



Thames Valley Police
Chief Constable John Campbell QPM

Headquarters
Oxford Road
Kidlington
Oxfordshire
OX5 2NX

Alex Bonser

Telephone: 101
Direct dial: 01865 542051
Email: publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Our ref: HQ/PA/000176/20
Your ref:

06 February 2020

Dear Mr Bonser,

I write in response to the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted on 14/01/2020. Thames Valley Police has now considered this request, which for clarity, has been repeated below:

<u>Request</u>	<u>Response</u>
<p>I would like to request a fleet list with the following information on the current fleet for this force.</p> <p>Vehicle Fleet of Marked Resources:</p> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vehicle Model & Make- Vehicle Year (e.g. 2016, 2017)- Registration Number / Registration Plate- Role of the Vehicle (e.g. Area Car, Prisoner Transport)- Division the Vehicle is part of (e.g. Local Policing, Roads Policing)- Station Vehicle is Based at- Roof Code/Aerial Code (e.g. 01 TXG) <p>Vehicle Fleet of Unmarked Resources:</p> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Vehicle Model & Make- Vehicle Year (e.g. 2016, 2017)- Division the Vehicle is part of (e.g. Local Policing, Roads Policing)	<p>Thames Valley can confirm information is held, please see the attached spreadsheet.</p> <p>Thames Valley can confirm that it holds further information in regards to this request, but is engaging the following exemption:</p> <p>Section 31(a)(b): Law Enforcement</p> <p>Please see below for further information.</p>



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Section 31 Law enforcement:

This is a prejudice based qualified exemption which requires evidence of harm and a public interest test to be considered. Please see the information below:

Harm

Where vehicles are being used, or have been used in covert or sensitive roles, revealing the details of these vehicles will undermine past and future investigations and the legal proceedings that go with them, as well as putting Thames Valley Police employees and other individuals at risk. This is also the case if we were to provide details on the registrations of vehicles, the stations they are based at, and Arial codes. These details being released to the public could hinder the prevention or detection of crime as offenders may be aware of particular vehicles and take actions to avoid them.

Factors supporting disclosure

Thames Valley Police acknowledges a general public interest in being open and transparent about how it conducts its duties in protecting the communities it serves. This leads to increased trust and co-operation.

Factors against disclosure

Any disclosure of information regarding vehicles deployed in covert roles, even after that vehicle has been disposed of, has the potential to provide intelligence to criminal or terrorist elements who may have been the target of those investigations, allowing them to take measures to evade detection or prosecution. This is especially true of vehicles currently in use, therefore disclosure of current registration plates, the stations they are based and Arial codes could allow those same criminal or terrorist elements to identify employees of Thames Valley Police or other individuals connected to those vehicles, putting them at risk.

Balance Test

The public interest in terms of the size, use and cost of public authority fleets has been met by the provision of data regarding the forces marked vehicles. The risk to individuals and to the justice system outweighs the public interest in disclosing details of covert vehicles, registrations of marked vehicles, the stations they are based at and the Arial codes. Thames Valley believes these exemptions have been engaged appropriately.

Complaint Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Thames Valley Police, you can lodge a complaint with the force to have the decision reviewed within two months of the date of this response. Complaints should be made in writing to the FOI inbox; publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.



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If, after lodging a complaint with Thames Valley Police, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely

Sav Mahay
Public Access
Joint Information Management Unit