



**Please Ask For:** Faye Biddles  
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**Email:** [access2info@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk](mailto:access2info@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk)  
**Our Ref:** FOI/5176  
**Date:** 02 October 2018

Dear Mr Jarman,

Thank you for your request for the following information:

*"The Local Authority is requested to provide a list of motor vehicles operated by the council (owned or leased) currently licensed with the Driver & Vehicle Licensing Authority ("the DVLA"). Please include the following details.*

1. *Registration Mark of each motor vehicle;*
2. *Fleet number allocated (if any);*
3. *Chassis Make and Model;*
4. *Type of Body fitted;*
5. *Date new or date of acquisition."*

This has been processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA").

Please find attached the list of fleet vehicles (owned by the authority) and lease vehicles. Registration numbers and other identifiers have been removed as we conclude that they meet the following exemptions:

Section 31(1)(a) of the FOIA- Law enforcement. Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. This exemption allows the council to refuse to disclose information if it were to prejudice law enforcement. In this instance, releasing this information would result in this information being in the public domain and therefore the information could be at the risk of being used for fraudulent claims or the registration plates being cloned.

To use this exemption we are required to undertake a public interest test. The matters which were considered in applying the test are as follows:

Withholding the information could be perceived as the council failing in its presumption of disclosure and transparency objectives under FOIA. However, there is a public interest in ensuring that monies from the public purse are protected. The potential cost to the council should vehicles have to be replaced because their plate numbers had been used for criminal purposes would have a deep impact on spending of public funds.

There would also certainly be a disruption to local authority services if our vehicles had to be taken out of service for the period of time that it would take to replace any misused plates. The overwhelming public interest stands with the prevention of criminal acts and therefore it is our decision not to disclose the information in this instance.

Section 38- Health & safety. Because of the sensitive nature of the work carried out by our community safety team, and due to the enforcement capabilities of those staff who use lease fleet vehicles, we must also consider the wellbeing of our employees and any residents travelling in our vehicles. There is a significant risk that disclosing the information that could identify our vehicles

would compromise our ability to protect our front line staff and any vulnerable people that we may transport.

Although this may be perceived to be a small risk in terms of actual physical harm, the exemption refers to information which if released

*'would or would be likely to endanger...'*

This can include events that could reasonably be expected but do not have to be definitely foreseeable. As such, we believe a broad approach should be taken when considering potential risks: mental health should be included, as should general emotional and psychological well-being; this could be affected if, for instance, one of our vehicles was to be followed.

Our conclusion is that it is never in the public interest, of itself, to endanger the health and safety of any individual.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you may write to: Julie Kenny, Director of Corporate Services, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Hinckley Hub, Rugby Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 0FR. Please quote your reference number on all correspondence and ask that your request be reviewed under the council's internal appeals procedure.

Should you remain dissatisfied following an appeal, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a further review at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

Faye Biddles  
Information Governance Officer