



Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.163

On 02/02/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act (date of request 2 February 2023):

1. Is there a speed tolerance on the fixed cameras used in your force area, and if so, what is the tolerance? For example, 10% + 2mph.
2. How many fixed speed cameras are installed in your force area?
3. How many fixed speed cameras in your force area are a) permanently turned on, b) permanently turned off and c) temporarily in use?

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

1. I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary operates on a speed tolerance which are set by the National Chief Officers Guidelines of 10% plus 2.
2. I can confirm that details of the fixed speed cameras operated by Gloucestershire Constabulary can be found on the Gloucestershire County Council 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)

3. 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.

To provide the number of fixed speed cameras located within the Gloucestershire Constabulary policing area that were permanently turned on, permanently turned off and temporarily in use would weaken this deterrent and cause a level of risk based speeding by some. This would increase the level of potential harm to members of the public and increase the workload of Police officers

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,
Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary