



Freedom of Information Request FOI 26 109

Updated fleetlist

Query:

I am requesting an updated fleetlist that shows, fleet number, registration, make, model, location. Please do not refer me back to the website information page as the list that has been published is of no use anyone that records DWFRS fleet information for historical purposes. Previous releases were of sound information, qtr 4 2025/26 and qtr1 2026/27 is unacceptable and unhelpful

Response:

Our current fleet information is published on our website: <https://www.dwfire.org.uk/about-us/accessing-information/information-guide/>

Information relating to the vehicle registration numbers and the locations of the appliances has been excluded from our response.

This information is exempt under the following provisions of the Freedom of Information Act:

Section 24(1) – National Security

Section 31(1)(a), (b) and (c) – Law Enforcement

Section 38 (1) (a) and (b) – Health and Safety

These are qualified exemptions meaning they are subject to a public interest test.

Public interest arguments in favour of disclosure:

While disclosure of this information could demonstrate openness, transparency, and may be of interest to emergency--service vehicle enthusiasts who follow fleet activity and to those who wish to maintain a historic data set of our fleet, the broader public interest in its release is limited. Although publishing vehicle registration numbers (VRN's) and locations might offer some reassurance that appropriate resources are available in specific areas.

Disclosure can:

- Support public understanding of how emergency vehicles are distributed geographically
- Enable scrutiny of access to emergency services and resource allocation
- Promote accountability in public service provision and increase public confidence and trust

Public interest arguments in favour of withholding the information:

We acknowledge the public interest in openness and transparency on releasing the location and VRN's of our fleet, but we consider that there is also a public interest in safeguarding national security. Releasing the vehicle



registration numbers and locations adds little meaningful value in terms of demonstrating accountability or the use of public funds. As such, we consider the public interest in disclosure to be minimal.

Disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act is considered to be a disclosure to the “world at large”. Releasing information such as VRN and locations of these vehicles may have wider implications that must be considered to maintain the security of DWFRs as well as national security. Its release would undermine our operational resilience by exposing critical infrastructure to unnecessary risk.

The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) state that one of the methods terrorists will exploit is deception and the use of trojan vehicles. As the majority of our white fleet does not have any identifiable markings, releasing the number plates into the public domain would give terrorists information which could be used to clone our vehicles which may then be used in a terrorist attack. This would affect the security of not only DWFRS but also national security as we would not be able to respond to incidents, support other fire and rescue services both locally and at a national level.

We have already had break ins at our fire stations and those in neighbouring services. Releasing VRN's and locations of vehicles increases the risk of the premises being targeted for criminal activity, protest, harassment, or malicious acts. This would endanger the safety of staff, service users, and members of the public present at or near to the premises if a break in were to occur. Emergency service premises form part of the UK's critical public safety infrastructure and we have a duty of care to protect those working at, visiting, or relying upon these facilities. The consequences of any incident at such locations could be severe, even if the likelihood is low.

Although VRNs and location details may appear routine, releasing them would provide information that could be exploited by individuals with malicious intent. Disclosure would enable vehicles to be identified, tracked, or monitored, increasing the risk of targeted theft, damage, interference, or wider criminal activity. When combined with publicly accessible data sources, this information could be used to analyse operational patterns, identify vulnerabilities, or compromise the security of assets and personnel.

These arguments are particularly strong in the current climate considering the current UK threat level (SUBSTANTIAL) and recent station break ins.

Conclusion:

We have therefore concluded that these exemptions apply, and that non-disclosure serves the public interest better than release in this instance. In coming to this decision we have considered the current national threat level of SUBSTANTIAL (i.e. an attack is likely) when deciding to withhold the VRN and location of our fleet.

Disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime by enabling those with criminal intent to target vehicles or operational locations.



Revealing VRNs and location information could assist in identifying movement patterns or operational readiness, increasing risks to staff, vehicles, and the public.

Disclosure of the location could endanger the safety of our staff if it were to be targeted by criminals. If staff were present at these locations, then our staff safety would be compromised, increasing the likelihood that they may come to harm if the location was to be targeted for the theft of a vehicle.

Protecting the security and integrity of operational assets is a strong and ongoing public interest that outweighs the limited value of releasing this information.

The FOIA does not require public authorities to accept avoidable risks to the safety of individuals or the security of essential services in order to achieve marginal gains in transparency, particularly where the underlying public interest can be met through alternative, less sensitive information.

Information/Detail accurate on the date provided: 03, June 2026