



Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2022.0079

I would firstly like to apologise for the delay in responding to your request. This has been due to an exceedingly high volume of requests and resourcing issues which have impacted both upon the Information Disclosure team and the business areas upon whom we rely to supply the information.

On 19 January 2022 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please could you provide me with the following information: A. The amount of speed cameras & red light cameras in Gloucester as well as their location and whether they are active or not. B. The number of cars captured by each camera at each location. C. The highest speed recorded by a speed camera in 2021.

Later on 19 January 2022, for the purposes of clarification, the following was sent to you:

Please confirm if you require information about static cameras only?

If this is the case, the static cameras are run by Gloucestershire County Council and details of these can be found on their website via the following link:

[Fixed Safety Camera Listing - Highways \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/road-safety/fixed-safety-camera-listing-highways)

If this is not the case, please confirm this and I can look into potentially retrieving the information you require.

You responded to the above request on 21 January 2022 saying:

I want to know about static cameras (speed & red light). Thanks to the link you provided I no longer require the locations of each camera, but I would still like to know which ones are active/inactive and the rest of my data requested.

On 25 May 2023, I sent you the following in order to clarify my understanding of your request:

I am writing to you to seek additional clarification.

You have confirmed that you no longer need the locations of the static cameras (speeding and traffic lights) but that you seek the details about which one is active / inactive.

You also confirmed that you want the rest of your request answered. It is that area that I would like to clarify.

You have asked for the number of cars captured by each camera at each location. May I ask if this relates to the calendar year of 2021 or do you have another time frame which you wish to know i.e., the total number of cars who were 'captured' at each camera location since they were installed?

I note the remaining question about the highest speed recorded by a camera in 2021.

On 30 May 2023 you replied as follows:

I would like this data from this year (2023), and the past two calendar years previous.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some information.

This information is exempt by virtue of Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies:

Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

The exemption above is qualified and prejudice based therefore both a Public Interest Test and Harm Test are required.

Harm Test

There's no denying that fixed speed cameras deter members of the public from speeding in the areas that they are located.

Whilst it is the case that as a result of the information previously provided signposting you to where the fixed cameras are located, to provide you with the number of fixed speed cameras located within the Gloucestershire Constabulary policing area that were either actively in operation or not would weaken this deterrent and cause a level of risk based speeding by some. By revealing this information, this would increase the level of potential harm to members of the public, the drivers themselves (and any passengers), especially in the locality of the cameras themselves and would inevitably lead to an increased the workload for police officers and police staff.

Public Interest Test

Factors in Favour of Disclosure

The disclosure of this information would lead to a better awareness for the public of the measures in place within the county to combat speeding motorists.

Factors against Disclosure

The disclosure of information in this amount of detail would compromise the obvious deterrent that fixed speed cameras present in the police force area. This would allow

members of the public to use a risk based approach to determine whether a speed camera was live and would drive up the instances of speeding in the county. This would put members of the public at greater risk and increase the work of police officers trying to combat speeding offences.

Balance Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing equipment, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding tactics and capabilities in order to ensure that the protection of the public is safeguarded. Therefore it is our opinion that the balance of the public interest favours withholding the information.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

Yours sincerely,