



**Kent
Police**



Mr. James Stevens
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Direct Line: 01622 652610
E-mail: freedomofinformation@kent.police.uk

Date: 30 May 2022
FOI Ref: FOI/00556/22

Dear Mr. Stevens,

Freedom of Information Request FOI/00556/22

I write in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 3 May 2022.

1) How many Level 1 and Level 2 public order trained officers do you have within the force.

2) Please also provide a fleet list of carriers used to transport multiple officers.

If possible please provide the

vehicle make,

model,

callsign (If possible),

Roof code (If possible) and

where the vehicle is based (If possible).

3) Finally does the force have any specialist teams for dealing with protestors such as protestor removal teams.

If so, please provide a fleet list for the vehicles used by these teams.

Information for parts of questions 1 and 2 are provided in the attached appendix.

For question 3, Kent Police has Protester Removal Teams, however there are no specialist vehicles designated for exclusive use by them.

The number of Level 1 Public Order trained officers, roof codes, call signs and locations of Police Support Unit (PSU) vehicles, are considered exempt from disclosure by virtue of the exemption at Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law enforcement.

Evidence of harm

Disclosure of the number of officers trained to Level 1 Public Order would be of value to those wishing to understand Kent Police tactical capabilities. Were this request to be made to all forces, it would allow for a map of the tactical capabilities of each individual force, highlighting any perceived vulnerabilities and exposing any areas perceived as more susceptible to criminal activities.

Disclosure of detailed information relating to police roof codes and callsigns would be of great benefit to those looking to disrupt the communications network, either by attempting to infiltrate the network to disseminate false information using correct terminology, or simply using this knowledge to listen in and interpret police communications with a view to learning police

movements and locations in order to evade capture or facilitate a crime. Were this information to be disclosed by a number of forces, it could be used to estimate the resources available to each force, with more call signs interpreted (correctly or otherwise) to infer greater resources, which could lead to further offences being committed in areas where forces are perceived to have fewer resources.

Disclosure of locations for the vehicles requested will enable individuals to determine the tactical capability and placement of PSU vehicles across Kent. This information would enable those intent on causing harm to implement plans in order to frustrate and overwhelm police capabilities, particularly in relation to armed incidents or other incidents requiring specialist teams that use PSU vehicles.

Factors in favour of disclosure

The information requested would promote openness and transparency, and assure the public Kent Police has sufficient resources to tackle public disorder wherever it may occur.

Factors in favour of non-disclosure

The College of Policing outlines the different public order police roles based on levels of training:

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/public-order/tactical-options>

Level 1 Public Order trained officers are trained in specialist tactics, and were all forces to disclose the number of Level 1 Public Order trained officers available to each force, it would allow for the creation of a map of specialist policing resources across the country. Were such a disclosure to highlight any areas perceived as more vulnerable to criminal activity this would result in the targeting of specific areas for public disorder, impacting on public safety.

The disclosure of roof codes and call signs would allow policing tactics to be undermined, especially if police communications were to be intercepted or disrupted as a result. This would hinder Kent Police's ability to keep the public safe from criminal activity and during incidents of public disorder.

It is evidenced that those intent on disorder and criminal acts target police vehicles:

<https://londonnewsonline.co.uk/unmarked-police-car-splattered-with-paint-days-after-attack-on-another-vehicle-at-same-place/>

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/extinction-rebellion-schlumberger-protest-police-17771375>

To disclose the precise locations where PSU vehicles are based is to leave them open to attack and interference, and any vehicles put out of action as a result of such a disclosure would impact on Kent Police's ability to protect the public and maintain order.

Balancing test

Public safety and confidence are of the highest importance, and disclosure of the additional requested information would compromise effective law enforcement and by extension public safety and confidence. Having considered the arguments above, I find the public interest lies in favour of non-disclosure of the additional requested information.

Thank you for your interest in Kent Police. If you have any queries about your request or the application of the Freedom of Information Act generally, please contact this office quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Muggridge

Public Disclosure Officer

Your right to appeal

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have 40 working days from the date the response is issued to request that Kent Police carry out an internal review.

If your request for a review concerns the decision to apply an exemption, it would assist if you would outline why you believe the exemption does not apply.

Kent Police will acknowledge receipt of any request for a review and aim to respond as soon as practicable, in most cases within 20 working days of receipt. If the review will not be completed in this timescale, you will be informed.

You may lodge your request for a review in writing:

Our email address is: freedomofinformation@kent.police.uk

Our postal address is:

Freedom of Information
Coldharbour,
London Road,
Aylesford,
Kent,
ME20 7SL

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner who would normally expect you to have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by Kent Police.

For information on how to appeal to the Information Commissioner please visit the website at www.ico.org.uk. Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
0303 123 1113