



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2019-00296

**Keyword:** Road Policing

**Subject:** Fixed Speed Cameras Bangor To Belfast And Belfast To Bangor Road

### Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold some information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you. We further consider the information you seek in request numbers 6 and 7 are exempt by virtue of section 30 of FOIA and have detailed our rationale as to why this exemption applies. We have also provided you with links to guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office which we have followed in responding to your request.

### Request 1

Please provide the following information in relation to the Fixed Speed Cameras on the Bangor to Belfast & Belfast to Bangor Road. Please provide details of the specification of the current speed camera system operating on this road?

### Answer

SPECS 3 Vector, the specifications of which can be viewed on the manufacturers web-site:

<https://www.jenoptik.co.uk/product/specs>

### Request 2

Please provide details of the entry and exit camera for this stretch of road travelling in each direction?

### Answer

For Bangor bound traffic the entry point is Holywood with the exit point being situated at Dicksons Garden Centre in Bangor. For Belfast bound traffic vice-versa applies.

### Request 3

Do these cameras cover all four lanes of traffic? If not please give details of which lanes are covered?

### Answer

Yes

#### **Request 4**

Do these cameras and the structure they are held on require planning permission?

#### **Answer**

No.

#### **Request 5**

If yes please provide copies of the planning approval for these structures/cameras?

#### **Answer**

N/A

#### **Request 6**

How many cameras are installed on this stretch of road?

#### **Request 7**

How many of these installed cameras are operational?

#### **Answer to Requests 6 and 7**

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states that fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemptions, as well as the factors the Department considered when deciding where the public interest lies, are listed below:

**Section 30 (1) Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities** - Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it has at any time been held by the authority for the purposes of –

- (a) Any investigation which the public authority has a duty to conduct with a view to it being ascertained (i) whether a person should be charged with an offence, or (ii) whether a person charged with an offence is guilty of it
- (b) Any investigation which is conducted by the authority and in the circumstances may lead to a decision by the authority to institute criminal proceedings which the authority has the power to conduct, or
- (c) Any criminal proceedings, which the authority has the power to conduct

The full text of exemptions can be found at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk) and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

**Section 30** is a class based qualified exemption and consideration must be given as to whether there is a public interest in disclosure.

#### **Public Interest Test**

##### Factors Favouring Disclosure - Section 30

The release of such information would provide an insight into the police service and enable the public to have better understanding of the effectiveness of the police in this case with specific regard to the enforcement of speed limits. Disclosure could promote public trust in providing transparency, demonstrating openness and accountability by the PSNI.

##### Factors favouring retention- Section 30

The release of such information would prejudice the operational capabilities of the Northern Ireland

Road Safety Partnership to enforce legal speed limits.

### **Decision**

I am satisfied that in this case the public interest factors favouring retention of the information sought in Requests 6 and 7 outweigh those favouring release as the interests in accountability can rarely defeat the interests of public safety in the enforcement of speed limits on our roads.

### **Request 8**

Please give details of what images/information these cameras record?

### **Answer**

When a vehicle is detected exceeding the permitted speed limit, another camera takes a photo of the vehicle and a close up image of the number plate. Any information about vehicles that have not exceeded the speed limit is immediately and permanently deleted.

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](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 @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

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