



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2008-03848

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: HIGHEST SPEED RECORDED IN A POLICE VEHICLE

Request:

Question 1 - For the last financial year 07/08 what was the highest speed that one of your officers was recorded as having travelled in a police vehicle? This could be recorded by any type of speed camera external to the vehicle or any recording internal to the car.

Question 2 - On which stretch of road was the driving recorded and what was the make and model of the vehicle?

Question 3 - Was any disciplinary action taken against the officer involved? If so what was the outcome of the case?

Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Answer 1 - No details are available for speeds of police vehicles, as they are not required to be recorded on a day-to-day basis. Each vehicle has a 'black box' which records data concerning the vehicle, however, this is not downloaded on a day-to-day basis, but only in certain circumstances such as being involved in a road traffic accident. To obtain the highest speed of a police vehicle, would therefore require the entire Police Service of Northern Ireland's fleet to have their black boxes downloaded which would require weeks of work placing the request over the appropriate fees level of £450, as specified by the Secretary of State. The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not have a facility to check fixed penalty notices issued for speed violations whilst on duty which have been paid by individual officers as the notice goes out to them in their own name and does not refer to the fact they are police. However, the Police Service of Northern Ireland have been able to provide the highest speed recorded for which the fixed penalty notice was cancelled either under our statutory exemption (Art 42 of The Road Traffic Regulation (NI) Order 1997 or other criteria. The recorded speed was 115mph as part of a supervised Advance Driving Course It should be noted that before a notice is cancelled, each case is examined and confirmation obtained that the criteria for cancellation is met.

Answer 2 - A26, Ballymoney, in a Rover 75 MG Z T.

Answer 3 - Not Applicable as the recorded speed of 115mph was part of a supervised Advance Driving Course.

The Professional Standards Department of the PSNI is responsible for internal discipline relating to police officers. During the financial year 2007/2008 no police officer was formally disciplined (appeared before a misconduct panel) as a consequence of speeding in a police vehicle.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this email.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that all PSNI replies under Freedom of Information will be released simultaneously into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk.

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.