



Our Ref: 001418/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 19 May 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 26/04/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

Please can you provide a list of vehicles currently used by the force, including a separate list on unmarked police vehicles?

Where possible, please provide the list in the format of manufacturer, generic model name and number of examples in the force.

For Example:

Manufacturer: Vauxhall

General Model: Astra

Number of Unmarked Vehicles: 200

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

Please see attached spreadsheet containing information relating to marked vehicles, information relating to unmarked vehicles is considered exempt as set out below:

The exemption applicable relate to your request are as follows:

- Section 31 – Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a prejudice based, qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Public Interest Test

The public interest is not what interests the public, but what will be of greater good if released to the community as a whole. It is not in the public interest to disclose information that may compromise Leicestershire Police's ability to fulfil its core functions.

Section 31 – Evidence of Harm

Under the Act, we cannot, and do not request the motives of any application for information. We have no doubt that the vast majority of requests made under the Act are legitimate.

However, in disclosing information to one applicant, we are expressing a willingness to provide it to anyone in the world. This means that a disclosure to a genuinely interested and concerned person automatically opens it up for a similar disclosure, including those who would use the information to gain an advantage over the police.

In considering whether or not this information should be disclosed, consideration has been given to the potential harm that could be caused by disclosure.

It is recognized that public awareness favours disclosure to allow members of the public to have an idea of specialist vehicles held in our fleet and the area of the county these specialist vehicles are held. However, I would contend that efficient and effective conduct of the Police service and public safety favours retention of this information.

Section 31 – Considerations favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in disclosure of the requested information as it would enable the public to see how public funds are spent during the course of operational policing and allow them to scrutinise the areas funds are spent in and the police's ability to react to certain crimes.

Section 31 – Considerations favouring non - disclosure

As you will appreciate a higher proportion of vehicles for certain purposes will be available in some areas of Leicestershire than others, A variety of vehicles are used across the service, however to provide you with details of what marked vehicles are allocated to specific areas or departments would prove extremely useful information for persons involved in criminality as they would be able to plan and conduct their activities accordingly to avoid detection.

It would show the number of vehicles available in a specific department or area which would allow those intent on wrong doing to judge police response times to a variety of incidents. In turn this would prejudice substantially the ability for our officers to prevent and detect crime and apprehend offenders.

Conclusion

I believe that on balance it is **not** in the public interest to release the further information which you have requested on this occasion for the reasons stated above. I appreciate that this is not the decision you had hoped for but I must consider the wider position under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which I feel necessitates the need to refuse your request under this legislation.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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