

Request:

I would like to request the following information in regards to the estate of your organisation.

1. The Location (incl. Full address & Postcode) of all buildings occupied by your organisation.
2. The tenure (i.e. Leasehold or Freehold) of all building occupied by your organisation.
3. Whether any of these buildings are subject to PFI Agreements.
4. The use (i.e. Police Station/Neighbourhood Base/Offices/Disused) of all buildings occupied by your organisations.
5. The identity of any locations that are earmarked for future disposal.
6. The date at which any future disposals are due to take place.
7. Whether any of these locations will be replaced after disposal.
8. If a replacement location is intended, what form will this take (i.e. Relocation/Co-Location).

Response:

Please find information relevant to your request, except Q3, in the table at the end of this response.

Q3 – No buildings occupied by Northamptonshire Police are subject to PFI arrangements.

Northamptonshire Police own and occupy properties of which details are not in the public domain.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Northamptonshire Police, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt within the provisions of the Act), is required to provide you, the applicant, with a Notice which:

- a) States the fact that an exemption has been applied
- b) Specifies the exemption in question, and
- c) States why the exemption applies

The withheld information (locations of discreet or covert police buildings) is exempt by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 31(1) - Law Enforcement

In an emergency call **999**
For non emergencies call **101**



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This exemption and explanatory notes are shown here:

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/information-management/freedom-of-information/#freedom-of-information-exemptions>

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and there is therefore a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in disclosure as well as carrying out a public interest test. Details of these considerations can be found below:

Evidence of Harm:

It must be remembered that any disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act must be treated as a disclosure to the world rather than to a particular applicant.

Confirming that further data are held with respect to discreet or covert policing work would be harmful to those employees working within those buildings and to the work they are conducting. It could also lead to those premises being targeted by criminals in a bid to disrupt the policing activity taking place and gain access to information that would enable them to avoid detection, apprehension and subsequent prosecution. If these buildings were compromised it would undermine current operations and initiatives, covert policing tactics and sources.

Disclosing whether any further information is, or is not held, will give an indication of the assets available (or not available) to Northamptonshire Police. Many criminals are constantly active and astute in their assessment of police capabilities and will capitalise on any information they can glean about police activities. Using the information to compromise policing methods will assist their offending behavior.

What might be considered by some as harmless information released under the FOIA, when incorporated with other available information can be analysed to create a detailed intelligence picture, which can then be used by those engaged in criminal activity to disrupt the prevention and detection of crime.

Factors favouring disclosure:

Where public funds are being used by Northamptonshire Police, the public have an interest in knowing what it is being used for. Disclosure of this information would inform the public of precisely where their money is being spent, so that they can be satisfied that it is being used efficiently. We recognise that there is a call for openness and transparency and disclosure of information may aid in showing the public how we direct our publically funded resources. This in turn may promote and instill greater confidence in the communities that we serve.

Factors against disclosure:

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Northamptonshire Police has a responsibility to ensure it has the resources in place 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. It is therefore a reasonable assumption that Northamptonshire Police has a number of covert buildings in use. However, the specific location could demonstrate our operational capacity which in turn could be used by potential criminals.

There is an inherently strong public interest in public authorities carrying out law enforcement activities effectively and efficiently to ensure the prevention and detection of crime as well as the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. This helps in increasing the chances of offenders being brought to justice and necessary checks and balances are already in place to safeguard public funds and resources. To allow the effectiveness of either fundamental law enforcement activity to be reduced, as described in the harm above, is not in the public interest.

Confirmation or denial that further information is or is not held would have a negative impact on the effectiveness of current and future operations for dealing with offenders that require the use of the police service's most sophisticated law enforcement tactics and would not be in the public's interest.

Balance Test:

For a public interest test, issues that favour disclosure need to be measured against issues that favour non-disclosure. The public interest is not what interests the public, or a particular individual, but what will be the greater good, if released, to the community as a whole. In considering the public interest in relation to this request, I must balance the factor in relation to transparency and accountability, against the public interest in ensuring that Northamptonshire Police are able to appropriately enforce the law.

Confirming or denying whether any further information is or is not held would allow criminals to be able to identify the assets available to Northamptonshire Police thus undermining operations and compromising law enforcement tactics, meaning that the police service is less effective.

Northamptonshire Police has a duty to deliver effective law enforcement, ensuring the prevention and detection of crime, and the apprehension of offenders. Therefore it is my opinion that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Northamptonshire Police will not disclose information that would compromise the future law enforcement role of the force.

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Building location, tenure, use and disposal of buildings occupied by Northamptonshire Police:

Question 1			Question 2	Questions 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
Building		Address	Tenure	Use & Disposal
1	Brackley	St James Road, Brackley, NN13 7XY	Freehold	Neighbourhood Base
2	Catherine House	Base Unit H, Harborough Road, Brixworth, NN6 9BX	Tenancy At Will	Neighbourhood Base
3	Campbell Square Inc Out Buildings	The Mounts, Northampton, NN1 3EL	Leasehold	Offices
4	Campbell Square Robert Street Garages	The Mounts, Northampton, NN1 3EL	Freehold	Office
5	Corby (2 Buildings)	Elizabeth Street, Corby, NN17 1SH	Freehold Vacant	Being prepared for sale - staff relocated to 37
6	Corby Cube	George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG	Leasehold	Public Enquiry Desk
7	Daventry Police And Court	New Street, Daventry, NN11 4BS	Freehold	Station
8	Deene House	New Post Office Square, Corby, NN17 1GD	Leasehold	Neighbourhood Base
9	Desborough	38 Federation Avenue, Desborough, NN14 2NX	Freehold	Neighbourhood Base
10	Duston Police Box	Pendle Road, Northampton, NN5 6DT	Leasehold	Neighbourhood Base
11	Easton On The Hill	Rear Of Exeter Arms PH, Stamford Road, E-O-T-H, PE9 3NW	Freehold	Radio Site
12	Eleanor House	Newport Pagnell Road West, Northampton, NN4 7JJ	Leasehold	Offices

13	Finedon	62/66 Thrapston Road, Finedon, NN9 5DG	Freehold	Vacant
14	Fletton House	Fletton Way, Oundle, PE8 4JA	Leasehold	Office
15	Giffard House	Giffard House, Pyramid Close, Northampton NN3 8DP	Freehold	Training
16	Goodwill Solutions	Unit 1056, Moulton Park, Deer Park Road, Northampton, NN3 6RX	Tenancy At Will	Office
17	Grosvenor House	George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG	Tenancy At Will	Office
18	Headquarters	Wootton Hall, Mereway, Northampton, NN4 0JQ	Freehold	Office
19	Kettering Inc Social Club	London Road, Kettering, NN15 7QP	Freehold Vacant	Being prepared for sale - staff relocated to 37
20	Kettering Borough Council Offices	Bowling Green Road, Kettering, NN15 7QX	Leasehold	Public Enquiry Desk, And Neighbourhood Base
21	Mereway Buildings	Mereway, Northampton, NN4 8BH	Freehold	Office
22	Northampton Criminal Justice Centre	700 Pavilion Drive, Northampton Business Park, NN4 7SL	Freehold	Custody Suite / Office
23	Northern Accommodation Building	Cherry Hall Road, Kettering Business Park, NN14 1UE	Freehold	Office
24	Old Porse Gorse	Nr Mawsley Village, Off A43, NN6 9RS	Leasehold	Radio Site
25	Oundle	Glaphorne Road, Oundle, PE8 4JA	Freehold	Neighbourhood Base
26	Portland Place Police Box	Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 4DS	Leasehold	Neighbourhood Base
27	Potcote	In Farmland, Nr Potcote Village, Off A5, NN12 8LP	Leasehold	Radio Site

28	Pytchley Motorway Post	Pegasus Court, Kettering, NN15 6XS	Freehold	Office
29	Rothersthorpe Motorway Post	J15a, M1, Northampton, NN4 9QS	Leasehold	Office
30	St James Police Box	Abbey Street, Northampton, NN5 5LA	Leasehold	Neighbourhood Base
31	Salthouse Road	27-29 Salthouse Road, Brackmills, Northampton, NN4 7EX	Leasehold	Office
32	The Lodge	Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN4 0JA	Occupy	Office
33	Towcester Police And Court	Watling Street, Towcester, NN12 6DE	Freehold	Neighbourhood Base
34	Towcester Road Offices	191-193 Towcester Road, Northampton, NN4 8LS	Freehold	Office
35	University Of Northampton	Bedford Road Northampton	Occupy	Neighbourhood Base
36	Warwick House	Billing Road, Cliftonville, Northampton, NN1 5BE	Leasehold	Office
37	Weekley Woods Justice Centre	Cherry Hall Road, Kettering Business Park, NN14 1UE	Freehold	Custody Suite
38	Wellingborough	Midland Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1HF	Freehold	Station
39	Weston Favell	Pyramid Close, Northampton, NN3 8JH	Freehold	Station
40	31 Wootton Hall Park	31 Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN4 0JA	Freehold	Training
41	Yardley Chase Training Bunker	Bunker A8, Yardley Chase Training Area, NN7 2BQ	Leasehold	Training