**Freedom of Information request ref 01/FOI/26/4269**
**We received your request on the 11/06/2026**

**Request**

**You asked us:**
**Please treat this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

**As at the date this request is received, please provide the most recent information held by British Transport Police in relation to its current fleet, fleet management, and fleet maintenance arrangements.**

**Please provide:**

**1. The current total fleet size operated by British Transport Police, including the number of vehicles by broad vehicle type/category where held, for example:**
- **a) marked operational vehicles**
- **b) unmarked vehicles**
- **c) vans**
- **d) cars**
- **e) motorcycles**
- **f) specialist vehicles**
- **g) any other relevant fleet category used by British Transport Police**

**2. Whether British Transport Police currently outsource, subcontracts, or uses any third-party provider for any aspect of:**
- **a) fleet management**
- **b) fleet maintenance**
- **c) a combined or wider managed fleet service**

**For each relevant outsourced, subcontracted, third-party, SLA, framework, or external service arrangement identified, please provide:**

**3. Whether the arrangement relates to:**
- **a) fleet management**
- **b) fleet maintenance**
- **c) a combined or wider managed fleet service**

**4. The name of the current outsourced supplier, provider, or external organisation.**

**5. The element of the service provided, for example fleet management system, servicing, inspections, reactive repairs, specialist repairs, MOTs, parts supply, breakdown/recovery, accident management, tyres, vehicle hire/lease management, or wider fleet management.**

**6. The contract start date.**

**7. The contract end date.**

**8. Details of how the contract was let - e.g. through a procurement framework, open tender, direct award, call-off contract, or other route.**

**9. Any extension option(s), if recorded.**

**10. The estimated spend or contract value held in relation to the arrangement, including whether this figure is:**

**a) estimated total contract value**
**b) awarded contract value**
**c) annual contract value**
**d) annual spend**
**e) most recent spend figure held**

**11. Where more than one relevant contract, supplier, SLA, or external arrangement applies, please provide the above information for each arrangement separately.**

**Please provide the information in Excel, CSV, or another structured electronic format where it is reasonably practicable.**

**If any of the requested information is already publicly available, please provide the direct link to the relevant source.**

***We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)***

**Our response:**

**Question 1**

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. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of the FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which:

a) states that fact
b) specifies the exemption(s) in question and
c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.
In relation to your request the following exemption applies:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

Section 31(1) is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and therefore the legislators accept that there may be harm if released. The authority has to consider and describe the harm that would occur if the information were released and carry out a Public Interest Test.

Harm

Disclosure of information relating to the size and composition of the British Transport Police fleet, including the number of marked, unmarked and specialist vehicles, would provide valuable intelligence to individuals seeking to undermine, evade or frustrate police activity.

Section 31(1)(a) and (b) provide an exemption where disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.
Although the request concerns fleet numbers rather than specific tactics, disclosure would reveal information about the Force's operational capability, capacity and policing resources. In particular, it would provide insight into the scale of overt, covert and specialist assets available to British Transport Police. When combined with other information already in the public domain, this could enable a more detailed assessment of the Force's policing capability.
Such information could assist individuals seeking to avoid detection or police intervention by improving their understanding of the resources available to the Force. This would be likely to undermine the effectiveness of policing activity and prejudice law enforcement functions.

Furthermore, disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is effectively disclosure to the world at large, with no restriction on further dissemination or use.

Factors favouring disclosure Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

There is a general public interest in openness and transparency regarding the activities of public authorities and how public funds are spent. Disclosure of information relating to the police fleet would promote accountability by enabling the public to better understand the resources available to British Transport Police and how those resources are utilised in carrying out policing functions.

Disclosure would also contribute to public debate regarding the allocation and management of public resources, allowing the public to assess whether fleet assets are being used efficiently and represent value for money. Greater transparency can help promote public confidence in policing by demonstrating that public funds are being managed appropriately and that decisions regarding operational resources are subject to scrutiny.
Furthermore, the Freedom of Information Act is intended to facilitate informed public engagement and increase understanding of how public authorities operate. Disclosure of the requested information would support these principles by providing greater insight into the Force's vehicle fleet and the resources available to support policing functions.

Factors favouring non-disclosure - Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement

There is a strong public interest in ensuring that police forces are able to carry out their law enforcement functions effectively. Disclosure of information relating to the size and composition of the British Transport Police fleet, including the number of marked, unmarked and specialist vehicles available to the Force, would provide valuable intelligence to individuals or groups involved in criminal activity who may seek to evade detection or undermine police operations. Disclosure of this information could reveal the extent of the Force's overt, covert and specialist capabilities, reducing operational effectiveness and hindering the prevention and detection of crime.

As disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is disclosure to the world at large, the information would be available to anyone, including those with criminal intent. This could enable offenders to develop a more detailed understanding of British Transport Police's operational resources and capabilities, allowing them to adapt their behaviour to avoid detection and potentially frustrate law enforcement activity.

Furthermore, British Transport Police is a national police force operating across a vast geographical area and critical national transport infrastructure. There is a very real prospect that disclosure of information relating to the overall fleet size and the breakdown of vehicles

by category could assist those seeking to assess the scale of policing resources available and identify perceived limitations in operational capability. Such information may be used to inform criminal activity or develop tactics designed to exploit perceived operational vulnerabilities, thereby undermining the Force's ability to deploy resources effectively, prevent and detect crime, and respond appropriately to incidents.

There is a significant public interest in protecting policing capabilities and ensuring that operational resources remain effective. Disclosure of the requested information would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. Consequently, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Public Interest Test

British Transport Police recognises the public interest in openness and transparency and acknowledges that disclosure of the requested information would provide greater insight into the size and composition of the Force's vehicle fleet, including the number of marked operational vehicles, unmarked vehicles, cars, vans, motorcycles and specialist vehicles. Disclosure would increase public understanding of the resources available to the Force and how public funds are used.
However, there is a stronger public interest in ensuring that British Transport Police is able to carry out its law enforcement functions effectively. Disclosure of the total fleet size and the breakdown of vehicles by category would reveal information about the Force's operational capacity and available resources, including the extent of its overt, covert and specialist vehicle capabilities. This information could be used by individuals seeking to evade detection, identify perceived vulnerabilities in policing capability or otherwise undermine police activity.

As disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is disclosure to the world at large, there would be no control over how the information is used or combined with other information already in the public domain. Given the national remit of British Transport Police and its responsibility for policing the railway network and associated infrastructure, disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.
Whilst there is a recognised public interest in transparency and accountability regarding the use of public resources, British Transport Police considers that the stronger public interest lies in protecting operational effectiveness and ensuring that information which could be used to assess the scale of the Force's policing capabilities is not placed into the public domain. Therefore, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

For all remaining questions, please see the below:

**Question 2**

British Transport Police have a fleet management and maintenance agreement with Chiltern Transport Consortium, courtesy of Thames Valley Police.

**Question 3**

This arrangement relates to Section 22a of the Police Act 1996 agreement for both the fleet management and fleet maintenance.

**Question 4**

Chiltern Transport Consortium, courtesy of Thames Valley Police

**Question 5**

Fleet management, fleet maintenance and wider .

**Question 6 and 7**

The agreement commenced on 1st May 2019 with no current end date.

**Question 8**

Section 22a of the Police Act 1996 agreement.

**Question 9**

N/A

**Question 10**

a) Information not held - The collaboration is open-ended with no defined end date, therefore no estimated total value has been calculated.
b) Information not held - The arrangement was established as a Section 22A collaboration agreement and no awarded contract value was set.
c) British Transport Police does not hold a 'contract value' - however, the average annual value of the British Transport Police element of the fleet collaboration is £6.26m per year.
d) This is equivalent to the annual value stated in the answer above.
e) The most recent spend figure held relates to the [2025/26] financial year, which is £7,564.00

**Question 11**

N/A