

6 August 2024

FOI Ref 16546

Request - You asked us the following:

For each fixed speed camera, red light camera, and average or variable speed camera under your jurisdiction, can you give me the number of NIPs (notice of intended prosecutions) handed out. Also include cameras with zero NIP's handed out in the data.

I want the raw data for 2023 (01/01/23 - 31/13/23), broken down by speed camera.

Please provide whatever the most granular location identifier is for each speed camera.

In dealing with average or variable speed cameras, I appreciate that NIP data may not be attributable to a single camera in the raw data. If this is the case, please provide whatever location identifier(s) you have in the raw data that will allow us to understand where the NIP relates to geographically.

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED 21/02/2024:

I would like to clarify that I am referring to the first NIP for each offence.

FURTHER CLARIFICATION RECEIVED 04/03/2024:

To further clarify what I meant by "I am referring to the first NIP for each offence." - I was informed that in some cases multiple NIP's may be issued for one offence, such as when company cars or leased cars are involved. So in these cases, I am referring to just the first NIP for these NIP's.

Also if possible please provide the data in excel format.

And the dates I made a small mistake - I said "I want the raw data for 2023 (01/01/23 - 31/13/23)" I meant, "I want the raw data for 2023 (01/01/23 - 31/12/23)"

We received your request on 19/02/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

- For each fixed speed camera, red light camera, and average or variable speed camera under your jurisdiction, can you give me the number of NIPs (notice of intended prosecutions) handed out. Also include cameras with zero NIP's handed out in the data. I want the raw data for 2023 (01/01/23 - 31/12/23), broken down by speed camera. – **Information held.**
- Please provide whatever the most granular location identifier is for each speed camera. – **Information held.**
- In dealing with average or variable speed cameras, I appreciate that NIP data may not be attributable to a single camera in the raw data. If this is the case, please provide whatever location identifier(s) you have in the raw data that will allow us to understand where the NIP relates to geographically. – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

- For each fixed speed camera, red light camera, and average or variable speed camera under your jurisdiction, can you give me the number of NIPs (notice of intended prosecutions) handed out. Also include cameras with zero NIP's handed out in the data. I want the raw data for 2023 (01/01/23 - 31/12/23), broken down by speed camera. – **Partially disclosed, the total number of NIPs in 2023 was 51,055. Further information is withheld from disclosure.**
- Please provide whatever the most granular location identifier is for each speed camera. – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16546 Number of NIPs Handed Out for Speeding data.CSV'.**
- In dealing with average or variable speed cameras, I appreciate that NIP data may not be attributable to a single camera in the raw data. If this is the case, please provide whatever location identifier(s) you have in the raw data that will allow us to understand where the NIP relates to geographically. – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16546 Number of NIPs Handed Out for Speeding data.CSV'.**

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

To provide the number of NIPs for each individual speed camera with an exact, granular location given for each camera could undermine existing or future investigations, operations and police tactics. This would confirm the rationale in a driver's mind that it would be safe or permissible to drive at a certain speed, above the maximum limit, without fear of prosecution. This would then have a detrimental impact upon how motorists drive and could lead to an increase in offending, leading to increased risk of road traffic collisions and a decline in road safety. It is likely that release of such information will harm Staffordshire Police's deterrent capacity if such information identifies specific cameras and the number of NIPs generated by them.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 31 (1) (a) - Law Enforcement.

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31 (1) (a) (b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the communications used with operations and during routine policing. The public are entitled to know how the use of speed cameras can have an effect on drivers using the road. Disclosure of the information would show that Staffordshire Police supports transparency and accountability, also showing that appropriate measures are being taken to improve public safety and reduce offending.

Factors favouring non-disclosure

Safety cameras are used to protect the communities we serve and deter motorists from exceeding the speed limit. Disclosure of the requested information would place information into the public domain which would allow individuals to take action to frustrate the operational tactics employed to enforce road traffic law; therefore, undermining the police's key function of preventing and detecting crime. Disclosure may engender within the public a perception that it would be safe or permissible to drive at a certain speed, above the maximum limit, without fear of prosecution and would therefore place individuals at an increased risk of serious harm and reduce overall road safety.

The primary functions of Staffordshire Police are preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve, disclosure of any information that would therefore interfere with these functions or place individuals at an increased risk of harm would not be countenanced.

Balancing Test

After considering the factors mentioned above, it has been determined that disclosure of the requested information would not be in the public interest. The primary functions of Staffordshire Police are preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve, disclosure of any information that would therefore interfere with these functions or place individuals at an increased risk of harm would not be countenanced. It is therefore our considered opinion that the benefit that would result from disclosure is outweighed by the benefits of withholding the requested information.

Next steps



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit