



Date: 13/11/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011490/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011490/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/10/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting information relating to the replacement safety cameras that have been installed around greater Manchester. They are mounted on a pole, a camera with a yellow housing, accompanied by a flash and three IR lights.

It is my understanding that one camera can monitor four lanes at once, please can you answer the below questions

- 1. On a two way road, would the camera monitor and enforce a speed limit for the vehicle traveling towards the camera, away from the camera or in both directions?*
- 2. On a dual carriageway can the cameras detect and enforce the speed limit on the opposite carriageway where the camera was mounted on the pavement and not in the central reservation.*

Examples

- 3. Manchester Road, Oldham, can the new camera installed here (53.5249416, -2.1387365) catch speeding motorists on the opposite carriageway?*
- 4. Featherstall Rd, Oldham can the new camera installed here (53.5497434, -2.1231609) catch speeding motorists on the opposite carriageway?*
- 5. If a camera is enforcing a 30 mph speed limit, at what speed would the vehicle need to travel at to trigger enforcement?*

6. *If a vehicle was not exceeding the speed limit, but the driver was on their mobile phone could the driver face prosecution from the images captured by the camera?*
7. *If a vehicle was not exceeding the speed limit, but the driver was not wearing a seatbelt, could the driver face prosecution from the images captured by the camera?*
8. *If enforcement of drivers on mobile phones or no seat belt is possible from these cameras, is this done by AI or are the photos manually reviewed.*
9. *Can you provide an example high quality image taken by one of these cameras showing the front of a vehicle but blurring the drivers face and licence plate. Showing that the vehicle had exceeded the speed limit.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm that some of the information requested is held by GMP, but I am not obliged to provide all of it as an exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Question 5 of your request relates to speed tolerances. This information is exempt under **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement** and **Section 38(1)b – Health and Safety**. Furthermore, question 9 of your request has been exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) - Personal Information**. This information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

S31 – Law Enforcement Harm

To disclose any speed tolerances would provide misleading and potentially dangerous information into the public domain. This would create a perception of acceptable speed levels that motorists may travel within various speed zones. This would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of GMP in the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Public Interest Test Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of any speed tolerances would assist the populace in taking steps to better protect themselves. It would also show GMP's accountability in the use of public funds when policing this area.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release any speed tolerances would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of GMP. It would allow for a perceived level

of speed that motorists may travel at without generating a fine, which would impact of GMP's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders.

S38 – Health and Safety Harm

To disclose any speed tolerances would create a perception of the highest acceptable speed for motorists to travel through at various speed zones. This would undoubtedly increase the risk of the health and safety of pedestrians and other motorists within the zone.

Public Interest Test Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of any speed tolerances may assist members of the public to better protect themselves against potential road accidents. It would also encourage transparency between the Force and the public.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

To divulge to the wider public what perhaps is considered an 'acceptable' speed i.e. one which further action is unlikely to be taken, may encourage individuals to travel up to and including this speed. The faster the traffic travels through such areas, the higher the risk of accidents to motorists and pedestrians.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency, which needs to be weighed against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure, which in this case is the likelihood of individuals being put at risk. The safety of the communities GMP police is of paramount importance and the Force would not detrimentally impact on that safety by disclosing harmful information in response to a FOI request. Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemptions and withhold the redacted information from disclosure.

The rest of your requested information is below.

1-4. This information is not held by Greater Manchester Police. Please contact Transport for Greater Manchester for this information.

5. This information is exempt under sections 31 and 38. Please see above.

6-7. The cameras specifically detect speeding offences. That said, if when we are processing a detected speeding offence, we detect another offence from that imagery which we feel contravenes the safety of other road users then a decision will be made as to whether to enforce that offence also. This has always been the case and is not specific to the roll out of the new cameras.

8. AI is not used.

9. This information is exempt under S40. Please see above.