

Our ref: 754 083

Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Highways England
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Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ
www.highways.gov.uk

30 July 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Speed Cameras on the M25 J9- J10

We have now completed our search for the information you requested in your email of 2 August in relation to the Speed cameras between Junctions 9 and 10 of the M25. Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the freedom of Information Act 2000.

I will answer each of your requests for information about:

Please may I have a drawing/plan showing the gantry and camera placements before and after Photo Enforcement System HAD00773 Camera serial no. M254677A.

We do not have a drawing/plan available. On Smart Motorways speed enforcement sites are generally located between each successive junction but this may vary according to site constraints.

I also note camera system M254677A was last calibrated on 30 August 2016. When was it last serviced or when was the last call out made against the unit?

This site was commissioned on 23rd February 2017 before handover to Surrey Police for enforcement. This exercise involved the police driving past the enforcement camera site repeatedly to test the accuracy of the HADECS radar speed enforcement camera in each lane at different speeds.

Please can I have detail of any other challenges to the accuracy of the camera system on this stretch of M25 in the last 12 months including M254677A

All speed enforcement cameras on the M25 are Home Office Type Approved and commissioned for accuracy before handover to the police for enforcement.

Please may I have confirmation at which Gantry on this day was the first to highlight the change of speed, reducing it from the national speed limit to 60mph. Was this the first gantry stating 60mph?

Reduced speed limits due to congestion ahead appear to have stretched back to before Junction 9 (gantry ref 4629A).

What was the speed on the previous gantry to M254677A

60mph until 11:59

What was the speed on the gantry following on from M254677A?

60mph until 12:04

What was the speed limit on the gantries thereafter?

60mph until 12:04

At 12 noon what was the reasons for the reduction in speed to 60 MPH.

There had been congestion detected ahead since 06:41 that morning.

At what time was the speed adjusted to 60mph on this gantry?

11:51, when it was raised from 50mph.

What time did the speed adjust again on this gantry up or down and what was the speed. How many times did the speed adjust on the gantry for the time it was not the national speed limit?

At 12:04 the reduced speed limit was lifted to national speed limit.

I attach photo evidence but please can I request clearer pictures the speed limit in the pictures looks like 40mph and not 60mph in the black and white text above the picture on the right hand side. For some reason on each picture this is blurred but there is a clear digit 6 in the text close by. The digits do not look similar being specifically the 6; all other digits are clear.

Please contact Surrey Police regarding clarity of the photos as Highways England does not hold that information.

Please may I have clarity the number of alleged offences logged between 12:00:00 and 12:02:00 hours from the camera in question; M254677A

Highways England is not an Enforcement Authority – please contact Surrey Police regarding this request.

Please may I ask the number of alleged speeding offences at specifically 12:00:50 to 12:01:10 at that specific camera; M254677A

Highways England is not an Enforcement Authority – please contact Surrey Police regarding this request.

Please may I ask for the detail of the number of alleged speeding offences on that specific camera for that specific time period whilst held at 60 mph?

Highways England is not an Enforcement Authority – please contact Surrey Police regarding this request.

Please may I have the detail specifically of the speed of the vehicle passing P26MRC in lane 3 (believed to be a dark coloured Mercedes which looks like a c230 compressor)?

Highways England is not an Enforcement Authority – please contact Surrey Police regarding this request.

I would assume this vehicle also has an alleged offence issued. Please confirm.

Highways England is not an Enforcement Authority – please contact Surrey Police regarding this request.

From the picture, this Mercedes was in the process of changing lanes from lane 3 to lane 4 to overtake the Mercedes saloon car in front. The car indicator is on in the picture and the vehicle positioning on the car right hand side of lane 3 with a slight angle towards lane 4; again evidences this car was travelling faster than P26MRC and also approaching the Mercedes Saloon car at speed from the rear. Please can I have a clearer picture of the vehicles?

Highways England is not an Enforcement Authority – please contact Surrey Police regarding this request.

What speed was this Mercedes recorded as travelling at as it passed through the camera?

Highways England is not an Enforcement Authority – please contact Surrey Police regarding this request.

Please may I ask for the photo evidence of this offence? (The registration plate can be removed)

Highways England is not an Enforcement Authority – please contact Surrey Police regarding this request.

A second Mercedes saloon is also viewed in the picture, which is ahead of both cars and looking like it is about to be overtaken by the following Mercedes. Please can I have confirmation of the speed of this vehicle and also confirmation this vehicle also has an alleged offence pending.

Highways England is not an Enforcement Authority – please contact Surrey Police regarding this request.

This camera is also placed hidden from view to approaching motorists. Please can I ask for the official wording/information to how a camera should or shouldn't be visible?

Following a Ministerial statement, all working speed cameras were fitted with yellow housings after October 2016.

Furthermore, I made the same journey on Sunday 9th July 2017. At 1130 and the gantry showed a reduced speed limit. The limits literally change rapidly and repeatedly in front of my vehicle. At one point the speed dropped to 60mph and right in front of the camera gantry dropped to 40mph.

Please may I therefore have the statistics for this reduction speed for the incident? How many alleged speeding offences were recorded? How many times did each gantry change the speed within the period? This approach was most concerning to see the speed limit constantly going up and down from gantry to gantry in front of the car. I appreciate the speed limit adjusts to slow traffic and keep flow... but the consistency of the reduction or increase seemed to be a problem as it varied up and down.

On Sunday 9th July 2017 reduced speed limits of 40mph, 50mph and 60mph were set automatically between M25 junctions 9 and 10 throughout late morning to early afternoon in response to traffic congestion. Please contact Surrey Police regarding alleged speeding offences.

When a mandatory speed limit changes on the overhead AMI signal, there is an automatic delay of about one minute before enforcement can begin against the newly displayed limit. The flash units can still activate during this period, even though the new limit would not be enforced. In this situation, drivers are not expected to brake sharply, but rather to reduce their speed so that they are within the speed limit as soon as it is safe to do so.

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 e-mail 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 CRS 754 083 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]