



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555

www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 22/23-417, please find your question and our response below.

Request:

Please find attached a list of vehicle registrations. Under the Freedom of Information act, could you please confirm if any of them are or have been used as taxis.

Response:

East Cambridgeshire District Council has previously confirmed taxi registration numbers in response to FOI requests; however, the Council has recently taken guidance from the ICO Decision Notice: <https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notice/2019/2614512/fs50793373.pdf> where the ICO state that Councils should not confirm taxi vehicle registration numbers, for either previously or currently licensed 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:

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

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

- c) 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:

- The provision of this data would make it easier for criminals to use this data, together with other information already in the public domain, for purposes such as: cloning vehicles and avoidance of traffic violation fines.
- 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 East Cambridgeshire District Council do not publish registration numbers on their public register.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 22/23-417

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.