

11 December 2025

FOI Ref 22234

Request - You asked us the following:

1. Please provide any policies, operational guidance, enforcement criteria, or internal documents held by your force that relate to speed-enforcement thresholds for fixed, mobile, or average-speed cameras.
2. Specifically, please state whether your force adheres to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) speed-tolerance guidance (often described as "10% + 2 mph") or any alternative thresholds used for the purpose of determining when enforcement action is initiated.
3. If exact thresholds are not disclosed to the public for operational reasons, please confirm whether this information is held and, if so, whether the force follows NPCC guidance, uses a different internal tolerance, or enforces strictly at the posted speed limit

We received your request on 11/12/2025 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.

- 1. Please provide any policies, operational guidance, enforcement criteria, or internal documents held by your force that relate to speed-enforcement thresholds for fixed, mobile, or average-speed cameras. – **Withheld, see below exemption.**
- 2. Specifically, please state whether your force adheres to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) speed-tolerance guidance (often described as "10% + 2 mph") or any alternative thresholds used for the purpose of determining when enforcement action is initiated. – **Withheld, see below exemption.**
- 3. If exact thresholds are not disclosed to the public for operational reasons, please confirm whether this information is held and, if so, whether the force follows NPCC guidance, uses a different internal tolerance, or enforces strictly at the posted speed limit – **Withheld, see below exemption.**

The following exemption has been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for 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 presence of speed cameras in Staffordshire has significantly improved road safety. However, releasing information on speed-enforcement thresholds would trigger the law enforcement exemption and would effectively disclose operational details about Staffordshire Police's use of resources to address speeding offences. Such disclosure could reveal camera deployment patterns and monitoring capabilities, which may undermine enforcement strategies. The release of such information would identify camera activity and with it any perceived abilities to monitor such offences. To disclose the exempt information would cause harm to the Police service's ability to protect the public it serves and could prejudice its ability to perform the core function of the prevention and detection of crime.

Public Interest Test

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

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 influence drivers using the road. Disclosure of the information would show that Staffordshire Police support transparency and accountability, also showing that appropriate measures are being taken to improve public safety and reduce offending.

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

Fixed, mobile and average-speed 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 give 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.

Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Information Access Team within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by a Supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Information Access Team will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Supervisor will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team