**Freedom of Information - Humberside Fire and Rescue Service**

**2024/25 075 – Vehicle Fleet List**

**The request is:**

Please can you send me an up-to-date copy of the vehicle fleet list which includes the stations reg no, models, and are their new builds on order.

**The response is:**

Please find enclosed an up-to-date Service vehicle list. We can confirm that we do have some new builds on order.



We are, however, unable to provide vehicle registration numbers (VRN) for security reasons as explained below.

Although VRN 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 the VRN whilst on public roads. The information is not realistically accessible to a member of the public and is therefore not in the public domain.

This information is therefore exempt under Section 24 National Security and Section 31 Law Enforcement, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. As these are prejudice (harm) - based exemptions it is necessary for us to consider any harm which may be caused and also consider any public interest. Details are listed below:

Prejudice (Harm)

Disclosure of full VRNs, 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.

Providing full lists of VRNs for Service vehicles provides opportunities for criminality to benefit; Service vehicles are often exempt from toll and congestion charges, facilitated by automatic recognition of VRN, and cloned vehicles would avoid these charges.

Additionally, law enforcement tactics and operational capability would be compromised with the disclosure of full VRN details requested, as those who wish to commit criminal acts will be more aware of which vehicles may belong to the Service and, if vehicles were cloned, this would impact upon law enforcement and also Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, as staff time and resource would be required to resolve any such incidents. It is widely reported that the number of cloned cars is increasing as criminals copy legitimate registration plates.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure - There is a legitimate public interest in the public being satisfied that Humberside Fire & Rescue Service has up to date and well maintained vehicles to deliver services to the public when and where required. Public interest has been satisfied by the disclosure of the remainder of the information requested, it is our view that VRN do not add to the public interest.

Factors favouring non-disclosure – Disclosing information which would allow the identification of Service vehicles, would allow those with criminal intent to commit offences such as vehicle cloning. This impacts upon individuals and additionally the resources of Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and also the Police Service.

Balance Test

It is not in the public interest to disclose full Fleet VRNs, as those who wish to commit criminal acts will be more aware of the vehicles in operation and this will enable them to commit offences such as cloning of vehicles.

Such a disclosure would allow those with criminal intent the ability to undermine national security and law enforcement. This would not be in the public interest.

Disclosure is also not in the public interest as it places staff members and the community at increased unnecessary risk of harm and impacts on Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and Police resources.

The public interest in providing the information has been carefully weighed against any prejudice to the public interest that might arise from withholding the information. It is my view that the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosure and I am unable to release this information.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this email. If you are not happy with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply direct to the Information Commissioner at [www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](https://newsletter.ico.org.uk/c/1lULiJldYNwfIFlCf3c4BKJdO). The postal address is: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.