

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: May 3, 2024

Our ref: FOI 2024/390

Reply contact name:

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10th April 2024 concerning teslas.

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, research was conducted by the Fleet Department at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You Wrote:

The total number of Tesla vehicles currently owned or leased by your police department, including model types and year of acquisition.

Detailed cost breakdowns for each Tesla vehicle, including purchase price, leasing agreements, maintenance, and any modifications or upgrades specifically tailored for police use.

Justifications provided for the procurement of Tesla vehicles, including any projected cost savings, environmental benefits, and performance advantages.

Response:

Please note that the below information is for overt vehicles only.

Questions One and Two

Zero

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

Question Three

N/A

Wiltshire Police can neither confirm nor deny that any information is held regarding specific covert vehicles as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Overall Harm in Confirming or Denying whether Information is Held

Wiltshire Police are charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The disclosure of whether a certain vehicle is or is not used in a covert capacity would provide offenders with valuable intelligence, facilitating their ability to commit crime and evade detection.

Public Interest Test

Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

Factors Favouring Confirming or Denying Information is Held

Confirmation or denial of whether this information is held would promote transparency and the accountability of Wiltshire Police and provide an indication of how public funds were being used. Furthermore, confirming or denying that this information is held would enable the public to know what resources were available in Wiltshire.

Factors Against Confirming or Denying Information is Held

Confirming or denying that this information is held would have an adverse effect on the ability of Wiltshire Police to effectively prevent and detect crime as a result of offenders being in possession of this information. If offenders knew whether a certain vehicle was or was not being used for covert purposes, it would enable them to make more informed decisions and more skillfully plan offences, which would put operations, and therefore the public, at greater risk of harm. 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.

Balance Test

The points above highlight the merits of confirming or denying whether information regarding specific covert vehicles exists. The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The Police Service will never divulge whether or not information is held if to do so would place the safety of individuals at risk.

Whilst there is a public interest in Wiltshire Police being as open and transparent as possible, there is a far greater public interest in safeguarding the public and this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances, which this Freedom of Information request is not.

Keeping Wiltshire Safe

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regards to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with any information that is released. Confirming or denying whether information is or isn't held would definitely reveal police resources and tactics and would assist those intent on causing harm.

Therefore, at this moment in time, it is our opinion that for these issues the balance test for neither confirming nor denying that this specific information is held is made out.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that information does or does not exist.

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,

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



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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.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

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SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>