



James Hodson
Information Rights
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
Woburn Road, Kempston,
Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547
Email: foi@herts.pnn.police.uk

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Our Ref: FOI2018/00327

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/00327

I write in connection with your request for information received on 22nd January. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please could I request the following information from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire Constabularies regarding all marked vehicles within your fleet;

- **The Vehicle Make & Model**
- **The Registration Number**
- **The Role of the Vehicle (i.e. Dog Unit/Patrol/Traffic Unit)**
- **Station it is based at**

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response – Please see the Excel spreadsheet attached to your email.

Attachment – FOI2018 00327 Annexe A

In regards to the vehicle locations, I am not obliged to supply this information because it is exempt under the following exemption;

Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 31 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice:

- (a) the prevention and detection of crime**
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.**

Section 31 is a prejudice based qualified exemption which requires the prejudice (harm) to be evidenced and a public interest test to be carried out. This means it can only be used if the public interest test favours non-disclosure.

Application of the Prejudice Test

By disclosing the location of all unmarked vehicles would harm the force's operational ability by allowing those intent on committing crime to identify police presence and assist them in avoiding detection.

Disclosure of the vehicles base along with the other details would prejudice police activities by revealing exact resource levels available for a given area.

This information may enable police strength to be determined and circumvented by those intent on crime. For example, the base location of a vehicle in one area may be evidence of a lack of cover in another area, depending on total resources available.

Public Interest Test

Factors in favour of disclosure

The public has a legitimate interest in information about police resources that their money has paid for.

Factors in favour of non-disclosure

The disclosure of the locations of Hertfordshire Constabulary's would be likely to increase the risk of information being used for criminal activity. This is the same basis for finding that the exemption is engaged.

Law Enforcement tactics of the force would be compromised if it was possible to undermine policing activities in particular areas.

There would be an impact on police resources and as such the ability to prevent and detect crime if disclosure of the information allowed an increase in crime to take place.

Balancing Test

After consideration of the factors of the public interest test, they are clearly weighed in the favour of non-disclosure. Looking at the most important factors of the test it was clear the public interest in the forces ability to prevent crime and have effective law enforcement tactics in place, significantly outweighs the public interest in the use of police resources, especially as all the other information regarding marked vehicles has been disclosed.

Information regarding the vehicle base location of all police vehicles which reveals resource and capabilities of Hertfordshire Constabulary would contribute to the sum of criminal knowledge to a greater extent than that already existing from currently available sources. As a result, the risk of crime would be greater if the information was disclosed than if not and for these reasons the balancing test for disclosure is not made out.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.