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03 Aug 2020

Our ref: CM/PA/001517/20
Your ref: —

Dear D Edwards

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I write in response to the above referenced Freedom of Information request submitted on the 20/07/2020, Hampshire Constabulary has now considered this request, which has been repeated below and have responded accordingly.

Request	Response
I would like to request an up-to-date vehicle fleet (including Isle of Wight) detailing the following information; Vehicle make and model, Year of registration, Role (RPU/NPT etc.), Location the vehicle is based at time of writing	<p>Please see the additional document regarding marked police vehicles.</p> <p>Further information has been exempt by virtue of the following exemption:</p> <p>Section 31: Law Enforcement. Section 24: Safeguarding National Security</p> <p>Further information can be found below.</p>

Sections 24, and 31 are prejudice-based qualified exemptions and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not that the information is held as well as carrying out a public interest

Evidence of Harm

Information has been exempted where it relates to vehicles fulfilling a sensitive and/or non-public facing role and unmarked police vehicles within Hampshire Constabulary's fleet. This information has been exempted to ensure that these vehicles remain



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anonymous in order to comply with their functionality and to reduce the risk of identification which may risk the vehicles being infiltrated or targeted by organised crime groups or terrorists knowing that police are utilising these vehicles for policing functions that do not require the vehicles to be marked.

Public Interest test

	Factors favouring confirmation or denial	Factors favouring neither confirming or denying
S24	Disclosure would inform the public that Hampshire Constabulary has appropriate vehicle levels and type for the demands placed on the force. This would provide transparency with regard to the use of public funds in as much as the funds are being used correctly and appropriately	Whilst there is a public interest in providing the full details of all current fleet vehicles, there is a strong public interest in safeguarding national security and the welfare and safety of the general public. Any disclosure has the potential to undermine ongoing and future operations to protect the security of the United Kingdom, e.g. counter terrorism activity. The risk of significant harm or even death to the community at large would be increased.
S31	Better understanding of how public funds are spent. The force is showing accountability and transparency by revealing its full fleet list.	Disclosing vehicles that fulfil a sensitive and/or non-public facing role could compromise law enforcement tactics and the security of the officers who use the vehicles. Certain police activities in the future would be hindered if offenders know which vehicles could be attempting to apprehend them. Organised crime groups and gangs could target these vehicles, putting both staff and the public at risk of harm. This would also give away the force's resource covert vehicle strength, which could also aid criminality.

Balancing Test

The key factor favouring disclosure in this case relates to the accountability of the force in respect of revealing to the public how their funds are being spent in relation to Hampshire Constabulary's fleet vehicles, as well as provide reassurance that the force has the appropriate levels of vehicles in place for the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension of offenders.

However, this must be balanced against the factors favouring non-disclosure, the most important of which is the security the public and the front line police officers who utilise



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vehicles used for sensitive functions, as well as staff or officers who use any unmarked vehicles. Criminal activity could be enhanced as motivated organised criminal groups could seek to target these vehicles, putting officers and the public at risk. This could have harmful consequences for the force, and indeed the general public, placing the force at a disadvantage in the prevention and detection of crime

In this case, therefore, it is my decision that the public interest lies in the non-disclosure of the exempted information.

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Hampshire Constabulary, you can lodge a complaint with the force to have the decision reviewed within 2 months of the date of this response. Complaints should be made in writing to the Public Access office at the address at the top of this letter.

If, after lodging a complaint with Hampshire Constabulary, 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, via telephone on 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745 or at the website www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

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Joint Information Management Unit



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