



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2012-00356

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Safety Camera Saintfield Road

Request and Answer:

I am writing to confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has now completed its search for the information and the answers to your questions are as follows.

Question 1

State why photograph 1 which is view of car closest to camera is very much darker than the following two photographs.

Question 2

Explain why if they are from the same camera why photo 1 appears underexposed and very much darker such that 3 parallel lines perpendicular to footpath cannot be observed and photograph 2 and 3 seem normal with three lines obvious.

Question 3

State why there are no date and time data during event are recorded on photographs supplied to me.

Question 4

State if the time data is being deliberately withheld with a view that victim will be intimidated into paying money to AA Drivetech Plc a subsidiary of AA Plc which is run by cronies of an ex traffic policeman of Thames Valley Police Force.

Answer to questions 1- 4

The fixed speed detection device on the Saintfield Road has 2 camera heads. One for the close up shot and the other for the distance shots. This may go some way to explaining the variation in exposure you refer to.

The sequence of 3 photographs previously supplied to you, are generated in this format by the back office system and the occurrence details are printed on the side. The processing staff simply printed off this electronic document. However I have asked our technicians to interrogate the system in an effort to extract additional information which may be of assistance to you and I attach a copy.

Question 5

State for the record how the PSNI and PSNI FOI can prove the 1st photograph comes from same

sequence as 2 and 3 above.

Answer

Photo 1 is taken to prove the vehicle VRM. Photos 2 and 3 are the images used to prove the speeding offence. The secondary checks by back office staff have satisfied us that the vehicle in image 1 is the same as in 2 and 3 due to the similarity of the vehicle make and model plus the rear fog lights illuminated and a white rectangular shape in bottom left of rear windscreen. The images recorded in this particular violation file are encrypted prior to transmission to the fixed penalty system server, consequently could not possibly be altered or edited by Fixed Penalty staff and are only viewable for the purposes of secondary checks.

The PSNI FOI Unit's role is to adhere to the FOI legislation in relation requests for recorded information.

Question 6

Please state for the record how in photograph 1 in light of fact Cumiskey states camera was "functioning normally" that white line c 1m behind RH side of car YTO8HAU has clearly identifiable black marks on it yet less than 0.5 seconds later no marks appear on any of the white lines.

Answer

Image 1 is a close-up image with greater details visible. Images 2 and 3 are further away consequently the detail is reduced.

Question 7

State in a rational scientific logical way how this can happen. Answers involving apparitions shape shifting and black holes and rapid erosion will not be accepted.

Answer

The PSNI does not hold recorded information in relation to the above query.

Question 8

State the time between photograph 1, 2 and 3 since Cumiskey clearly knows it and has identified it from the records in the absence of the ACPO Code of Practice which was withdrawn.

Answer

In Inspector Cumiskey's original response he merely confirmed the system was within calibration and functioning normally. Calibration certificates can be obtained under Disclosure Rules for court purposes.

Question 9

State precisely when ACPO COP was withdrawn and why?

Answer

The PSNI does not hold recorded information in relation to the above query.

Question 10

Photograph 1 (by deduction the closest photograph) supplied does not show where the start position is calculated, state it.

Answer

The PSNI does not hold recorded information in relation to the above query.

Question 11

Photograph 2 and 3 does not show how the Fixed Penalty Processing Unit calculates the distance or any indication of the time between photographs. Provide all information available. NB from Form 2

Physics Velocity is measured by distance divided by time.

Answer

The speed of the subject vehicle is calculated as a result of the car wheels triggering the detection loops on the road surface. These are positioned at a fixed distance of 1 metre apart and there is then a time/distance algorithm applied which is qualified by means of a secondary check performed by fixed penalty staff.

Question 12

State if it is PSNI policy to endanger the health and safety of innocent civilians?

Answer

The PSNI does not hold recorded information in relation to the above query as we do not have a policy to endanger the health and safety of innocent civilians.

Question 13

Q20 is unhelpful. 0.012777777 is meaningless. Is it ft per second or m s⁻¹ or miles per second? State answer in m s⁻¹ and m s⁻³

Answer

The answer is in miles per second.

Question 14

Since "No Records" are available in PSNI and no ACPO Code of Practice 2004 because it was "withdrawn some time ago" and "replacement guidance has nit yet been published" how do Fixed Penalty processing Unit know they are operating properly in analyzing photographs if not under ACPO Code of Practice?

Answer

The fixed penalty processing office continue to apply the principles outlined in the ACPO Code of Practice 2004 in respect of back office secondary checks. The induction training covers the requirements to ensure that the vehicle registration mark is clearly readable and the location, time and speed are recorded against each detection.

Question 15

State when and for what reason ACPO Code of Practice was withdrawn?

Answer

This is a duplicate of question 9, please refer to response provided to question 9.

Question 16

State when ACPO Plc will provide a code of Practice regarding Speed Camera 111115200008 and how it is to be set up, calibrated and used and the results analysed?

Answer

The PSNI does not hold recorded information in relation to the above query.

Question 17

In light of the fact the ACPO Code of Practice was "withdrawn some time ago" demonstrate how T/Inspector Cumiskey can verify that camera was within calibration and functioning normally eg. Did he guess he was observing all necessary information to ascertain if the device was functioning properly and was being used under ACPO COP.

Answer

T/Inspector Cumiskey responded to a written question submitted outside of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. The FOIA only applies to **recorded information held** by a public authority.

He made a specific query to the manufacturer of the camera (who is also responsible for maintenance and calibration) to ascertain that the camera was within calibration and appeared to be functioning correctly.

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 letter.

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.