



Date: 26/11/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015160/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015160/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please can you provide examples of any cases over the past 12 months where vehicles have been recorded at speeds at 10% + 2mph over the speed limit within your jurisdiction that have not been charged. I am particularly interested in understanding this statistic, as the internet is very clear that 10%+2mph is a general rule of thumb adopted by Police forces throughout the UK. I am trying to understand why you're so insistent on levying this charge against me given these facts and that I have a reasonable defence in trying to avoid a collision with another vehicle?

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide the information of this request as exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, 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 exemptions that apply to this request are **Section 31(1)(a)(b) - Law Enforcement** and **Section 38(1)(b) Health and Safety**.

Sections 31 and 38 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 information that would reveal the enforcement thresholds for Greater Manchester Police's speed cameras, and how many speeding offenders have been charged would disclose the operational functions which 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 and this will undermine our road safety strategies. This may encourage individuals to travel above the speed limit. 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 as more resources would be needed to detect speeding offences and investigate collisions.

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 and their enforcement thresholds 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 more than the speed limit without generating risk of sanction, which would impact of GMP's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders. Additionally, this would undoubtedly increase the risk of the health and safety of pedestrians and other motorists.

Section 38 – Harm

To disclose the operational thresholds across GMP's network of speed cameras 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 operational functions of speed cameras, 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.

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 information requested.