

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**REQUEST NUMBER:** FOI Request 004443-16

### REQUEST DETAILS:

*“Do you have a policy to change the tyres on your emergency vehicles when they reach a minimum tread depth?”*

- Yes, we have a formal policy
- We don't have a formal policy but we do have an accepted practice which we follow in the majority of cases
- No

*If you have either a formal policy or accepted practice, at what tread depth do you have the tyres changed on your emergency vehicles?”*

- 1.6mm
- 1.7mm - 2mm
- 2.1mm- 2.5mm
- 2.6mm - 3mm
- 3.1mm - 3.5mm
- 3.6 mm - 4.0mm
- Over 4mm

*How many vehicles do you have in your fleet? (If possible, please provide breakdowns of makes and models used)”*

### RESPONSE:

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and our response is below.

*This response is correct as of 7 December 2016.*

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have a tyre replacement policy that determines tyres are replaced at either 2mm or 3mm dependent upon their operational use.

The total number of vehicles within the Constabularies fleet is provided below.

#### Suffolk

Make	Model	Number of vehicles
PEUGEOT	307	2
BMW	330	4
BMW	525	1
BMW	530	16

SEAT	ALHAMBRA	1
SUZUKI	AP50	1
VAUXHALL	ASTRA	9
MERCEDES	ATEGO	1
PEUGEOT	BOXER	1
FORD	C MAX	1
IVECO	CARGO	1
KIA	CEE'D	1
FORD	CONNECT	9
VAUXHALL	CORSA	11
VOLKSWAGEN	CRAFTER	8
HONDA	CRV	1
IVECO	DAILY	1
LANDROVER	DISCOVERY	2
PEUGEOT	EXPERT	3
FORD	FIESTA	124
FORD	FOCUS	199
LANDROVER	FREELANDER	1
FORD	GALAXY	7
FORD	MONDEO	30
VAUXHALL	MOVANO	1
SKODA	OCTAVIA	2
BMW	R1200	8
FORD	RANGER	8
MERCEDES	SPRINTER	11
FORD	TRANSIT	26
VOLKSWAGEN	TRANSPORTER	1
HYUNDAI	TUCSON	1
VOLVO	V70	5
VOLVO	V70 D5	1
VOLVO	V70 T5	3
VAUXHALL	VIVARO	8
BMW	X5	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>520</b>

Norfolk

<b>Make</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Number of vehicles</b>
BMW	320	1
BMW	330 X DRIVE	1
BMW	530	13
VAUXHALL	ASTRA	15
VOLKSWAGEN	CADDY	1
FORD	CONNECT	19

VAUXHALL	CORSA	40
VOLKSWAGEN	CRAFTER	15
FIAT	DUCATO	1
PEUGEOT	EXPERT	12
FORD	FIESTA	160
FORD	FOCUS	177
HYUNDAI	GETZ	1
MISCELLANEOUS	HORSE TRAILER/LARGE	1
FORD	MONDEO	49
PEUGEOT	PARTNER	12
HONDA	QUAD	2
BMW	R1200	9
FORD	RANGER	10
CITROEN	RELAY	1
MERCEDES	SPRINTER	8
FORD	TRANSIT	17
VOLKSWAGEN	TRANSPORTER	3
VOLVO	V70	6
VAUXHALL	VIVARO	14
BMW	X5	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>599</b>

Please note that the numbers provided excludes the Constabularies covert capacity.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires that Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) are to provide you the applicant with a notice in which:

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

The information is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption(s);

**Section 31(1)(a)(b)(c) – Law Enforcement**

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and I am therefore obliged to articulate the harm in this information being disclosed and assess the public interest in disclosure.

**Harm in disclosure**

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabulary use unmarked and covert Police vehicles for anonymity where there is an operational requirement to do so. Sensitive investigations requiring such tactics will be compromised should offenders have previous knowledge of the full capabilities of the Constabularies in respect vehicle details and numbers of our undercover vehicles.

This would undermine the law enforcement capabilities of the Constabularies and therefore it is confirmed that Section 31 is engaged.

## **Section 31(1)**

### **Factors favouring disclosure**

Information that relates directly to the operational effectiveness and efficiencies of the Constabularies is a positive factor favouring disclosure. The public have a right to know that they are being protected in an appropriate and diligent manner.

Knowledge of the Constabularies capability will ensure transparency is maintained and the public can identify how funds are being appropriately spent and for what purpose.

Public knowledge of the Constabularies will ensure informed public debate, retaining the Constabularies open and honest approach.

### **Factors favouring non-disclosure**

Disclosure of information that can affect the current and future law enforcement capabilities of the Constabularies will always favour non-disclosure. On this occasion, providing the number of the Constabularies vehicles will allow for comparisons to be made to figures in the public domain regarding our marked and overt vehicles. This in turn will allow for the determination as to the strength of our covert Policing tactics with respect our vehicles, by a simple mathematic deduction. This in turn will invariably provide criminals with advanced knowledge as to the Constabularies capacity with regards to covert Policing.

Although public knowledge of the Constabularies capabilities is a positive factor, this is not unlimited and there are aspects of Policing that must remain intact to ensure the process is not undermined by FOI disclosures. Covert Policing is an essential tactic used by Police Forces across the Country and it is vital that the integrity this tactic is retained.

### **Balancing test**

Public knowledge of how their funds are being spent and assurance that the Police service are doing all they can to ensure public safety is maintained, is always a positive factor in disclosure.

On balance however, disclosure of this nature is more likely to have the opposite affect causing the criminal fraternity to have prior knowledge of undercover Police operational capabilities, compromising the prevention and detection of crime and administration of justice.

The Constabularies consider that the provision of the overt fleet list will satisfy the public interest and there would be no further benefit to disclose information at a lower level.

It is the Constabularies decision that the balance lies in non-disclosure and the application of the exemptions is maintained.