



Date: 20/12/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011692/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011692/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/11/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The highest speed clocked by speed cameras in Greater Manchester and where they were in the last 12 months.*
- 2. When speed cameras are turned off in Greater Manchester.*
- 3. A table of the most prolific fixed speed cameras and the least prolific speed cameras in terms of the number of cars speeding caught in Greater Manchester in the last 12 months.*

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 the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide all the information as an exception 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. The information you have

requested in questions 2 and 3 is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:
Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement and **Section 38(1) – Health and Safety**

S31 – Law Enforcement: Harm

GMP do not disclose league tables of speed cameras as this would reveal the location of those speed cameras which are currently in operation. We also do not disclose when our speed cameras are active or inactive. This will create misleading and potentially dangerous information into the public domain. This would create a perception of acceptable speeding periods that motorists may travel within various speed zones and locations that may not be in current operation and may encourage individuals to travel above the speed limit in particular 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. Additionally, releasing this information could lead to targeted vandalism of the speed cameras, which would be contrary to GMP's function to prevent and detect crime.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure details of any current speed enforcement locations 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 particular areas.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release speed enforcement information 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/endorsement, which would impact on GMP's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders.

S38 – Health and Safety: Harm

To disclose the locations of speed cameras and the periods that cameras are inactive would create a perception of the highest acceptable speed for motorists to travel through at locations where speed cameras are not present. The faster the traffic travels through such areas, the higher the risk of collision to motorists and pedestrians. 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 speed camera locations may assist members of the public to better protect themselves against potential road collisions. It would also encourage transparency between GMP and the public.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

To divulge to the wider public where speed cameras are, and indirectly, where speed cameras are not, may encourage individuals to travel at excessive 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 must 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.

1. 164 MPH on the M62.
2. Exempt under S31 and S38, see above.
3. Exempt under S31 and S38, see above.