

**Date:** 02/10/2025  
**Our ref:** 01/FOI/25/015526/R

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015526/R**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/09/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1.**  
***What are Greater Manchester Police's speed camera enforcement thresholds (tolerances)?  
Are they still in line with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) guidelines of 10% + 2mph?  
Does this threshold affect all speed camera and speed trap types i.e. static flashing camera,  
mobile speed traps, average speed check cameras etc.?***
- 2.**  
***Over the last two calendar years in your police force area, how many speeding offences on the  
70mph motorway roads or dual carriageways have received a fixed penalty notice for speeds  
recorded under 80mph  
a) points on licence issued  
b) fines issued?***
- 3.**  
***Over the last two calendar years in your police force area, how many speeding offences on the  
70mph motorway roads or dual carriageways have received a fixed penalty notice for speeds  
recorded between 80mph and 90mph  
a) points on licence issued  
b) fines issued?***
- 4.**  
***Over the last two calendar years in your police force area, how many speeding offences on the  
70mph motorway roads or dual carriageways have received a fixed penalty notice for speeds  
recorded between 90mph and 100mph  
a) points on licence issued  
b) fines issued?***

### **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 of 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.

### **Please see Exemptions below**

#### **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.

#### **Section 31– Harm**

To disclose the speed thresholds for Greater Manchester Police's speed camera enforcement and, how many speeding offences on the 70mph motorway roads or dual carriageways have received a fixed penalty notice for speeds recorded under 80mph, 80-90 and 90-100 mph 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.

#### **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 operational 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 in excess of the speed limit without generating a fine/endorsement, 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 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. 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.

**Please see the remaining information that may be of use.**

**Please note – GMP do not issue “Fines” – These are issued via court and so please redirect these parts of the request to HMCTS.**

The below is an overall cover for questions 2-4.

Data provided is the overall total of offences for exceeding 70mph speed limits where we have proceeded by way of the fixed penalty process.

| <b>2023</b> | <b>2024</b> | <b>2025 –<br/>To date</b> |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 2359        | 7324        | 1711                      |

Of the above, the following finalised their offences by accepting the fixed penalty (a fixed penalty amount and licence enforcement points).

| <b>2023</b> | <b>2024</b> | <b>2025 –<br/>To date</b> |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| 708         | 2307        | 477                       |