

Date: 17th October 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/013450/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/24/013450/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/10/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the freedom of information act I would like to request how many vehicles received a speeding fine on 10/08/2024 M62 between junction 12 - 11 Westbound 21.00 and 22.00pm

Also on the 28/08/2024 the M62 Eastbound between junction 11 -12 at 19.00 to 20.00pm.

I received 2 speeding fines on both these junctions I was doing the correct speed limit as I thought 70 mph other vehicles were passing me. I don't understand why I received them, please can you explain there was no congestion on the motorway I am at a loss. Pictures that you have sent are not very clear.

I have received both these letters after the 14 day rule one was even issued after the 14 day rule. I have now got a solicitor working on this for me.

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
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 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 road (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.

Further Information

If you require information about your fixed penalty notices which have been issued to you, you need to contact the Central Ticket Office directly with your query.