

Date: 16/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014897/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014897/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/06/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Q1 - How many speeding fines (FPNs/NIPs) were issued between April 6, 2024 and April 5, 2025?

For the period covering April 6, 2024 to April 5, 2025, how many speeding offences were recorded in:

- Manchester***
- Stockport***
- Oldham***
- Bolton***
- Wigan***
- Salford***
- Sale***
- Rochdale***
- Bury***

2a. For each road, please provide the total number of speeding offences and the number of FPNs issued.

B. What were the highest five speeds recorded in individual speed checks across the region between April 6, 2024 and April 5, 2025? If possible, please provide the location, the speed limit in that location, and the month (e.g. April 2024).

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 relation to information about operational fixed/mobile safety cameras and their operational functions (other than measuring speed) have been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement (Question 2a)
Section 38(1)b Health and Safety (Question 2a)
Section 40(2) Personal Information (Question 2b)

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.

Section 31– Harm

To disclose the number of operational safety cameras with the most detections will create misleading and potentially dangerous information into the public domain. This would create a perception that motorists may travel excess of the speed limit without fear of being caught. This may encourage individuals to travel above the speed limit in these and other areas. The faster the traffic travels, the higher the risk of accidents to motorists and pedestrians. This would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of GMP in the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Disclosing this information will in effect be providing a league table for our road safety cameras and mobile detection locations which will identify those with the highest detection rates. This makes the cameras potential targets for criminal damage resulting in them being out of action thus negatively impacting on our road safety enforcement strategies and putting GM road users at risk.

It would also identify the locations where our staff undertake mobile enforcement, leaving them open to potential abuse, assault and criminal damage to the vehicles/cameras.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure details of 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.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information about operational safety cameras with the most detections would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of GMP and would undermine the effectiveness of the cameras and our road safety enforcement. It would allow a perception and encouragement that motorists may travel in excess of the speed limit and/or without their seatbelt without generating a fine/endorsement, which would impact of GMP's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders. Requests of this nature is in effect asking us to provide a league table for our road safety cameras which will identify those with the highest detection rates. This makes the cameras potential targets for criminal damage resulting in them being out of action thus negatively impacting on our road safety enforcement strategies and putting GM road users at risk.

Additionally, this would undoubtedly increase the risk of the health and safety of pedestrians and other motorists, whilst the cameras are being repaired or replaced there is no safety camera enforcement taking place which will impact on road safety in those areas.

Section 38 –Harm

To disclose the number of operational speed cameras and their operational functions along with locations, would encourage motorists to break the speed limit and drive dangerously. This would undoubtedly increase the risk of the health and safety of pedestrians and other motorists.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

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

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

To divulge to the wider public the number of cameras with the highest detections and locations, may encourage individuals to travel at greater speeds. The faster the traffic travels, the higher the 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.

Balance 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 information requested.

Additionally:-

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this 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.

Part of 2b (*location, the speed limit in that location, and the month*) are exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual/s, 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 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

Please see the remaining information that can be disclosed.

Question 1.

There have been 201,697 speeding offences processed by the CTO for the time frame requested.

Please note – This data does not include any cautioned, warned or sent straight through to court prosecution by an officer. “Fines” are issued by a court, not by GMP.

The breakdown of offences processed by GMP's CTO by the areas requested are below (these are for areas that could be confirmed from the descriptions provided by the officers.)

27172	- Manchester
2610	- Stockport
19219	- Oldham
15470	- Bolton
39461	- Wigan
46956	- Salford
11557	- Sale
21303	- Rochdale
7283	- Bury

Question 2

2A – See exemption above.

2B – See exemption above and the remaining data below.

The top 5 speeds detected during time frame specified:

Speed Detected
146
139
138
145
142