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Our Ref: FOI2019/03080

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/03080

I write in connection with your request for information received on 8th May. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please could you furnish me with the reasons why 1024 Tickets issued on the A1081 South-West Bound were cancelled between 24th June 2018 and the date the information was compiled for my previous request.

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.

Response – Following enquiries conducted by Bedfordshire Police and the Cameras, Tickets and Collisions Unit please see our response in the table below: -

Cancellation Reasons	Number of FPN's
Statutory Time Limit Expired	236
Driver or Owner or Keeper Not Traced	58
Insufficient evidence to proceed to court	1
Court not proceeding	515
Mitigation accepted	6
Operator error	41
Emergency Vehicle	2
Stolen or Cloned or False Plates	16

Any further information held by Bedfordshire Police in relation to your request, however, I am not obliged to supply some of the information you have requested as such information is exempt under the exemption below: -

Section 31 (1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

The Section 31 exemption is a prejudice based qualified exemption which requires the prejudice (harm) to be evidenced and a public interest test to be carried out. This means it can only be used if the public interest test favours non-disclosure.

Section 31(1) of the Act provides:

Law Enforcement

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice: -

- (a) The prevention or detection of crime,
- (b) The apprehension or prosecution of offenders,

Application of the prejudice test

Disclosure of all speeding ticket cancellations would harm the force's operational and enforcement ability by allowing those intent on committing road traffic offences and crime to identify police procedures and assist them in avoiding detection, putting communities at risk of crime and therefore, increasing the fear of crime within Bedfordshire.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure - section 31

There is a public interest in the transparency of policing matters and disclosure of all speeding ticket cancellations would improve public confidence regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of such policing matters.

Factors favouring non-disclosure - section 31

Disclosure of all speeding ticket cancellations would mean that individuals could look to undermine this process. To disclose the strengths and any possible weaknesses of this process would compromise law enforcement tactics which could lead to more offences and crime being committed and individuals being placed at risk. It may also be used by criminals in combination with other information they have gathered to try and prejudice law enforcement.

Access to this information could be used by individuals or groups, who are intent on criminal activity, to identify and exploit the limitations of these resources, thus hindering the prevention and detection of crime and increasing the risk to public safety.

Balance Test

Whilst there is a strong public interest in how public money is being spent and how the Police service engages with its law enforcement role Bedfordshire Police has a duty to deliver effective law enforcement. Criminal elements could use this information to undermine our law enforcement functions. The Police service will not divulge any information which could hinder the prevention and detection of Road Traffic Offences & crime and also adversely impact on the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. The Service has a duty to protect the community it serves and needs to use exemptions appropriately to protect information if the release of that information would have an adverse impact on the community. Although there is public interest in knowing why and how some 'speeding tickets' are evaluated there is a greater public interest in ensuring that any form of offending including criminal activities are both detected and prevented so ensuring the safety and well-being of the public. I am therefore satisfied that in respect of this request the public interest lies in not disclosing the information in part concerning the crime evaluation and solvability assessment guidelines'.

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

Yours sincerely

Gary Maxey
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Bedfordshire Police 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 Bedfordshire Police 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.