



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2015-00315

Keyword: Road Policing

Subject: Speed Cameras

Request and Answer:

Question 1

I would like to know how much all the fixed average speed cameras on the Belfast to Bangor Carriageway cost in total - in terms of the purchasing of them and their fitting. I would like to know how much the maintenance contract for these cameras costs the tax payer. I would like to know how often these cameras operate - not exact dates but an example could be that they are on once a month...I just want to be sure the tax payer is getting value for money because I see many people speeding past me on the way to work and unless the PSNI is making a mint from these cameras then they are rarely on!

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 A2 Speed Enforcement Camera System (SPECS) was installed at a cost of £740,279 with annual maintenance costs of £39,000. The maintenance costs are met from the fines paid by speeding motorists. It is a fundamental principle that the NI Road Safety Partnership (NIRSP) is a self-funding scheme meaning that it is the offender who pays, not the general tax paying public. The cameras generally operate on a 24/7 basis. As the cameras work on an average basis some vehicles may be perceived as speeding, but they then may either turn off the road or stop, resulting in a low recorded average speed.

In the 4 years preceding the installation of the SPECS system there were a total of 5 fatal collisions with a further 30 serious injury collisions. In the 4 years after their installation, these figures dropped to nil fatal collisions and 10 serious injury crashes. The cost to the economy of each fatal collision is estimated to be £1.9 million (official UK Government statistic). With no significant changes to the A2 road infrastructure during this time, it could be strongly argued that the SPECS system has more than paid for itself in terms of a cost benefit analysis.

Question 2

I would also like to ask what percentage of police time is spent out with the speed camera van or officers with radar gun in the Bangor and North Down area. I would like to know also what % of money is spent on this particular area in North Down...That's including camera vans, officers with radar speed gun and fixed average speed cameras - please break these costs down.

Answer

The breakdown of time requested is not cost coded and as such we are unable to advise what the cost would have been. We are not required to create information to provide a response so the PSNI are unable to provide the information on the cost you are seeking.

By way of assistance in this case I can advise that speed enforcement in NI is undertaken by PSNI and separately by the NI Road Safety Partnership (NIRSP). The activity by the NIRSP in the North Down policing area can be summarised as 180 deployments at sites in the NDOW Policing Area totalling 226 hours. However, the total cost of deployment of the camera vans is not captured under a specific cost code.

Question 3

I'd then like the national cost of policing speed across NI and a grand total. That's the running of all the fixed speed cameras, camera vans and officers with radar guns. A break down on police time to this task if possible may also be helpful to my research.

Answer

The breakdown requested is not cost coded and as such we are unable to advise what the cost would have been. We are not required to create information to provide a response and the PSNI are unable to say what the cost you are seeking would have been.

I can inform you that the NIRSP has undertaken 3,247 deployments throughout 2014 totalling 4,993 hours.

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.