

Date: 12th February 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014016/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014016/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding red light cameras within your jurisdiction. Please provide the following details:

- 1** *The total number of red light cameras currently operational.*
- 2** *The locations of all red light cameras.*
- 3** *The number of red light camera violations recorded in the past five years, broken down by year.*
- 4** *The revenue generated from red light camera fines in the past five years, broken down by year.*
- 5** *The criteria used to determine the placement of red light cameras.*
- 6** *Any changes or updates to red light camera policies or operations in the past five years.*

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response within the statutory time period.

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 requested as exemptions apply.

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 requested in question 1 and 2 have been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Section 38(1)(b) Health and Safety

Sections 31(1)(a)(b) and Section 38(1)(b) are prejudice based and qualified exemptions; there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Public Interest Test

Harm

To disclose the locations, details of operational safety cameras and operational functions will create misleading and potentially dangerous information which would effectively create a league table for our road safety cameras. This would highlight the sites making cameras potential targets for criminal damage (resulting in them being out of action) and show where GMP have no current enforcement – both of which would negatively impact the road safety enforcement strategies and put Greater Manchester road users safety at risk.

S31 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of details relating to any operational safety cameras and their operational functions 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.

S31 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information about operational safety cameras and their operational functions would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of GMP and would undermine the effectiveness of the cameras and our road safety enforcement strategies. It would allow a perception and encouragement that motorists may travel through red lights without generating a fine/endorsement, which would impact of GMP's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders.

Disclosing the location of red light cameras would potentially make the cameras targets for criminal damage which would negatively impact our road safety enforcement strategies and additionally, this would undoubtedly increase the risk of the health and safety of pedestrians and other motorists.

S38 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of operational cameras and their operational functions would encourage transparency between the Force and the public.

S38 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

To divulge to the wider public the locations of red light cameras, may encourage individuals to travel through a red light. This would lead to a higher risk of accidents to motorists and pedestrians. In addition, knowing other operational functions of safety cameras could encourage the public to drive dangerously and pay less attention to the road.

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 and criminal damage to road safety equipment. 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 information requested for question 1 and 2.

Response to remaining questions

Question 1 – Exempt please see above.

Question 2 – Exempt please see above.

Question 3

Year	Total
2020	1,896
2021	1,968
2022	3,726
2023	2,186
2024	901
2025	96

Question 4

“Fines” are imposed by HMCTS and not the Police. Safety cameras do not generate revenue, any monies paid in respect of fixed penalty offences detected by cameras goes to HM Govt Treasury. Of the above notices processed, the following were finalised by drivers accepting a fixed penalty as the method of disposal for the offence. The penalty amount is £100 with 3 point driving endorsement on their licence.

Year	Total
2020	141
2021	136
2022	274
2023	205
2024	76
2025	4

Question 5 & 6 – The Police do not determine the criteria for this question you will need to contact the Local Authorities and Safer Roads Greater Manchester (TfGM).