



Date: 06/03/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012019/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012019/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 24/01/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I make the following request under freedom of information legislation. Please provide me with the number of occasions when speeding fines were issued for speeding along the clockwise stretch of the M60 where there are average speed cameras between junctions 24 and 25 near Bredbury during the calendar year 2023. For clarity, this is a 50mph limit stretch of the motorway that leads up to a right-hand bend on the clockwise carriageway. I am not seeking any speeding offences captured in that stretch of motorway by any other means, for instance a police patrol, only those captured by the above mentioned speed cameras.

Please also provide me with the equivalent figures for each of the previous nine years, from and including 2014. As you will gather, in all I'm seeking figures covering a ten-year period.

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny that we hold any other information relevant to the whole of your request by virtue of the following exemptions: **Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement** and **Section 38(2) – Health and Safety**.

Evidence of Harm

Any disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a disclosure to the world at large and confirming or denying any information relating to specific speed cameras (or in this case, specific sets of average speed cameras) would prejudice law enforcement and endanger the safety of road users.

Conversely, if information was not held by the force, and a denial was issued, this would suggest to individuals intent on driving at excess speed on this stretch of the M60 (whether correctly or not) the limitations of police capabilities in this area, which may further encourage speeding by exposing a potential vulnerability.

Disclosure of the information could prejudice the ability of the force to police this area which would lead to a greater risk to the public. Any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage criminals. Information that undermines the operational integrity of these activities will adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on both law enforcement and the safety of the public.

Public interest considerations favouring confirming or denying whether the information is held - Section 31(3)

Confirming or denying whether any information is held would allow Greater Manchester Police to demonstrate increased openness and transparency.

Public interest considerations favouring neither confirming nor denying whether the information is held - Section 31(3)

By confirming or denying whether any information is held would mean that law enforcement tactics would be compromised which would hinder the prevention and detection of crime.

Greater Manchester Police is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The ability to protect uphold and protect law enforcement capabilities within the country is of paramount importance and the police will not divulge whether any information is or is not held if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine law enforcement capabilities due to adverse disclosure.

Public interest considerations favouring confirming or denying whether the information is held - Section 38(2)

Confirming or denying whether any information is held would allow Greater Manchester Police to demonstrate increased openness and transparency.

Public interest considerations favouring neither confirming nor denying whether the information is held – Section 38(2)

To confirm or deny details relating to specific speed cameras would reveal details about periods of inactivity. This would lead to people assuming, correctly or incorrectly, when certain cameras are likely to be inactive and could encourage drivers to exceed the speed limit at these times. This could lead to more collisions and as a result, more serious injuries, or death of road users.

Balance Test

When balancing the public interest test, GMP consider whether to confirm or deny if we hold such information relating to your request. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for confirming or denying is GMP's accountability, which needs to be compared to the strongest negative reason for neither confirm nor deny, which in this case is the health and safety of road users and GMP's ability to effectively execute its duties. The public interest would not be served by confirming or denying the requested information exists or not.

On consideration of the above, I believe the factors favouring neither confirm nor deny outweigh those favouring confirming whether the information is held or not, therefore the balance of public interest favours maintaining the application of the above exemptions. This should not be taken as an inference that there is or is not any information held which could be provided in responding to this request.