

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012168/E

Please quote our reference  
number when responding

Tuesday, 12 March 2024

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012168/E**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/02/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

*For each fixed speed camera, red light camera, and average or variable speed camera under your jurisdiction, can you give me the number of NIPs (notice of intended prosecutions) handed out. Also include cameras with zero NIP's handed out in the data.*

*I want the raw data for 2023 (01/01/23 - 31/12/23), broken down by speed camera.*

*Please provide whatever the most granular location identifier is for each speed camera.*

Clarification received on 03/03/2024

*To further clarify what I meant by "I am referring to the first NIP for each offence." - I was informed that in some cases multiple NIP's may be issued for one offence, such as when company cars or leased cars are involved. So in these cases, I am referring to just the first NIP for these NIP's.*

**Result of Searches**

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

Firstly, the NIP information 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 Section 1

of the Data Protection Act 1998 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Moreover the speed camera location identifier data have been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

- **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law enforcement**

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test

### **Harm**

To disclose the speed camera location identifier 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 and locations that may not be in current operation and may encourage individuals to travel above particular speed zones. The faster the traffic travels through such areas, the higher the risk of accidents to motorists and pedestrians. This would also give an advantage to those intent on committing speeding offences and avoid detection. 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 the speed camera location identifier would assist the populous 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 the speed camera location identifier 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 on GMP's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders. Additionally, this would undoubtedly increase the risk to the health and safety of pedestrians and other motorists within the zones.

### **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 exemption and withhold information from disclosure.