

4<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
FOI898 – CON-31763/BM

Sent via email – [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI898 – CON-31763**

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) office have now completed the search for the information which you requested on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Your request:**

Please could you provide a full list of property owned by the Police and Crime Commissioner with addresses, could you please include details where joint ownership or similar agreement exists between the PCC and other organisations such as a neighbouring police force.

Please could you provide a full list of property rented or leased by the Police and Crime Commissioner with addresses, used for a policing purpose or residential use by your police force.

In the past 12 months has your force rented any properties on a short term basis and if so could you please provide details including rent paid and any deposits or similar provided as part of the rental or lease of the property.

During the same period has the PCC disposed of any buildings previously used for policing or in support of policing, if so please provide details of the building(s) disposed of.

Can you provide details of how buildings and estate are managed by the PCC on behalf of Policing within your force area.

For clarity when I refer to property I mean buildings such as bases, offices, police stations, or other buildings used in support of a policing purpose.

**Our response:**

Please see attached list detailing properties owned, rented/leased by the Police and Crime Commissioner with addresses.

There is no joint freehold ownership of Avon and Somerset police properties with any other forces or partner.

In the last 12 months the Pop up Cop Shop, Unit BG6 within the Galleries Shopping Centre, Broadmead, Bristol was assembled for a period of 56 days at no charge to the PCC.

Properties sold in the past 12 months – Williton Police Station, 4-10 Priest Street, Williton, TA4 4NJ.

The management of the buildings and estates are delegated to the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Estates team.

General explanations:

There are additional properties owned by the OPCC however the details of those properties have not been provided. The exemptions applicable to these properties are:

Section 31(1) – Law enforcement

Section 24(1) – National Security

Section 38(1) – Health and Safety

These are qualified, prejudice based exemptions and therefore there is a requirement to evidence the harm and consider the public interest in disclosure.

#### **Harm**

There would be harm in disclosing the locations that are not already publically known and are utilised for operational purposes. These properties could be targeted for the purpose of disrupting general law enforcement activities and functions and harm those who visit/work at the locations.

#### **Public Interest Test**

##### **Section 31 – Law Enforcement**

###### Consideration favouring disclosure

Disclosure of this information would enable the public to see where public funds are being spent. Reassurance may also be provided and would allow a better understanding of the effectiveness of policing tactics.

###### Considerations favouring non disclosure

Having properties in locations that are not in the public domain allows for certain policing activities to be carried out with the minimal possibility of being observed. Disclosing the locations of those properties would allow criminals to determine where those activities are being carried out. Criminals could therefore observe them in order to gain intelligence which could aid criminal activity by ascertaining when they perceive to be less likely to be detected and to undermine the policing activities at those locations.

##### **Section 24 – National Security**

###### Consideration favouring disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information may go some way to promote trust in the police and the public has a right to know that public funds are resourced appropriately.



Considerations favouring non disclosure

The threat of terrorism cannot be ignored. The current threat level for international terrorism in the UK is 'severe' which means that an attack is highly likely. To release further information in relation to properties owned, or utilised by the police and their locations would undermine policing capabilities which would compromise the police's ability to deal with the ongoing terrorist threat they face.

**Section 38 – Health and Safety**

Consideration favouring disclosure

Disclosure of requested information would contribute to public awareness concerning the operational ability of the police, this would aid the accuracy of public debate and may go some way to promote trust in the police.

Considerations favouring non disclosure

The health and safety of the individuals frequenting those locations would be put at risk. The individuals who work at these locations could be identified as being involved in policing activities. This could put them in danger of being targeted by criminals whilst carrying out those activities.

**Balance test**

Whilst there is a general public interest in being open and transparent about how and where public money is spent and the services that we provide, there is a greater public interest in protecting our policing abilities, nation security and the health and safety of individuals. No information will be released into the public domain if to do so would undermine the police capabilities. The police has a responsibility to its staff and the communities it serves and therefore it is for the reasons outlined above that it is decided that the public interest weighs in favour of non-disclosure.

If you are unhappy about how your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision then you should write to:

Chief of Staff  
Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's Office  
Valley Road  
Portishead  
Bristol  
BS20 8JJ

Please note, Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's office provides you with the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure. The appeals document is attached for your reference.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,



**AVON &  
SOMERSET**  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER

*Freedom of Information Officer*

**Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioners Office**  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



📍 Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, Valley Road, Portishead, Bristol. BS20 8JJ

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