

SAFETY CAMERA PUBLICATION SCHEME

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, public authorities have to produce a Publication Scheme. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) set up a National Team to develop a Model Publication Scheme that all 44 Forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can use. In consultation with this team, key areas of information that the public may request from Safety Camera Partnerships have been identified.

The aim of the Publication Scheme is to set out:

- What information Safety Camera Partnerships publish or intend to publish as a matter of course
- How they may publish this information
- Whether the information will be available free of charge or on payment of a fee
- What classes of information will not be published.

NATIONAL SAFETY CAMERA PUBLICATION SCHEME

The categories of information listed below will be made available to the public. The breakdown of information indicates the most common format that information will be provided in, and some indication of cost. However, it must be noted that each Partnership will be responsible for deciding the most appropriate format of the data provided, and also for determining what charges, if any, are to be levied based on the amount of time it takes to collate the information. As such the details listed under 'Availability' and 'Cost' are guides only.

Who's Who & Where	<p>Details of the Partnership organisational structure and key personnel. This will include, as a minimum, the senior management team and provide postal address and contact details for the Partnership.</p> <p>Availability: Website Cost: Free</p>
What Are Our Aims, Objectives & Plans?	<p>In this class of information Partnership documents are published. They provide information on the strategic aims, objectives and plans of the Partnerships and include Operational Case documentation.</p> <p>In addition, links to useful websites that give further relevant information are provided (Partners Strategic Plans, DfT Safety Camera Handbook etc).</p> <p>Availability: Website Cost: Free</p>

Partnership Annual Report (where relevant)

Annual report – current report published proactively, and historic reports published on request.

Availability: Website or post

Cost: Free

Partnership Policies

Policies relating to the deployment of Partnership operations. It should be noted that some of the material in this category contains exempt information which, in the public interest, should not be published. Where this occurs the material will clearly show where information has been withheld and explain what exemption has been applied and why. Typically information may be withheld if its release would compromise the health and safety of staff, investigations & proceedings and speed or red-light enforcement more generally.

Availability: Website

Cost: Free

Statement of Accounts 2002/03

The most recent Statement of Accounts which shows how the Partnership spent its money in the last financial year. This will be published proactively. Partnerships will also provide historic Statements of Accounts, either proactively or on request. The accounts are approved by the Partnership Treasurer and external auditors appointed by the Audit Commission, and are compiled in accordance with current legislation and guidance.

Statements of accounts will not be provided prior to the audit, and may be exempt if the Partnership intends to publish the information at a future date.

Availability: Website

Cost: Free

Meeting Minutes

The 'open' session of ratified minutes of formal Partnership decision making meetings will be published. They contain discussions on key strategic issues under consideration and primary decisions relating to resource and budgetary matters. The 'closed' session of the minutes are not available under this publication scheme. They contain information of a confidential and sensitive nature, e.g. personnel, operational, security matters and commercial interests. Closed sections should, however, annotate why each item included in the that section was determined to be non-disclosable and identify which FOI exemption is applicable.

Details of approved open session minutes may be available on Partnership websites. Minutes are only available to the public once they have been accepted as a true record in a subsequent meeting.

Availability: Website

Cost: Free

How Are We Doing?

Information relating to Partnership performance with respect to reductions in casualties and speeds on our roads, as well as to how well Partnerships are supported by the general public.

Information will include:

- Benchmark casualty and speed data for all sites/routes (release proactively)
- Regular reports on casualty improvements and speed checks (release proactively);
- Long-term trends (release on request)
- Specific group casualties (release on request)
- Results of public surveys (release proactively).

Availability: Website or post

Cost: Most information will be provided free of charge but for requests that require lengthy searches some charges may apply.

Information that will not be released, under classified exemption, from FOI:

A. The following categories of information are likely to be exempt **because they could jeopardise the operational effectiveness of camera enforcement**, and thus fall under the Exemption as outlined in Section 31 of the FOI Act - Law Enforcement – Section A and B:

i. Specific enforcement thresholds applied by a Partnership.

This category of information will be exempted nationally because of the concern that the information contains working practices that, if known, would have an impact on operational policing." Following application of the public interest test in September 2004 ACPO concluded that: "*It is considered that the public interest in disclosing Force speeding thresholds is outweighed by the potential consequences to law enforcement and the impact of such a release on road safety measures and consequently the safety of the public at large.*"

ii. Site specific information that includes:

- the level of use of a single site – e.g. Numbers of offences detected at a single site, hours of enforcement time at a site, revenue generated on a site-specific basis;

- Operational programme of fixed camera sites, and prioritisation of all sites
- Detailed programme for mobile camera routes (regular programmes may be released by those Partnerships that hold this information but this should not be too detailed or it could jeopardise casualty reduction).

The Exemption applicable is again Section 31 Law Enforcement (Section A and B). The concern is that the information contains working practices that, if known, would have an impact on operational policing. The ACPO decision reads as follows: "*It is considered that the public interest in disclosing site specific data at this level is outweighed by the potential consequences to law enforcement and the impact of such a release on road safety measures.*"

B. The following categories of information will generally be exempt because they fall under the **Data Protection Act 1998**:

- i. Personal data, including actual salaries of individual staff members
- ii. Information relating to other peoples' offences.

C. Certain other types of information may be exempt because they fall under **other exemptions provided for in the FOI Act**: This includes:

- i. information that is relevant to an ongoing police investigation or to legal action (exempt under Section 30, Investigations);
- ii. information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant elsewhere or by other means (Section 21)
- iii. Information that may endanger the safety of members of the Partnership or threaten the security of its assets (Section 38 – Health and Safety).

D. Information that is **due to be published** by a Partnership in the future may be exempt under the conditions laid out in Section 22 of the Act.