

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date 22nd August 2023

Our ref **FOI 2023/779**

Reply contact name is:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information, dated 4th August 2023 concerning police vehicles.

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.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted with the Fleet department of Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and it is not possible to meet your requirements in full.

You wrote:

1. Please could you state how many vehicles your police force operates? This should include all marked and unmarked vehicles, but limited to just all vans and cars.
2. How many of these vehicles you operate (referenced in your reply to question 1) are 100% electrically powered? If you have any please provide me with a comprehensive list of the number of each make and model.
3. If you have any 100% electric vehicles and you have a photograph on file of it in your police livery then please provide me with an electronic copy of the photo.

Response:

Unmarked 215 vehicles

Marked 250 vehicles

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Electric vehicles

BMW I3 – 10

CORSA – 6

We do not hold photographs of these vehicles.

Please note that details in relation to Covert or Armed Response vehicles are exempt from disclosure by virtue of Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice based exemption which therefore requires Wiltshire Police to establish the harm in disclosure and the public interest for and against disclosure.

Overall Harm

Wiltshire Police are charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The disclosure of some unmarked vehicles used for, or available for, Armed response or covert purposes would provide offenders with valuable intelligence, facilitating their ability to commit crime and evade detection and were non-operational and non-uniformed officers and staff identifiable in these circumstances, they could be put in danger.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure

Disclosure of the information requested would promote transparency and the accountability of Wiltshire Police, provide an indication of how public funds were being used. Furthermore, disclosure of the type of fleet vehicles would enable the public to know what resources were available in Wiltshire and allow them to make informed choices about their safety.

Factors against disclosure

The disclosure of this information could have an adverse effect on the ability of the Police to effectively prevent and detect crime as a result of offenders being in possession of this intelligence. If offenders knew the make, model of Armed response or covert vehicles, it would enable them to make more informed decisions and more skilfully plan offences. Covert operations would be damaged, and officers and staff would be at a greater risk of harm if the details of unmarked vehicles were disclosed to the public domain. Offenders would be able to establish the number of resources the Force has, and this would help them to commit crime and evade capture. By evading capture, the greater public will be at risk and in turn, trust in the Police would be lost and an increase in crime could be seen.

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Balance test

The public interest in disclosure of the details of unmarked vehicles used for Armed response and covert purposes is relatively small. The strongest factors against disclosure are the increase in crime that the public would experience and the harm that would come to covert operations and non-uniformed officers and staff using covert vehicles. Wiltshire Police deems the harm that would be caused from disclosure of this information to be disproportionate to any public interest held in this information and therefore, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of non-disclosure of this information.

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 31 – Law Enforcement

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

Yours sincerely,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker