (3) - Large Saloons

Three cars have been approved since before 1946. It is proposed to maintain the establishment at this figure.

13. Stores and Despatch Vehicles (6)

Authority for these miscellaneous vehicles has been held for over 20 years. The vehicles are:-

(a)	Stores Van	- 1	} Musgrave Street Station
(b)	Despatch Van	- 1	
(c)	Stores Vehicles	- 4	

(Sprucefield)

It is proposed to maintain the establishment at 6.

14. Crime Van (1) - Large Van

Your authority is held for one specially-equipped vehicle for use as a mobile headquarters for crime investigation. It is proposed to maintain the establishment at 1.

15. Prisons Vans (4) - "Black Marias"

The Prisons Branch of this Ministry holds the authority for these vehicles, but as they form part of the R.U.C. Fleet it is desired to include them in the overall authority. It is proposed that the establishment be maintained at the figure of 4.

16. Tractor (1)

One Ford/Ferguson tractor was handed over by the Ministry of Agriculture on 6/3/64 for use at the R.U.C. Depot, Enniskillen. It is proposed to keep this vehicle.

17. Dog Vans (2) plus 1 Personnel Carrier (converted)

One of these is a converted personnel carrier for which your approval is held. (See entry at Personnel Carriers above.) Authority for the other two is contained in your A.429/50 of 13/3/59. It is proposed to maintain the establishment at 2 plus 1 converted personnel carrier.

18. Water Wagon (1) - Anti-riot Vehicle

Your approval in principle for the holding of a water wagon was given many years ago. It is intended to dispense with the existing one which is no longer serviceable and to rebuild another on one of the surplus Armoured Vehicles (see above at Armoured Vehicles). A separate submission regarding this was forwarded

/to





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to you recently and approval obtained. It is proposed to maintain the establishment at 1.

19. Livestock Cars (2) - Large Saloons

The establishment of livestock cars was fixed in 1952 and 1956 at 2; see also under Land-Rovers - Livestock above. These cars are used in conjunction with the Land-Rovers on anti-smuggling work. It is proposed to maintain the establishment at 2.

20. Luggage Lorry (1)

Used by Reserve Force and your approval held. It is proposed to maintain the establishment at 1.

21. Official Cars (7)

Prime Minister's Car.

Minister of Home Affairs' Car.

Minister of Development's Car.

Minister of Finance's Car.

Inspector General's Car.

2 Government Taxis.

Authorities are held for these vehicles, all of which are driven by policemen.

22. Lightweight Motor-Cycles (112)

Since the end of the War the Ministry has been able to close some 26 Stations as a result of the redeployment of R.U.C. manpower and the provision of increased transport. To implement the latter arrangement the Ministry approved the Inspector General's recommendation that one lightweight motor-cycle should be allocated to each country station except in cases where it was clear that other forms of transport were adequate.

Various approvals for an establishment of lightweight motor-cycles have been received. At first 10 Vespas were authorised and purchased; this was followed by an additional 30 Velocettes. Authority was then given for the purchase of a further 72 motor-cycles, to be purchased at the rate of 24 per year over 3 years (your A.295/58 of 22nd February, 1961, refers). It should be noted here that in fact of the last batch of 24 authorised only 19 were in fact purchased. It will be seen therefore that to date authority is held for an establishment of 112 lightweight motor-cycles. There are also 30 U.S.C. motor-cycles at present used by the R.U.C., and your authority for this use is

/requested



requested. This would make a total authorised strength of 142.

The actual purposes which such a total authorised strength would be required to cover are

- (1) 133 Stations outside Belfast where it is intended to hold a lightweight machine (i.e., Stations where there is no other form of transport or where the existing transport is not suitable), and
- (2) 10 lightweight machines for the R.U.C. elementary motor-cycle training school. Total 143.

This would leave a deficiency of 1 in an authorised strength of 142, necessitating an increase to 143 and approval for this is sought.

It is considered that with such a large number of motor-cycles a number of reserves should be held, as the Transport Workshop usually contains about 25 machines, at any given time, in course of repair. For this reason it is requested that authority be given for 25 additional lightweight motor-cycles to be held in reserve, to be issued in place of those undergoing repair, etc. This would bring the total establishment to 168.

Finally, it is proposed to purchase seven additional lightweight motor-cycles for completely new duties - patrolling in Belfast suburbs, which now contain many large new housing estates which are often a considerable distance from the station. Other duties of these machines would be the enforcement of the "Clearway" Regulations, and the serving of summonses and execution of warrants. Time and manpower would be saved if lightweight motor-cycles were used on these duties instead of the present methods of using pedal-cycles or public transport. This gives a total proposed establishment of 175 lightweight machines.

The number of motor-cycles at present in use exceeds the total authorised establishment by 35. These thirty-five consist of:- 30 U.S.C. machines at present used by the R.U.C., plus 10 replacement machines which are held as reserves in Musgrave Street, less 5 not purchased on final authority for 24 and referred to above.

Summarising the proposed increases to the existing establishment, what the Ministry requests is:-

- 1 additional motor-cycle for a country station;
- 30 U.S.C. machines to be used for R.U.C. duties;
- 25 machines to be held in reserve;
- 7 machines for Belfast suburbs.

This gives a total of 63 to be added to the present establishment of 112.

/However,





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However, it will be seen that of these 63 only 28 will need to be purchased, i.e., the difference between the proposed establishment of 175 and the actual number of machines held, viz, 147, at a total cost of about £5,500.

This will leave only 12 country stations without lightweight motor-cycles, but each has other transport available, and it is considered that motor-cycles are not required at any of these stations.

23. The authorities requested in this letter are (1) covering authority, where appropriate, for the present establishment of transport at no extra cost as indicated above and as per the attached schedules; (2) authority for the addition of 63 lightweight motor-cycles to the establishment, at a cost of approximately £5,500 for the 28 machines actually required; (3) authority for 2 additional small saloon cars, one for detectives at a cost of approximately £500 and one for the Co. Fermanagh Traffic N.C.O. at the same cost, and (4) authority for 1 additional large saloon car for the Traffic Branch as a Traffic Car at a cost of approximately £1,000.

Yours faithfully,

R.T. O'Connor

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Stormont,  
Belfast, 4.