

Date: 30/07/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017136/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017136/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/06/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. Please provide the total number of fixed speed camera sites operated within your police force area as of:**
 - (a) 1 January 2023**
 - (b) 1 January 2024**
 - (c) 1 January 2025**
 - (d) 1 January 2026**
- 2. For each of the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 please provide the number of Notices of Intended Prosecution or equivalent enforcement notices issued following fixed speed camera detections.**
- 3. For each of the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 please provide:**
 - (a) the number of new fixed speed camera sites installed;**
 - (b) the number of fixed speed camera sites removed or permanently decommissioned;**
 - (c) the number of fixed speed camera sites where the camera was upgraded.**
- 4. For each of the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 please provide:**
 - (a) the number of fixed speed camera sites which were recorded as being out of service, inactive or non-operational for any period of time during the year;**

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 which relate to questions 3 and 4.

**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.

Harm

To disclose the operational status, downtime, or specific non-operational periods of fixed speed cameras would reveal tactical vulnerabilities in Greater Manchester Police's road safety network.

Releasing data identifying which specific sites are inactive or out of service would compromise the law enforcement capabilities of GMP by map-marking areas where enforcement is temporarily absent. This would undermine the deterrent effect, creating a public perception that motorists can travel in excess of the speed limit at these locations without fear of detection.

Consequently, this may encourage speeding, increase average traffic velocities and escalating the risk of dangerous driving, collisions, and casualties for both motorists and pedestrians. Therefore, suppressing this information is critical to the prevention and detection of crime and the effective apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Factors Favouring Disclosure S31

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 S31

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release data concerning the specific volume of non-operational fixed speed camera sites, newly installed housings, decommissioned locations, or specific site upgrades would significantly impact the law enforcement capabilities of GMP. Disclosing these specific network metrics would undermine the continuous deterrent effect and overall effectiveness of our road safety enforcement framework. It would allow a perception to develop—and act as an encouragement—that motorists may travel in excess of the speed limit at certain sites without generating a fine or endorsement.

This directly impacts GMP's core ability to prevent and detect crime, as well as apprehend or prosecute traffic offenders. Additionally, revealing these structural shifts and tactical blind spots in the enforcement network would undoubtedly increase the risk to the health and safety of pedestrians and other motorists.

Harm S38

To disclose the operational functions of a specific speed camera 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 S38

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

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure S38

To divulge to the wider public the specific number of non-operational fixed speed camera sites, newly installed housings, decommissioned locations, or completed site upgrades would reveal critical gaps and transitions within the enforcement network.

Releasing this data may encourage individuals to travel at greater speeds in areas perceived to be unmonitored or undergoing maintenance. The faster the traffic travels, the higher the risk of serious or fatal accidents to both motorists and pedestrians.

In addition, providing specific metrics on inactive or altered safety cameras provides actionable insight into operational coverage, which could encourage the public to drive dangerously, bypass speed limits, and pay less attention to the road, directly endangering human life.

Balance 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.

Question 1.

1st Jan 2023 - 31st December	77
1st Jan 2024 - 31st December	85
1st Jan 2025 - 31st December	96
1st Jan 2026 +	85

Question 2.

2023/24	102100
2024/25	146913
2025/26	91316