



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 19th August 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 667

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17th August 2022 concerning Electric Vehicles and Chargepoints.

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

Your request for information has now been considered and – having consulted our Fleet, Estates and Policy Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our Response) :

The request relates to the number of electric vehicles in your fleet and how they are charged. My questions are as follows:

1. How many electric vehicles does your police force currently have in its fleet? Please break down by make/model and state how many of each there are.

10 BMW i3 Electric Vehicles and 1 VW Passat Plug in hybrid

2. What was the total cost of purchasing these electric vehicles?

This element of your request is exempt by virtue of section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act – please see explanation below.

3. How many police stations with vehicle facilities does your force have?

Wiltshire Police has three strategic operational hubs and seven CPT (Community Policing Team) police station sites. All of which have parking facilities.



4. How many of your police stations with vehicle facilities are equipped with electric vehicle chargepoints?

Eight of the properties included in answer 3 - all of which are in the freehold ownership of the PCC - have electric vehicle chargepoints.

Two of the properties included in answer 3 are leasehold properties where the Landlord has been unable to provide electric vehicle chargepoints at this time.

5. How many of your police stations with vehicle facilities have electric vehicles stationed at them?

6 Police Sites

6. How many of your police stations with vehicle facilities have both electric vehicle chargepoints fitted and electric vehicles stationed at them?

6 Police Sites

7. What is the total number of electric vehicle chargepoints at police stations with vehicle facilities in your force's area?

The PCC for Wiltshire has invested in 32 electric vehicle chargepoints across his freehold owned estate which are available for use by police fleet and staff vehicles.

8. Does your force have a policy for charging electric vehicles and, if so, what is it? For example, are these vehicles charged on-site at police stations or are public chargers used?

Wiltshire Police do not currently have a specific policy in place that covers the charging of electric vehicles.

All vehicles of this type are generally charged on-site at the relevant police stations where there are charging points provided. However there is also provision (via charge cards) that will allow off-site charging in the rare instances it would be required. But we do not have any policy document stating this.

In relation to the cost of purchasing these vehicles, this part of your request is exempt by virtue of section 43(2) – Commercial interests. Section 43 is a class-based qualified exemption and is therefore subject to a Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Considerations

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosing all of the information requested in relation to this request, and therefore in relation to the contracts between Wiltshire Police and external service provider(s), would ensure Wiltshire Police are being open and transparent with the public. The disclosure of such information would encourage public debate and awareness. Furthermore the public have a right to know how funds are spent.

Factors Against Disclosure

Disclosing some of the information requested is likely to damage the relationship between Wiltshire Police and the various service provider(s). It is also possible that disclosure could prejudice the commercial interests of the service provider(s), especially in cases where there may be a limited number of suppliers in the market. Making this disclosure could identify information which has been specifically obtained through negotiation between Wiltshire Police and the service provider(s), thus in turn prejudicing Wiltshire Police's position in future negotiations.

Balance Test

Despite there being an identifiable public interest in Wiltshire Police being open and transparent, the interests of the Force may be jeopardised if information relating to sensitive commercial information about business, financial or contractual issues is disclosed. The community would also be impacted as costs to the Force could be driven up by the lack of competition due to companies refusing to do business with Forces that disclose commercially sensitive information. If this information were to be disclosed, this may cause harm between Wiltshire Police and its service providers. Having weighed up the factors outlined above, on balance the argument for disclosing this information is not made out and therefore it is in the public interest to withhold the information requested.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemption applied:-

- Section 43(2) Commercial Interests

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Penny
Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101 ext 62005

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original Fol request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk