



Freedom of Information Request FOI 18 15

Sale of appliances

Query

Under the Freedom of Information please can you provide the below information;

- 1) The contact details for whom is responsible for the disposal of frontline assets (fire appliances)
- 2) Instructions on how we can purchase such vehicles (we have a secure disposal policy in place which has been approved by LFB and other services) we are a leading supplier of emergency vehicles
- 3) The figure (in GBP) for which you have raised via the sales of the last 5 fire appliances you sold (each appliance)

Response:

- 1) Philip Smith - Fleet Manager, Philip.Smith@dwfire.org.uk, 01722 691345
- 2) We dispose of frontline assets through South West Vehicle Auctions, Manheim Vehicle Auctions (Emergency Services Specific) and specialist trade sales.
- 3) The amount of money these appliances were sold off for has been withheld. This is because this information is deemed to be commercially sensitive to Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) and, as a result, it is exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that:

“Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)”.

In this case, disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of DWFRS as it would reveal what price we are willing to accept for our used vehicles. This may prejudice any future sales as potential buyers would know what was paid previously so they are likely to match this figure, rather than making us their best offer. This would restrict the Services chances of obtaining best value from their sale, and as a public body, it is in our interest to do so. As a result, we are satisfied that the exemption applies.

This exemption is subject to the public interest test.

There is an inherent public interest in ensuring that there is openness and transparency in the sale of public authority assets. Transparency is likely to increase confidence that we are indeed selling off our assets for a reasonable fee and achieving best value.

However, it is in the best interests of the Service, and the public, that we obtain best value for money when we are selling these assets. This would not be possible if we



released how much we were willing to accept for our vehicles as potential buyers will be more inclined to offer what was paid previously rather than make us their best offer. This would, therefore, limit the income from this.

Therefore, the public interest lies in withholding this information.