

Our ref: CRS 755,242
Your ref:

Highways England
Second Floor
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

via email

Direct Line:

21 September 2017

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST M40 JUNCTIONS 1 - 1A - SPEED ENFORCEMENT

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 10 September.

Your request relates to speed enforcement cameras that are currently in place on the M40 near Uxbridge. I have extracted your requests from your email and respond as follows:

1. When these works began officially and what the original end date was set out to be?

Work to maintain lighting and replace safety barriers on the M40 started on 5 June. All work will be completed by 29 September, subject to weather conditions.

2. When are they due to be finished?

Maintenance work is expected to be completed on 29 September as originally planned.

3. Please can you explain why they have been put there in the first place? The road signs refer to some kind of maintenance work but there is little evidence of this going on.

In order that we can install new lighting columns, we have had to remove several sections of safety barrier so that we can get construction equipment into the central reserve. As the safety barrier is incomplete and cannot therefore contain and prevent an errant vehicle from crossing the central reserve into the opposing carriageway, we have reduced the speed limit to 50mph to minimise this risk. The average speed cameras help enforce this temporary but mandatory speed limit.

Our work is being carried out overnight when traffic flows are lower, to minimise our impact on road users. The speed limit reduction of 50 mph is in force 24 hours a day because the safety barrier remains incomplete and traffic is moving through narrowed carriageway lanes. The speed limit reduction also, and importantly, helps keep our road workers safe.

4. *Are these cameras average speed check cameras or conventional 50 miles an hour cameras you would find on any road?*

The temporary average speed cameras of the type currently in use can be found on many road works sites across the country to enforce temporary speed limits. They measure the average speed of a vehicle between 2 or more points. They are not the same as the “Gatso” type spot check cameras which enforce a speed limit at a single point.

5. *Since these works have begun and the cameras installed, how many speeding enforcement notices/penalties have been issued?*

6. *What is the cost of the penalties individually and in total?*

7. *How many of these notices/penalties have been contested by the recipients?*

Highways England is not an enforcement authority and we do not hold this information. Speed limit enforcement is a matter for the local police authority, in this case, Thames Valley Police. You may make a Freedom of Information Request to Thames Valley Police by contacting them at publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or email info@highwaysengland.co.uk. 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 755,242 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader
Operations (East)
Email: