



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-05518

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Speed Detections At Warrenpoint

Request and Answer:

Question 1

Details of the number of speed detections at Newry Road, Warrenpoint for the twelve month period ending on 1st September 2014, or alternatively, the latest 12 month period for which figures are available.

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.

The number of speeding detection by the PSNI on the Newry Road, Warrenpoint

The number of speeding detections by the PSNI on the Newry Road, Warrenpoint for the period October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014 is 25 and the number of detections by the N.I. Road Safety Partnership is 241.

Question 2

The number of fixed penalty notices and/or summonses issued for speeding on the same road during the same period of time.

Answer

Of the 25 speeding detections by the PSNI 9 resulted in the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice. The number of speeding detections by the N.I. Road Safety Partnership which resulted in the issue of a Fixed penalty notice is 101.

N.B. The Fixed Penalty figures are a subset of the total detections.

N.B. All figures are provisional and subject to change.

Question 3

The amount of revenue raised by the PSNI and/or the Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership for speeding detections at the same location and during the same period, under the fixed penalty scheme.

Answer

The PSNI do not collect the revenue for paid Fixed Penalty Notices, this is a function of the N.I. Court Service.

Question 4

Any code of practice, guidelines or instructions issued to members of the PSNI, concerning the exercise of discretion on whether to prosecute or issue a fixed penalty notice for speeding infringements.

Answer

Please see the details on page numbered 1 below.

Question 5

Any policy guidelines issued by the PSNI relating to any tolerance level to be allowed in the decision whether to prosecute or not when excess speed is detected.

Answer

The PSNI operate a policy for speed enforcement that complies with ACPO guidelines, namely that no enforcement should occur below a threshold of the speed limit plus 10% + 2mph. Motorists found breaching this threshold will be given the opportunity to avail of a fixed penalty notice as an alternative to prosecution. However, motorists who are found to be +30mph above the speed limit will automatically be subject to a prosecution and a subsequent court appearance.

Question 6

Any guidelines, directions or instructions issued to PSNI members by the Sub-Divisional Commander for the Newry and Mourne area and/or by the Police Traffic Branch for the prosecution of speeding offenders detected at Newry Road, Warrenpoint.

Answer

No such guidelines or instruction have been issued other than those detailed at question 5 above.

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.psni.police.uk

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

confidentiality.

Enforcing road traffic offences

Assistant Chief Constable Stephen Martin has informed the Policing Board that from September 5th a number of road traffic offences will automatically result in a fixed penalty notice.

Speaking about the new changes he explained: "You will all be aware of the tragic and concerning increase in road deaths this year - 54 people have died in just over 8 months and the reality is this number is likely to increase before we reach the end of 2014. Our approach to road safety has always been twofold; education and enforcement. We need to do everything we can to make people understand that their actions can have serious consequences. We have spent considerable resources, along with our partner agencies, educating people on road safety and we will continue to do this. However, we also need to make sure that unsafe drivers are held accountable and at times this will mean an increased focus on enforcement.

From Friday 5th September 2014, the offences of:

- Failure to wear a seatbelt
- Using a mobile phone whilst driving
- Exceeding the speed limit

should not be dealt with by Discretionary Disposals. If road users are not wearing a seatbelt, or if they are using a mobile phone whilst driving then a Fixed Penalty Notice should be issued. If the offence detected is speeding and if the speed exceeds the normal enforcement threshold then a Fixed Penalty Notice should be issued. If the speed is 30mph or more above the posted speed limit a prosecution is required.

"Every interaction with a member of the public is a chance to promote our road safety message. Please use the opportunity to let them know that the increase in deaths on our roads is something we should all be worried about, but more importantly, is something we can all do something about. Tell the motorist that you want everyone to wear their seatbelt, ignore the mobile phone and drive within the speed limits and that we will issue Fixed Penalty Notices or take to court those who breach these traffic laws. Please ensure that in all these encounters you reinforce our core values of courtesy and respect."