



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2024/27569

Dear requester,

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at, **Section 1(1) (a)**, is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at, **Section 1 (1) (b)**, is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

The information that you are seeking is in relation to the following:

REQUEST

Please provide a list of all types of firearms held in your inventory for use by authorized firearms officers, for each type, specify make, model and caliber. Additionally, where possible, any proposed dates that a review is to be made concerning the continued use of each weapon

RESPONSE

Make	Type	Model	Calibre	Remarks
AXON	Taser	T7	Cartridge	
AXON	Taser	X2	Cartridge	
Heckler & Koch	Gun Riot	L104A2	37mm	
Heckler & Koch	Rifle	416	5.56 mm	
Glock	SLP	17	9 mm	
Remington	Shotgun	870	12 Gauge	Animal Destruction Only

Section 24(1) and section 31(1):

Evidence of Harm

Any disclosure under FOI is a release to the public at large. Whilst not questioning the motivation behind this specific request, disclosing details of specialist types of weapons used by the force would cause operational harm and affect the ability to fulfil the core function of law enforcement in the future. Providing details of such details



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would allow members of the public to identify the resources and tactics used in the gathering of intelligence for operational law enforcement purposes. It would enable individuals and organisations that are intent on causing disruption to identify strengths and weaknesses at force level, and more so nationally, which could be exploited causing harm to members of the public. This would be to the detriment of providing an efficient policing service and a failure in providing a duty of care to all members of the public.

Providing specific details of specialist types of weapons used by the force would limit operational capabilities as criminals/terrorists would gain a greater understanding of the police's capabilities, enabling offenders to take steps to counter them. It may also suggest the limitations of police capabilities in this area, which may further encourage criminal/terrorist activity by exposing potential vulnerabilities.

This detrimental effect is increased if the request is made to several different law enforcement bodies. In addition to the local criminal fraternity now being better informed, those intent on disrupting policing functions throughout the UK will be able to 'map' where the use of certain products are and are not deployed. This can be useful information to those committing (or those intent on committing or planning) crime.

Any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage of terrorists or criminal organisations. Information that undermines the operational integrity of these activities will adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on both National Security and Law Enforcement.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure Section 24 - The information only relates to national security and provision of it would not actually harm it. The public are entitled to know what public funds are spent on and what measures are in place. Providing the details of specialist types of weapons used would lead to a better-informed public.

Factors favouring non-disclosure 24 – Providing the information would render policing and security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infra-structure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Factors favouring disclosure Section 31 – Providing details of specialist types of weapons used would provide an insight into the Police Service. This would enable the public to have a better understanding of the effectiveness of the police. It would greatly assist in the quality and accuracy of public debate, which could otherwise be steeped in rumour and speculation. Where public funds are being spent, there is a public interest in accountability and justifying the use of public money.



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Factors favouring non-disclosure Section 31 – Providing details of specialist types of weapons used would have the effect of compromising law enforcement tactics. It has been recorded that FOIA releases are monitored by criminals and terrorists and so to provide specific information concerning intelligence gathering tools would lead to law enforcement being undermined. The Police Service is reliant upon all manner of tools and techniques and the public release of details about these tools would prejudice the ability of the Police Service to perform the functions it exists to provide.

Disclosure of specific weapons would compromise the forces' ability to protect the public. Disclosing the police forces' capabilities would provide persons intent on disrupting their work, with information that would assist them to do so. The safety of the public is of paramount importance to policing purposes, and any increase in crime would place the public at risk of harm.

Balance Test

The security of the country is of paramount importance and the police will not divulge details of specific weapons if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk, undermine National Security or compromise law enforcement.

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency and providing assurance that the force are appropriately and effectively managing the threat posed by various groups or individuals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police systems and all areas of operations carried out by police forces throughout the UK.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. The use of technology can be a sensitive issue that would reveal police tactics and therefore it is our opinion that for these issues the balancing test for providing information is not made out.

Freedom of Information Act is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. Any information disclosed under the Act is thereafter deemed to be in the public domain, and therefore freely available to the public and will be published on the Gwent Police website.

If, upon receiving a response to a freedom of information request, you are unhappy with the outcome, you may request an internal review. **This should be made within 40 working days of the initial response.**

Please direct any internal review requests to FOI@gwent.police.uk

You have the right to request an appeal from the Information Commissioners Office about your Freedom of Information request, if you are dissatisfied with your internal review response.



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ICO Contact Details:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Web: www.ico.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in Gwent Police.