



**SUFFOLK
CONSTABULARY**
Taking pride in keeping Suffolk safe

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003424-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 23 September 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“My first question relates to how the Camera Safety Van and Community Road Watch operators are deployed? Do they have to be deployed to target specific roads that are identified as collision hotspots, where there are a number of complaints, or is there some other form of criteria?

Secondly, I would like to seek reassurance in relation to some of the practices that I have observed being undertaken by the Camera Safety and Community Road Watch personnel.

Therefore, could the policy be clarified as to the following;

- 1. Are the staff permitted to operate from private land?*
- 2. Are the staff permitted to undertake any form of concealment, or should they be clearly visible to the motorist?*
- 3. Do they need to form the opinion that the vehicle is speeding before activating the device, or is every vehicle randomly checked?*
- 4. What is the distance from a change of speed limit are they allowed to operate a speed device that is facing that direction? For example we were not permitted to use radar / laser within 0.2 miles of change of speed limit, as you could not guarantee/ prove the point of reading / offence was within the restriction due to the range of the device.”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 2 October 2019

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

1. Suffolk Constabulary speed camera vans attend areas where either data tells us there is a speeding problem, consideration to the number of road traffic collisions or where there have been concerns raised from the public.

Community Speedwatch are volunteers who can request to set up a Speedwatch in their own villages and they must operate on a 30mph limit road.

2. The Constabulary can operate from private land provided that we have permission of the land owner.



There is nothing written in law to state they have to be clearly visible however, the speed operators will have a van, tripod and hi-vis. Speed operators will not be hidden behind hedges as the cameras point in a straight line.

3. The operator forms the opinion a vehicle is speeding prior to triggering the camera.
4. The Constabulary gives drivers 100 metres from the change of speed limit as a courtesy, but this is not the law, cars should be at the correct speed limit from the moment they pass the speed limit sign.

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Suffolk Constabulary is not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.



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Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 working days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700