



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0349

On 29/03/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

- 1) The total number of vehicles in your fleet at 1st January 2023?
- 2) Could I have this number at 1st January for every year since 2010.
- 3) Please can you confirm your annual spend on fleet damage repair (in the year to 2022)?
- 4) What was the oldest vehicle in your force fleet commissioned into active service?

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

I can confirm a search has been conducted and the information is as follows:

- 1) Total amount of vehicles as 01/01/23 was 449
- 2) The system used correlate the data for the vehicles is a live data set and is constantly updating and unable to retrieve historical data.
- 3) Annual spend fleet damage 2022 NET £82,156.24
- 4) Oldest vehicles on Fleet:
 - a. Marked 2010
 - b. unmarked 2008

With regard to the disclosure of any of any information relating to covert vehicles, the following exemption applies:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

The exemption above is qualified and prejudice based therefore both a Public Interest Test and Harm Test are required.

Harm

Disclosure of full information on fleet, could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. Full disclosure could provide and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack on an operational unit, or avoiding that unit for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not).

A disclosure of the number of vehicles on fleet including covert vehicles, would allow those with criminal intent the ability to build up a mosaic picture of force capabilities and resources and use this information to undermine law enforcement. This places the community at increased unnecessary risk of harm and impacts on police resources if additional resources and tactics need to be put in place to counter any harm caused by an adverse FOIA disclosure.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure

There is a legitimate public interest in the public being satisfied that the police force has up to date and well maintained vehicles to deliver services to the public when and where required.

Factors favouring non-disclosure

The Police Service has a duty to deliver effective law enforcement ensuring that the prevention and detection of crime, apprehension or prosecution of offenders and administration of justice is carried out appropriately.

Disclosing the number of covert vehicles would provide sufficient information to those involved in criminal activity of the capabilities available to the force when carrying out covert activities in certain areas. This could result in them taking steps to evade detection and to destroy evidence if they believe that their movements are being monitored. This could also lead to vehicles and officers being identified which would render their covert capabilities useless.

Balance Test

It is not in the public interest for law enforcement tactics and operational capability to be compromised with the disclosure of the number of covert vehicles within the Fleet, as those who wish to commit criminal acts will be more aware of the resources in operation to assist with preventing and detecting crime.

Such a disclosure that would allow those with criminal intent the ability to build up a mosaic picture of force capabilities and resources which could be used to undermine law enforcement. This would not be in the public interest.

Disclosure is also not in the public interest as it places the community at increased unnecessary risk of harm and impacts on police resources. This is especially the case if additional tactics/resources need to be put in place to counter harm caused by an adverse FOIA request regarding police vehicles.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary