



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_ 24_0634

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 30/07/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0633

On 03/07/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. Please identify the most powerful vehicle in your police fleet, according to its power output (hp, bhp, or PS). Please include both day-to-day fleet vehicles as well as show vehicles or educational vehicles.
2. Please identify the make, model and manufacturer year of the force fleet's most powerful vehicle.
3. How many examples of the said 'most powerful' vehicle does the force currently have on its fleet?

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds 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. With regard to the disclosure of the "most powerful vehicle" on the fleet and any details relating to such 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, such as the types of vehicles in use, 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).

Additionally, law enforcement tactics and operational capability would be compromised with the disclosure of the details requested such as that relating to unmarked cars, as those who wish to commit criminal acts will be more aware of what vehicles may belong to the force in a covert role, that assist with preventing and detecting crime.

Such a disclosure 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 information that would allow the identification of all vehicles may reveal what resources are available for a given role and this information could enable police strength to be determined and circumvented by those intent on committing crime. The release of this information could therefore provide a tactical advantage to offenders which would negatively impact on public safety and undermine the policing purpose.

Disclosing the details of specific vehicles would provide sufficient information to those involved in criminal activity of the capabilities available to the force when carrying out policing 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.

Balance Test

It is not in the public interest for law enforcement tactics and operational capability to be compromised with the disclosure of specific vehicle details as those who wish to commit criminal acts will be more aware of the vehicles 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.

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