



Dear Mr Guy,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2017.0110

On the 30th January 2017 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I was wondering if you could you please provide me with an up to date fleet list for your force, please include any new '16' plate vehicles and new cars being commissioned if possible by Gloucestershire Constabulary. Please be aware this includes both *Marked* and *Unmarked*

1. Please could you include for Marked vehicles:

- Vehicle make/model
- Full registration
- Full rear roof code
- Vehicle role
- Vehicle base

2. Please could you include for Unmarked vehicles:

- Vehicle make/model
- Vehicle role

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

1. With regard to your request for details of marked vehicles, the following exemption applies:

Section 14(2)- Vexatious Requests

Where a public authority has previously complied with a request for information which was made by any person, it is not obliged to comply with a subsequent identical or substantially similar request from that person unless a reasonable interval has elapsed between compliance with the previous request and the making of the current request.

Under section 14(2) there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test and no requirement to provide any information or confirm or deny whether any relevant information is held.

Our records indicate that Gloucestershire Constabulary has previously dealt with a substantially similar request from you under reference 2016.1097. It is clear that a reasonable interval has not elapsed between your requests.



Applicants may choose to re-submit their request after a reasonable period of time has elapsed. However, I would advise you that the Constabulary's fleet does not change frequently and certainly not on a monthly or even quarterly basis.

We also reserve the right to rely upon the exemption at Section 14(1) of the Freedom of Information Act (vexatious request) where repeated requests are made for the same information and either the information has been provided previously or you have already been advised that the information is exempt from disclosure.

2. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

With regard to any information relating to unmarked vehicles, the following exemption applies:

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

The exemption above is qualified and prejudice based therefore both a Public Interest Test and Harm Test are required.

Evidence of Harm

To disclose any of the above information for unmarked vehicles could cause subsequent harm to the Police service's ability to protect the public it serves and could prejudice its ability to perform core functions such as the prevention and detection of crime.

Releasing such specific information about the Constabulary's vehicle fleet would give individuals the intelligence required to disrupt police activity and give away the Police capability to criminals within Gloucestershire and also Wiltshire and Avon and Somerset due to the Tri-Force working arrangement.

On a national level, criminals would be able to identify in which force areas vehicle resources may be weak, and use this knowledge to their own advantage in furthering criminal activity around the country.

The disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the Police service's ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Public Interest Test

Factors in Favour of Disclosure

The disclosure of this information would lead to a better awareness of the Police Vehicle resources in the 3 Tri-Force Counties and provide information and reassurance to the public that adequate resources are in place to protect the Community.

Factors against Disclosure

The disclosure of information at this level would compromise law enforcement tactics by identifying policing capabilities and resources per department, thereby enabling criminals to target their activities to certain areas. This would enable more crime to be committed and have an impact on police resources, thereby hindering the prevention and detection of crime.

Balance Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing activity and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively resourced, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police operations, tactics and capabilities in order to ensure that the protection of the public is safeguarded. Therefore it is our opinion that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Steedman
Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary