

**Customer Information
Service**

County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

Please ask for: Sharon Chambers
FOI Reference: 3342249
Direct Dial: 01522 543368
Email:
customerinformationservice@icasework.lincolnshire.gov.uk
Date: 15 February 2022

Dear David Smith

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request:

1. I am writing to request an up-to-date Fleet list for Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.

I have been made aware that you procured some new appliances and would like to have a full allocation list of these.

This must include the following information:

Vehicle Registration,
Make,
Model,
Builder,
Type and Location.

Response:

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Lincolnshire County Council. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

1. please find attached spreadsheet

Section 31 provides a prejudice-based exemption which protects a variety of law enforcement interests and is subject to the public interest test. When considering a prejudice test any precedent effects as a result of disclosure can be taken into account.

We consider that Section 31 at subsection 1 (a) is applicable in our response. Section 31(1)(a) states information can be withheld if its disclosure under FOIA would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

The council has considered whether Section 31 is engaged in accordance with the ICO guidance.

1.If the actual harm alleged would or would be likely to occur if the information was disclosed.

2.Can it be demonstrated that some causal relationship exists between the disclosure of information and the prejudice that is alleged and whether it real, actual or of substance.

3.Whether the level of prejudice being relied on by the authority is met.

Whilst the councils view is that there is hypothetical possibility that this prejudice could occur and that it may not be possible to confirm that the public are at risk, disclosure of the information would likely be prejudice to the prevention.

Section 31 is subject to the public interest test.

The council has determined that the disclosure of vehicle registration numbers, specifically fire & rescue vehicles could assist organised crime gangs with criminal activities. Vehicles which may then be used to access unauthorised areas or used for activities which would likely be a risk to members of the public. The authority further considers that disclosure of the information could be used by criminals specifically to clone vehicles so that they are able to bypass automatic number plate and camera recognition systems in order to carry out criminal activities.

Section 31(1)(a) FOIA in favour of disclosing the requested information

The Council accept that there is a general presumption in favour of disclosure of information to provide accountability and transparency and that the general public as a tax payer are able to have access to information regarding vehicles. It is in the public interest to know how the public funds are spent and that vehicles are maintained and operational.

Section 31(1)(a) FOIA in favour of maintaining the exemption

The council considers the overriding safeguarding and security to the general public and the organisation is great and should the information be disclosed that there is potential that a criminal event would be more likely. The council considers that the disclosure of the information may facilitate a criminal activity and that there is a clear public interest in protecting the public from such activity.

Please quote the reference number 3342249 in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Lincolnshire County Council, Customer Information Service, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL

If you are still dissatisfied with the Council's response after the internal review you have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours faithfully

Sharon
Customer Information Advisor