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Our Ref: FOI2018/05721

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/05721

I write in connection with your request for information received on 9th October. I note you seek access to the following information:

I wish to make a Freedom of Information request for the following information:

- 1) The number of vehicle speed monitoring exercises conducted by Hertfordshire Constabulary using static and mobile monitoring equipment on Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4RF for the years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.**
- 2) The complete results of the vehicle speed monitoring exercises conducted by Hertfordshire Constabulary using static and mobile monitoring equipment on Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 4RF for the years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.**
- 3) Details of any action(s) taken by Hertfordshire Constabulary following vehicle speed monitoring exercises using static and mobile monitoring equipment on Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead HP2 4RF for the years: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017**

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response – Hertfordshire Constabulary can confirm that it holds information in relation to your request however, I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested. Such information is exempt under the following exemption:

Section 31 – Law Enforcement

The Section 31 exemption is a class based qualified exemption. This means that the legislators when writing the legislation considered that the release of such information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 would cause harm to the public authority or individual concerned. There is therefore no requirement to carry out a HARM Test in respect of such information. However there is a requirement to carry out a Public Interest Test in order to establish whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption may be outweighed by a wider public benefit in disclosure.

Application of the prejudice test

Traffic surveys are conducted by Hertfordshire Constabulary as part of a process to enable locations to be assessed and prioritised in regard to speed enforcement activity. The results would be considered in conjunction with the number of recorded traffic collisions that involved injury, so that risk can be assessed and those at highest risk prioritised for enforcement activity.

The survey results are operational information to allow resources to be targeted at the sites of most risk. If all speed traffic survey results were released into the public domain it would undermine their purpose which is to ensure resource is targeted at areas where the public are most at risk of harm.

This is because it would identify which sites are most at risk of harm and therefore, those that are not likely to be prioritised for speed enforcement. The publication of this information could result in further problems at the sites which cannot be prioritised as it will become known that the site is not subject to enforcement. Although there may be concerns by local residents of a problem in their area this has to be taken into consideration with problems across the county as there is only a finite amount of resource that has to be targeted at the highest risk locations.

Public Interest Test

Factors in favour of disclosure

The public have a legitimate interest in speed data activity carried out by the Police.

Factors in favour of non-disclosure

The information requested is used to determine risk of each area of concern, disclosure of this information would risk the safety of the public as it would indicate the highest risk sites and allow identification of those sites that will not be subject to enforcement activity.

The data is captured in order to allow the Constabulary to target resources as effectively as possible and disclosure of the information would indicate those sites that will not be subject to enforcement. This would harm the road safety process rather than assist it as it could result in more traffic travelling faster at a location which is not subject to speed enforcement.

This could result in more crime being committed and place a further strain on limited police resources.

Balance Test

After consideration of the factors of the public interest test I have determined that they are weighed in favour of non-disclosure. Looking at the most important factors of the test it was clear the public interest in the force's ability to target resource effectively and prevent further offences being committed, significantly outweighs the public interest in speed survey data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
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Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.