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Our ref: GSA 1342/23
Please quote our reference
number when responding

Tuesday, 11 April 2023

[REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: GSA 1342/23

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/03/2023, I note you seek access to the following information:

In consideration of the climate crisis that the council has agreed is occurring, I would like to request the following information about how the Council enabling staff to reduce their emissions through sustainable transport, and more specifically, cycling.

1. *Over the past five years, broken down by year -*
 - a) *How many staff members used the Cycle to Work scheme?*
 - b) *What percentage of staff was this?*
 - c) *What was the average value of the vouchers claimed on the scheme?*
 - d) *What was the number of those who took up the scheme, who then failed to complete, leaving the Council with costs?*
2. *What tools do the council use to encourage cycling for their staff -*
 - a) *On a work basis*
 - b) *On a leisure/health basis*
3. *With regards to staff, does the Council -*
 - a) *Have any monitoring for what modes of transport staff use -*
 - i) *For their journey to work*
 - ii) *For journeys during work time*
 - b) *And if this data is recorded, I request a copy of such data as detailed as it can be reasonably given, while still protecting personal data rights*
4. *How many of the following does the council have available for staff use*
 - a) *Pedal cycles*
 - b) *Electric bikes*
 - c) *Motorbikes*
 - d) *Internal combustion cars*
 - e) *Electric or hybrid cars*

- f) Internal combustion vans*
- g) Electric or hybrid vans*
- h) Heavy trucks*

5. *Does the Council mileage scheme clearly state the claim rate for cycling*
6. *How many cycling miles have been claimed by council staff in the past five years*
7. *Regarding your current cycle to work scheme -*
 - a) What scheme is currently in place*
 - b) What is the maximum limit on the cost of a bike, if a limit is currently in place*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that some of the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

Question 4 - I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP however I am not obliged to supply the information requested as an exemption applies.

The exemption that applies to this request is:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 - Law Enforcement is a qualified, and prejudice based exemption. Therefore, the harm should be articulated, and arguments given as to the public interest test.

Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of the information on our current fleet could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. The disclosure could provide and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack on an operational unit or avoiding that unit for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not).

The disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the Police Service's ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31

The disclosure of information would adhere to the general principle of openness and transparency and better inform the public about how public funds are spend, better awareness which may reduce crime or lead to more information from the public.

Factions favouring non-disclosure under Section 31

The Police service has a duty to deliver effective law enforcement ensuring that the prevention and detection of crime, apprehension or prosecution of offenders and administration of justice is carried out appropriately.

Disclosing the information that would reveal what resources are available and this information could enable police strength to be determined and circumvented by those intent on committing crime. The release of this information could therefore provide a tactical advantage to offenders which would negatively impact on public safety and undermine the policing purpose.

Balance Test

It is not in the public interest for law enforcement tactics and operational capability to be compromised with the disclosure of the Fleet details, as those who wish to commit criminal acts will be more aware of the vehicles in operation to assist with preventing and detecting crime.

Such disclosure that would allow those with criminal intent the ability to build up a mosaic picture of force capabilities and resources which could be used to undermine law enforcement. This would not be in the public interest.

Therefore, at this moment in time, it is our opinion that the balance test favours against the disclosure of the information requested.

In accordance with the Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for the Question 4 information.

Please see the remainder of the requested information below.

Caveats

Greater Manchester Police does not retain this type of data. The scheme is administered by the supplier and GMP only process initial applications and collect the salary sacrifice from salaries, there is nobody within GMP who administers the scheme. We have provided some information that we currently hold.

Response

1. No information held
2. Salary sacrifice benefit, a. & b. – N/A
3. a. No, b. N/A
4. Exempt as above
5. Yes
6. No information held
7. a. cyclescheme.co.uk, b. £1,000

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