

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2278  
Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

### 1. How many speed cameras are there in Scotland? And how many of them are switched on and working?

Please be advised that information regarding speed cameras is publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available via the following link:

[Cameras — Safety Cameras Scotland](#)

### 2. The number of police officers in Scotland.

### 3. The number of local/divisional/traffic officers in Scotland.

**Could these three requests be presented by calendar year for every year of the past six (including this one so far)? Could it also be divided geographically regionally?**

Please be advised that Police Scotland Officer numbers are publicly available on the Police Scotland website.

## OFFICIAL

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available via the following link:

[Police Scotland Officer Numbers - Police Scotland](#)

**4. Any information from all reports, correspondence or communications relating to the decision or threshold a driver must be speeding before a speed camera will trigger or police scotland will decide to prosecute. E.g. If the driver is going 75MPH they won't get a ticketed but if they are going 80 they will.**

In response to this part of your request, I would first of all refer you to the Speeding Standard Operating Procedure (SOP):-

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/gmfjijt/speeding-sop.doc>

The Lord Advocate's Guidelines, which detail enforcement thresholds for speeding are considered exempt and as such I am refusing to provide you with this information. Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) States that it holds the information,
- (b) States that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) Specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) States, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that the information sought is held by Police Scotland and the exemptions I consider applicable are as follows:

### Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

If we were to disclose the information requested above it would severely prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. Accordingly, the information you have requested is exempt.

### Section 39(1) - Health, Safety and the Environment

This information is exempt as its disclosure would or would be likely to endanger the physical health or safety of an individual. If the above information was disclosed it may

## OFFICIAL

encourage road users to commit offences, thereby endangering other road users and pedestrians and render the safety camera ineffective as a road safety measure.

### Public Interest Test

It could be argued that public awareness and accountability would favour disclosure. That said, the application of the exemptions listed above, the efficient/ effective conduct of Police Scotland and overall public safety favour non-disclosure of the information.

On balance it is considered that the public interest in disclosing threshold data is outweighed by the potential consequences to law enforcement and the impact such a release would have on road safety measures.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions. Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.