

Date: 12th December 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013637/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/013637/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/11/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Registration number:

Make:

Model:

of all vehicles currently on your fleet list (both owned/leased) and all vehicles sold between 01/09/2023 and 31/10/2024, within your Police Constabulary.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged all the information requested as exemptions apply.

The exemption that applies to the current fleet list is:

Section 31(1) – 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 full information on fleet, such as full Vehicle Registration Numbers (VRN's), could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. Full 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).

Although VRNs are an overtly displayed marker that can be clearly seen and are intended to be seen, to disclose a ready-collated list of vehicles with complete vehicle registration numbers would be substantially more harmful than the limited availability of related information via the visibility of vehicles whilst on public roads. In practice, all of this information is not realistically accessible to a member of the public and is therefore not in the public domain.

Additionally, law enforcement tactics and operational capability would be compromised with the disclosure of VRN details requested such as that relating to unmarked cars, as those who wish to commit criminal acts will be more aware of what vehicles may belong to the force in a covert role, that assist with preventing and detecting crime.

To disclose details of ARV's, covert and unmarked vehicles could cause harm to the Police Service's ability to protect the public it serves and could prejudice its ability to perform core functions such as the prevention and detection of crime. Releasing this data would give individuals with criminal intent the intelligence required to disrupt Police activity and target innocent members of the public. Criminals would be able to identify in which force areas resources are weak and use this knowledge to their advantage in furthering criminal activity around the county and the country as a whole. 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

There is a legitimate public interest in the public being satisfied that the Police force has up to date and well-maintained vehicles to deliver services to the public when and where required.

The disclosure of information relating to all GMP vehicles would adhere to the general principle of openness and transparency and better inform the public about how public funds are spent, 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 any information that would allow the identification of all vehicles may reveal what resources are available for a given role 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.

Disclosing the details of covert vehicles would provide sufficient information to those in criminal activity of the capabilities available to the force when carrying out covert activities in certain areas. This could result in them taking steps to evade detection and to destroy evidence if they believe that their movements are being monitored. This could also lead to vehicles and officers being identified which would render their covert capabilities useless.

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

Balance Test

It is not in the public interest for law enforcement tactics and operational capability to be compromised with the disclosure of all 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.

Disclosure is also not in the public interest as it places the community at increased unnecessary risk of harm and impact police resources. This is especially the case if additional tactics/resources need to be put in place to counter harm caused by an adverse FOIA request regarding police vehicles.

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

The exemption that applies to registration numbers of sold vehicles is:

The vehicles are now owned by private individuals therefore the information has been exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

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

Response

The below is the make and models of vehicles sold between 01/09/2023 and 31/10/2024.

Make/Model	Total Sold
Audi A4	1
Audi A6	2
Audi Q5	2
Audi S3	3
BMW 125D	1
BMW 330D	11
BMW 330E	1
BMW 330i Touring	1
BMW 530 Touring	2
BMW R1200 RT	8
BMW X3	1
BMW X5	13
Cupra Formentor	1
Ford Fiesta	2
Ford Focus	6
Ford Focus Estate	4
Ford Focus ST	1
Ford Galaxy	1
Ford Iveco	3
Ford Kuga	5
Ford Mondeo	4

Ford Transit	48
Ford Transit Connect	9
Hyundai i10	1
Hyundai i20	2
Hyundai i30	2
Hyundai i40	1
Hyundai IX35	1
Landrover Discovery	1
Mercedes GLE 350	1
Mercedes V250	2
Mercedes Vito	3
Peugeot 208	1
Peugeot 3008	2
Peugeot 308	103
Peugeot 5008	1
Peugeot 508	1
Seat Leon	1
Skoda Fabia	2
Skoda Octavia	3
Skoda Superb	4
Toyota Avensis	1
Toyota Corolla	9
Toyota HI-Lux	1
Toyota Yaris	1
Tractr Ferrari-Green	1
Tractr Mass	1
Vauxhall Astra	2
Vauxhall Combo	1
Vauxhall Insignia	1
Vauxhall Vivaro	4
Vauxhall Zafira	4
Volkswagen Caddy	1
Volkswagen Crafter	14
Volkswagen Golf	2
Volkswagen Transp	4
Volvo S80	1
Volvo XC90	1