



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-02419

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: SPEED DETECTIONS - CROSSNACREEVY - 24 JULY 2009

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Speed Detection Van was parked on the footway rear doors open towards Ballygowan direction in close proximity to the junction of Houston Rd/Ballygowan Road Crossnacreevy. I contend that your vehicle was parked illegally while detecting offences of other road users. Under Freedom of Information legislation please advise me of the number of detections made by your officers at that location on the date concerned and any other dates this location site was used for detection purposes while they committed a parking offence.

Answer

Enforcement at this location is carried out in direct response to complaints from the public and is termed a "Community concern" site under the Safety Camera Scheme handbook rules. Police have confirmed that the local District Policing Partnership (DPP) and Commander are in agreement with the need for enforcement at this site.

Art 4(g) of the Roads (Restriction of Waiting) Order (NI) 1982 provides an exemption for vehicles used for police purposes, from parking restrictions. In addition there is no specific offence of parking on a footpath. The van was parked off the road and partially on the footpath - but not obstructing the footpath for pedestrians or drivers exiting from Houston Rd - this location is the only suitable and safe location to park this vehicle to operate at this site.

On 24/7/09 3 vehicles were detected well in excess of the 30 mph limit in this area. Records show that from March to July 2009 inclusive, 34 speeding detections have been made in this area by the Safety Camera Van (SCV). Again I reiterate that the police vehicle was not parked illegally.

Question 2

Please further advise me if the Police Service of Northern Ireland intend to continue with these promotions in the circumstance.

Answer

This area will continue to be monitored by the SCV given the numbers of detections and the high speeds involved in this 30 mph residential area.

Question 3

Also advise me of the training and supervision of civilian personnel performing such tasks on behalf of the PSNI.

Answer

All SCV personnel are trained by the PSNI Traffic and Driver Training Unit, both in the use of the detection equipment and in the driving and safe parking of the vehicle. SCV staff are supervised on a daily basis by the Duty Sergeant and are detailed specific routes and locations for enforcement each day. Excess Speed continues to be one of the major causation factors in all fatal and serious injury collisions and on this basis we continue to enforce speed limits in an effort to make Northern Ireland's roads safer for all road users as well as meeting the needs of local communities who request

the SCV's assistance through their local DPP and written complaints.

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 PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnipolice.uk

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