

28 October 2024

FOI Ref 17354

Request - You asked us the following:

Through the Freedom of Information Act, may I request information relating to fixed and mobile speed cameras in Staffordshire. For clarity, this is the number of motorists flashed by speed cameras for driving too fast.

The FOI request:

A: I request the total number of speed camera activations issued by fixed speed cameras in Staffordshire from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.

B: I request the total number of speed camera activations issued by mobile speed cameras in Staffordshire from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.

C: I would like a location-by-location breakdown of the top 10 most prolific fixed speed cameras – excluding motorways – in Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle borough, the Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford borough from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024.

D: I would like a location-by-location breakdown of how many speed camera activations have been recorded at each and every mobile speed camera in Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle borough, the Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford borough from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. I request that this includes the exact location of each mobile speed camera and the exact number of motorists caught at each location.

We received your request on 11/10/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- A: I request the total number of speed camera activations issued by fixed speed cameras in Staffordshire from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. – **Disclosed, 33,926.**
- B: I request the total number of speed camera activations issued by mobile speed cameras in Staffordshire from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. – **Disclosed, 18,882.**
- C: I would like a location-by-location breakdown of the top 10 most prolific fixed speed cameras – excluding motorways – in Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle borough, the Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford borough from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. – **Withheld.**

- D: I would like a location-by-location breakdown of how many speed camera activations have been recorded at each and every mobile speed camera in Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle borough, the Staffordshire Moorlands and Stafford borough from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. I request that this includes the exact location of each mobile speed camera and the exact number of motorists caught at each location. – **Withheld.**

The following exemptions have been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for parts of this particular request.

- Section 31 (1) (a) (b) - 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.

Harm

The provision of information which could assist drivers to estimate the probability of being detected whilst driving above the prescribed speed limit in any given area, would lead to drivers being more inclined to not adhere to these limits, based upon the perceived likelihood of detection.

The effectiveness of fixed safety cameras relies on the perception of drivers that cameras could be active. To provide detailed data upon the location and effectiveness of camera activity within specific areas falling within Staffordshire Police's jurisdiction, would lead motorists to modify their behavior based upon the perceived chance of detection. This would therefore diminish the effectiveness of these cameras and undermine police enforcement. To release the information could have a detrimental impact on how motorists drive, which would lead to an increase in road traffic collisions, adversely affecting road safety and placing individuals at greater risk.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and how the use of safety cameras can have an effect on drivers using the road. Disclosure of the information would provide the public with greater understanding of the approach to speed limit enforcement and would show that Staffordshire Police supports transparency and accountability.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

Safety cameras are used to protect the community we serve and deter motorists from exceeding the speed limit. Disclosure would allow the public to take action to frustrate the operational tactics adopted to enforce road traffic law, this would therefore undermine the police's key function of preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Disclosure of the requested information may encourage motorists to fail to adhere to the speed limit and, as a result, would put lives at risk. Disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the apprehension or prosecution of offenders and interfere with law enforcement. Disclosure would therefore assist those intent on criminal behaviour, i.e. speeding.

Balance test

After considering the factors mentioned above, it has been determined that disclosure of the requested information would not be in the public interest. It is considered that the benefit that would result from the information being disclosed is outweighed by the benefits of withholding the requested information.

Please note that these figures have been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data is 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.

Next steps

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