



Response Date:21/05/2024

2024/470 - Uniform Disposal Recycling

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- 1. Does your police force have a policy on the disposal/recycling of uniforms and items of police equipment supplied to police officers and staff? Please could you supply a copy of the relevant policies and procedures?**

No. However, we try to recycle where possible taking into account security issues.

- 2. Do you have any commercial arrangements for the disposal/recycling of uniforms where this is carried out by a third party? If so, who is the third-party provider?**

- Restore
- Davey textiles Ltd

- 3. How are uniform items recycled or disposed of? For example, secure shredding, landfill, incineration, or recycled by a different method?**

Secure shredding

- 4. Please provide a copy of any disposal/recycling agreements/contracts with commercial third parties for uniforms and textiles.**

Concerns have been raised in relation to disclosing the information requested. Therefore, a Public Interest Test has been carried out to weigh up the reasons for and against disclosure; to ensure the release is in the interest of the public as a whole and not just the applicant.

The Public Interest Test has considered the following exemption.

Section 31 (1) (a)(b) Law Enforcement

Section 31 (1) is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm test as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Overall Harm for Section 31

To provide a copy of the agreement/contract would be harmful to the police service as it would disclose sensitive information regarding the disposal of police equipment which may have an undesirable impact on law enforcement operations throughout the UK i.e. lead to the impersonation of a Police Officer, which would in turn hinder public safety which is paramount to us.

It must be remembered that any disclosure under Freedom of Information is a disclosure to the world rather than to a particular applicant and this information could then be exploited by those intent on causing harm or criminal behaviour.

Factors favouring disclosure of the information Section 31 (1)

We accept that there is a clear public interest in making appropriate information available to the public in order to promote openness, transparency and to provide reassurance to the public in relation to the quality and nature of policing.

Factors favouring non-disclosure of the information Section 31 (1)

Disclosure of information that undermines the operational integrity of law enforcement. Release of any specific details regarding the disposal of police equipment would adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on law enforcement.

Balance Test

The public interest test is a consideration of whether the community benefit of possession of the information outweighs the potential harm. It is not an evaluation of what interests the public. On weighing up the competing interests, we consider that the public interest test favours withholding the requested information.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

What items of equipment is included in respect of the above?

- Body Armour
- Helmets
- Boots
- Clothing i.e. Hi viz jackets, trousers etc.

5. What uniform items and equipment are purchased and supplied to your force via the National Uniform Managed Services (NUMS)? What is the unit cost for each individual item?

None.

6. Does your force have an end-of-life policy with respect to the disposal of uniforms via the National Uniform Managed Services (NUMS) or any other third party? If so, whom and what is the cost of this service per item/weight or other method specified? Could I have a copy of the end of the relevant policy or document(s)?

N/A as not part of NUMS.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 20/05/2024