

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 0248/2009

In reply to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, dated 29/04/2009.

Your request was received as:

Please would you provide detail for the number of 'Notice of Intended Prosecution's' received by your force as a result of police vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit including the value of the fines due as a result of the offence notified on the NIP.

Please also provide details as to how many of these NIP's resulted in a fine being paid or a prosecution and the total value of the fines paid.

The annual figures from 2005 to present will be required.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) requires us to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published, and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

We have completed all searches within Cambridgeshire Constabulary and hereby enclose your response.

>>>We saw your request as asking two separate questions. The first was asking for information about any 'Notice of Prosecutions' (NIP's) sent to Cambridgeshire Constabulary. The second was seeking information about these NIP's that resulted in a fine and details of the fines paid.

We have reviewed your request and have to advise that to extract the information you have requested will require a manual search through all the tickets issued in each of the years requested. Each year we issue many thousands of tickets and it is difficult to be precise about how long it will take to retrieve and review each ticket to see if the vehicle owner was Cambridgeshire Constabulary. From 2005 to date we have issued in excess of 75,000 tickets.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the "appropriate limit". For Police forces in the UK, the "appropriate limit" is considered to be up to 18 hours of work on one request. This information is given in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

As stated above it is difficult to estimate the actual amount of time required to process this request. However based on the estimate of 75,000 tickets issued we would need to manually process these at the rate of more than one ticket per second. This is totally unachievable.

Under Section 16 of the Act a public authority is obliged to provide advice and assistance to a requester. This is especially the case where a request is being refused. In this case because the tickets are not sent to a single point within the constabulary even reducing your request to just one years worth of data we will still have to manually review each ticket. As such to process a single years worth of data will exceed the time available to respond.