



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_2024.0062
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 07/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2024.0062

On 12/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

The details of the vehicle impound centres used by each police force in the United Kingdom.

I would like you to provide this information in the following format:

Police force, area served, impound centre name, impound centre address, impound centre email address and telephone number.

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

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide 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 not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies:

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

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

Evidence of Harm

Disclosing details of the garages used by Gloucestershire Constabulary would provide a person who may be intent on criminal activities with invaluable information as to the capability / tactical position and highlight that the force operates vehicle recovery and storage in certain locations, thus allowing them to adjust their own tactics accordingly.

Public Interest Test

Factors in Favour of Disclosure

Police Forces need to be properly equipped in order to meet the demands placed upon them and this information could go some way towards reassuring the public that Gloucestershire Constabulary is adequately prepared in this area. The Force is responsible for public money and therefore there is a strong public interest in disclosing how and what the money is spent on.

Factors against Disclosure

Disclosing the locations of garages used for vehicle recovery that are not in the public domain allows for certain policing activities to be carried out with the minimal possibility of being observed or disrupted. To disclose these locations may allow criminals to determine where those activities are being carried out and observe them in order to gain intelligence. This would aid criminal activity by enabling individuals to undermine and disrupt policing activities, therefore, exempting the details of these garages is primarily to protect locations that could be targeted for the purpose of disrupting general law enforcement activities and functions.

Balance Test

Whilst there is a general public interest in being open and transparent about how and where public money is spent and the services that we provide, there is a greater public interest in protecting our policing abilities. Information identifying the focus of specific policing activity, such as details of the garage locations within this FOI request, could be used to the advantage of criminals. Information that undermines the operational integrity of these activities will adversely affect public safety, and have a negative impact on law enforcement. Therefore, it is for the reasons outlined above that it is decided that the public interest weighs in favour of non-disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for your request.

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.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary