



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2009-01471

**Keyword:** Road Policing

**Subject:** POLICE VEHICLES DETECTED SPEEDING 2005 - 2009

### Request and Answer:

#### Question 1

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.

#### Question 2

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

#### Answer

To provide the information requested in questions 1 & 2(a) would be in excess of the 'appropriate limit' as stated in the Freedom of Information Regulations 2004, which is currently set by the Secretary of State at £450 (18hrs). In order to ascertain the number of 'Notice of Intended Prosecution's' received by Safety Camera Scheme as a result of police vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit including the value of fines due as a result of the offence notified on the NIP, tickets would have to be manually trawled for the 5 year period. Fixed Penalty Processing Centre (FPPC) would need a list of every operational 'on duty' vehicle registration mark, associated to the N.I. Police Estate, used over those 5 years. In addition there are those officers (detectives and plain clothed officers) using private vehicles whilst on duty which would also come under this search criteria. The FPPC's computer system's method of 'block tracing' is based on Vehicle Record/Mark Identification Details and not Driver/Employment characteristics. Although this exercise could be undertaken it would be very labour intensive as there would be over 52,600 cases for the period requested. To locate and extract all police vehicle related notices, would take more than 2,634hrs, which is in excess of the appropriate fees limit as determined by the Secretary of State at £450 (18hrs).

However, the PSNI's Professional Standards Department has been able to provide information regarding police officers who have been convicted of speeding whilst driving police vehicles within the appropriate limit.

From the information supplied to PSD the following details relate to police officers who have been convicted of speeding whilst driving police vehicles:

2005 calendar year - nil

2006 calendar year - 2 officers detected and fined a total £350

2007 calendar year - 1 officer detected and fined £150

2008 calendar year - nil

2009 to 29.4.09 (date request received) - nil

It should be noted that the figures relate to the year of detection and not conviction. Conviction may not necessarily fall within the same year as detection.

Whilst the Service takes extremely seriously any allegation of wrongdoing, the number of cases must be put into context of the overall number of PSNI officers i.e. just under 9000 at the date of your request.

The PSNI have also considered if it would be possible to refine your request in relation to question 1 & 2(a) to bring it within the appropriate limit, however, due to the nature of the information requested, this would not be possible.

If you have any queries regarding your request or this 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](mailto: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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.psni.police.uk>

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