



My Ref: FOI/ 5264  
Enquiries to: Information Requests  
E-Mail: [informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk)

Dear Requester,

**Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

**I am submitting this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. It concerns the use of vehicles in scope of Operator Licensing as Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM). Please include the use vehicles to block roads during events (such as Remembrance Sunday) as HVM for the purposes of this request.**

**Q1 - Does the Council use any vehicles with a Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) or Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) of 3,500kg or over (i.e. vehicles requiring an Operator Licence) for any HVM related purposes?**

**If yes, please confirm:**

- Whether each vehicle is included on an Operator Licence; and
- The relevant vehicle registration numbers.

**Q2 - For the calendar year 2024, how many miles were driven in vehicles over 3,500kg specifically for activities connected to HVM planning, exercises, assessments, or operational preparedness?**

**Q3 - When vehicles over 3,500kg are used for HVM-related activities, is the driving recorded via tachograph in accordance with the assimilated EU Drivers' Hours Regulations?**

**If yes, please provide anonymised tachograph data for any relevant instances in 2025, including:**

- Driving hours recorded,
- Breaks and rest periods taken,
- Any recorded infringements.

**All personal data should be removed in accordance with data protection legislation.**

**Q4 - If the Council applies the GB Domestic Drivers' Hours Rules instead of the assimilated EU rules for HVM-related vehicle movements, please provide:**

- The specific legal exemption or derogation being relied upon; and
- Any internal policy, documented rationale, or compliance guidance supporting this approach.

**Q5 - Is approval from the Council's Transport Manager required before vehicles over 3,500kg are used for HVM-related purposes?**

**Q6 - Are such activities recorded and monitored within the Council's Operator Licence compliance and safety management systems?**

**Q7 - Where external contractors are engaged to support or deliver HVM-related activities involving vehicles over 3,500kg, please provide:**

- How the Council ensures that these contractors comply with Operator Licence requirements, drivers' hours regulations, vehicle maintenance obligations, and other statutory duties;
- The specific compliance checks carried out prior to engagement (e.g., Operator CPC/Transport Manager oversight, licence checks, safety audits, insurance verification, etc.);
- The compliance checks or audits conducted during the contract period; and
- Any available documentary evidence of these checks (e.g., audit summaries, compliance reports, contractor monitoring records, or similar documents).

Having considered your request the council applies Section 38(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and refuses to confirm or deny whether it holds the information.

The council considers that disclosing details of any vehicles used for the purposes of HVM could prejudice the council's ability to implement such measures and would present a threat to the health and safety of individuals attending events.

The Council acknowledges that there is public interest in ensuring events have appropriate security however the content of the request appears to be mostly around supplementary information about the vehicles themselves rather than matters concerning safety. As such, the council considers the public interest weighs in favour of applying the exemption over that of disclosure.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC  
Information Requests Team  
PO Box 634  
Barnsley  
S70 9GG  
email: [informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk)

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If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team  
Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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