

Our ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Highways England
2nd Floor
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford GU1 4LZ

17 May 2017

[REDACTED]

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 14 April 2017. In that request, you asked us for various data relating to the Average Speed Cameras on the M4 from Junction 4 to Junction 1 under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below your questions and our answers:

Are these cameras live? If yes when did they go live? If no when will they go live? I would like the go live date confirmed

The new cameras are due to become operational shortly, once installation, testing and commissioning has been completed. However, this does not prevent the police from enforcing limits in the meantime.

Are the camera in sets of 3 or 4? Are they in pairs? How many sets are there? (Do they measure speed at point A and point B or do they measure between point A, B and C).

It varies. The average speed is calculated between each successive camera. The cameras are being installed in both directions on the 40 mph speed limit section between junction 1, at Chiswick, and the end of the elevated section between junction 2 and junction 3, for Heston and also on the Londonbound 60mph speed limit section between junction 3 and the elevated section.

If you are unable to answer the specifics please tell me who manages the cameras?

Highways England.

What is the distance between the cameras?

Please see Appendix 1 attached.

Are the camera's calibrated? Do the average speed camera's each have a calibration certificate?

Yes.

To better understand the cameras and how they work, what is the model / make / description?

Average speed cameras, similar type as elsewhere on Highways England network.

Are these camera permanent? If no, when will they be removed?

Permanent.

Why have they been installed? What is the purpose of the cameras?

As part of our ongoing commitment to safety we are upgrading this section of the M4 from 'spot' speed cameras to average speed cameras. The existing cameras use outdated wet film processing which needs to be replaced and average speed cameras over a longer distance are much more effective in achieving speed compliance. We are not making any changes to the speed limits, and the use of cameras to enforce the speed limit is not new either. The installation of average speed cameras is simply a technological improvement to this stretch of the M4. Average speed cameras have been shown to encourage a better level of compliance with speed limits. They also help to reduce frustrating stop-start congestion by encouraging drivers to maintain a constant speed over longer distances compared to spot cameras. They are also safer and less disruptive to operate and maintain than the cameras they replace.

Where else might the public be able to read about these newly installed cameras?

The cameras are yellow in colour and will have clear signage so that drivers know they are there.

Are you able to reveal the cost for the installation of these new cameras?

The estimated cost of the scheme is £1.8M as we are still in the process of agreeing compensation events.

Are you able to reveal how often they will be maintained and the costs of maintenance?

The current additional annual average maintenance costs is £17,000. This will need to be reviewed in line with the latest design, but we do not expect this to vary too much.

Has there been a forecast of the revenue these cameras might earn through the issuing of speed tickets?

This is a matter for the Police, not Highways England.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at:

[REDACTED]

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on [REDACTED] or e-mail [REDACTED]. You should contact me if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number [REDACTED] in any future communications.

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