

[REDACTED]

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

25 April 2017

[REDACTED]

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information, which you requested on 4 April 2017. In that request, you asked us for various data relating to the Average Speed Cameras on the M4 from Junction 3 to Junction 1 under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below your questions and our answers:

***Why have average speed cameras been installed on the M4 from Heston J3 to Chiswick J1 Eastbound and on the elevated section westbound?***

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 The existing cameras use outdated wet film processing which needs to be replaced and average speed cameras over a longer distance are much more effective in achieving speed compliance. 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.

***Is this change permanent or temporary and what are the effective dates?***

This change is permanent.

***What is the 'go live' date?***

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.

***Please can you point me to the public consultation about this change, there must have been one as this affects over 50,000 journeys per day***

We are not making any changes to the speed limits or extent of speed limits. There is, therefore, no need for a statutory consultation for this scheme. The installation of average speed cameras is simply a technological improvement to this stretch of the M4.

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](mailto: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 [REDACTED] in any future communications.

