



Date: 11/07/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012837/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012837/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/06/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to put a freedom off information request in for the rule regarding speed displayed on motorways when showed on gantrys.

I was pulled over this morning (22/06/2024) for reducing my speed to 40mph on the M60 after going under gantry 9540B at mile marker M60 54.1 B. Witch at the time was showing 40 across the motorway at around 10:50-11:00 am. However the gantrys leading up to it showed nothing and the next gantry at mile marker M60 53.4 B showed END but this next one is around a large bend and out off sight for at least half a mile.

Now should I have followed this instruction or continued at a speed that was exceeding this number?

As the police officer that pulled me over stated that the speed displayed was an advised speed? And that drivers do not have to follow it when the road ahead is clear now in his View I was driving without due care and attention. And from his View I should off moved out of lane 3 sooner but in my View it was not safe to do so I moved over when I felt it was safe to do so.

When the officer pulled me over on the hard shoulder of the motor way I got out of my car to head to his car as it's what they do but I shouted to project over the traffic saying why pull me over and after getting in the back of his car a appolergised for shouting and after he told me why he pulled me I told him I was following the speed indicator above the motorway and he

then tells me I was wrong to do this as it was an advised speed. And that is why he done me for driving with out due care and attention. And told me to remind myself of the high way code.

So my request is as follows

- 1. what is the law/speed I should be following if the displayed speed is 40mph on a motorway?*
- 2. If you drive at a speed exceeding a displayed speed on the motorways are you braking the law? (Road traffic Act)*

I have already contacted Highways England and after a phone conversation with them I have also put a similar request in to them as they have told me that when there is a speed displayed above the motorway that speed should be followed until END is displayed or nothing on the gantry the speed displayed is and should be treated as the speed limit and should not be exceeded so if this is the case why has this officer targeted me for doing the speed displayed instead of the car behind me for tailgating and driving too close. I am looking at £100 fine for following the speed limit and the car that was behind me is free from anything as they wanted to speed but couldn't because I was doing the limit

Yes I know the rule keep left unless overtaking at the time off the event I was overtaking cars but had to slow in lane 3 for the 40mph displayed and I did move over when I deemed save to do so.

In my View this stop was wrong and I have received a ticket for doing the right thing.

I also note your subsequent request, dated 26/06/2024:

Further to my request for Freedom of Information. I have since done as this police officer has told me to do and read up on the high way code please see attached

Question 1.

Can you tell me where in the high way code it tells a driver not to follow an advised speed instruction or that if the orange lights are not flashing that the signal is not to be followed?

As this is what the police officer told me when he pulled me over.

Also in the highway code it states that when overtaking you are to move left (WHEN SAFE TO DO SO) and not to cut in on the car you have just overtaken.

Question 2.

Can you tell me who is the one responsible for making this decision and in what time frame a driver has to make it?

Because in the highway code it tells drivers to take the time to assess their surroundings before making the decision to move lanes

Question 2.1.

Is it the driver off the vehicle doing the overtake or is it a police officer who has only given the driver 30 to 45 seconds to make there checks and make an informed decision on when it's safe to do so?

As this police officer had made the choice to tell me I wasn't using my mirrors correctly.

Question 3

How does he know that when

1 he was not in my car

2 he was not behind me at first and

3 by the time he was behind me I had moved over from lane 3 to lane 2 as I then found it safe to move over before the police officer made his decision to pull in behind me (within a cars length and stay there for around 500 yards) before activation off his lights and signalling for me to pull over.

I know that there is drivers that take this to far and stay right for miles but in my situation it all happened within 700 to 900 yards and that distance can be covered in a matter of 60 too 90 seconds.

I look forward to your response but I would ask for a speedy response as this is off up most urgency for me to make a informed decision regarding the NIP I'm expecting any time

Result of Searches

Information is defined in section 84 of the Act as 'information recorded in any form'. The Act therefore only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally; only if they already hold the answers in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, the merits or demerits of any proposal or action, for advice - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form. As such, within the spirit of the Act, none of the questions you have submitted qualify as a valid request for information held.