



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
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Further to your information request FOI/EIR 22/23-071 please find your question and our response below.

Request:

I am seeking the details (make, model and the vehicles registration number plate) of all vehicles that currently are/have been licensed as a taxi, either as a private hire or a hackney carriage, within your council across the last 10 years if possible (looking at dates 11/05/2012 – present 11/05/2022).

Response:

Please find attached a spreadsheet containing information requested, excluding registration numbers.

Registration numbers are being withheld under FOI exemptions Section 31(1)(a) and Section 40(2). Please see below.

In respect of those requests that are answered in full, partially or the total refused, please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

- State why the exemption applies:

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

(a) the prevention or detection of crime,

As Section 31 is a qualified exemption, we, the authority, must consider the balance of public interest in the circumstances of the request.

Arguments in favour of disclosing the information

- There is public interest in being able to access information on vehicles formerly used as taxis.

Arguments in favour of withholding the information

- You have asked for this information from all historical records, we believe that a number of records from previous year are likely to refer to vehicles that are no longer being used as taxis or Private Hire vehicles. Therefore, this information will be out of date and inaccurate.
- Following on from this, a disclosure of the VRM's of vehicles which are now being used for private purposes potentially discloses personal data relating to individuals who have never been taxi or PHV drivers.
- Individuals who complete the taxi registration application form would not expect that their details would subsequently be published, unless the council informed them that this would be the case. East Cambridgeshire District Council do not publish registration numbers on their public register.
- Publishing of details including car make, model and registration number could lead to potential cloning of vehicles.

In respect of those requests that are answered in full, partially or the total refused, please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 40 (1) – Personal Information (ABSOLUTE)

- State why the exemption applies:

(1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

**(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—
(a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1)**

As Section 40 is an Absolute exemption, it does not involve a public interest test.

To help us reach our decision about releasing your requested information, we used the ICO decision notice: <https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notices/2019/2614512/fs50793373.pdf> where the ICO agreed with an Authority's decision to not release taxi registration numbers.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 22/23-071

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

