



Information Rights
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30th July 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/04310

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/04310

I write in connection with your request for information received on 3rd July. I note you seek access to the following information:

Property Assets: -

1. The Location (incl. Full address & Postcode) of all buildings occupied by your organisation.
2. The tenure (i.e. Leasehold or Freehold) of all building occupied by your organisation.
3. Whether any of these buildings are subject to PFI Agreements.
4. The use (i.e. Police Station/Neighbourhood Base/Offices/Disused) of all buildings occupied by your organisations.
5. The identity of any locations that are earmarked for future disposal.
6. The date at which any future disposals are due to take place.
7. Whether any of these locations will be replaced after disposal.
8. If a replacement location is intended, what form will this take (i.e. Relocation/Co-Location).

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

Response – Please see our response in the attached document marked as **Annex A – FOI2019 04310**.

Bedfordshire Police can confirm that it holds further information in relation to your request however, I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested. Such information is exempt under the following exemption: -

Section 31 (1) Law Enforcement

The Section 31 exemption is a prejudice based qualified exemption, which requires the prejudice (harm) to be evidenced and a public interest test to be carried out.

Public Interest arguments in favour of disclosure – Section 31 (1)

It is recognised that the police service have a duty to enforce the law and investigate crime and in this case the public release of information would therefore reinforce the forces commitment as an open and transparent service in respect of the information it holds.

Public Interest arguments in favour of maintaining the exemption – Section 31 (1)

Bedfordshire Police is to ensure operational policing and law enforcement is not affected by revealing tactical capability, which could assist criminals in understanding the tactical options / vulnerabilities of forces.

Disclosing the locations of all Police buildings would harm the force's operational ability by allowing those intent on committing crime to identify police presence and activity and assist them in avoiding detection.

If all of Bedfordshire Police's buildings were publically available it would allow identification of all those used by the force and would contribute to the sum of criminal knowledge to a greater extent than that already existing from currently available sources. As a result this would put communities at risk of crime would be greater if the information was disclosed than if not and therefore increasing the fear of crime within Bedfordshire.

Balance Test

The strongest reason favouring disclosure is the public interest in disclosing information that would provide the public awareness of action taken by Bedfordshire Police, where and how the public's money is being spent, which increases transparency and accountability.

The strongest reason favouring non-disclosure is the significance and sensitivity of the requested information as it relates tactical options / vulnerabilities of forces and wider law enforcement. To provide information of this nature would significantly reduce the forces ability to enforce the law.

After consideration of the factors of the public interest test they are clearly weighed in favour of non-disclosure. Looking at the most important factors of the test it was clear the public interest in the force's ability to prevent crime and have effective law enforcement tactics in place, significantly outweighs the competing interests. Therefore, the public interest favours non-disclosure of the requested information.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

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Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.