

From: [NPCC CRU Mailbox](#)
To: ["Northamptonshire"](#)
Subject: Log No. 698/20 CRU Circulation (06/05/2020) - **S.40(2)** - Speeding - Including Advice
Date: 06 May 2020 15:22:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

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Dear All,

The following FOI request has been logged in the CRU today - Advice is at the end of the message.

Log Number: 698/20

Case worker: **S.40(2)**

Logged with: Northamptonshire Police

Sent from: **S.40(2)**

Applicant's Request

We've seen several reports over the past few days from The Met, Manchester and Lincolnshire of excessive speeding offences since lockdown restrictions began.

GMP reported in the first week of April, 1,145 people were caught breaking the 30 mile speed limits—with the highest recorded speed clocking in at 81mph. A further 265 people were found speeding on the motorways, with 129mph the highest speed recorded.

1 - Has your force seen the same occur? Has it seen a rise in speeding offences or more offences recorded of excessive speeding since lockdown began?

2 - Is this on 30 mile roads, motorways etc?

3 - Is there any data about the demographics of persons being caught speeding too?

I ask this because the NPCC issued a press release last week detailing breaches of government public health regulations issued by police officers in England and Wales during the coronavirus outbreak, which stated:

"82 per cent of fines are given to men, and 15 per cent to women, with 3 per cent unknown. A third of fines go to those aged 18-24, with a further third going to those aged 25-34.

"60 per cent of fines have been issued to those self-identifying as white. With 23 per cent of fines issued to individuals who did not self-identify their ethnicity. Fines to those of Asian ethnicity stood at 10 per cent, Black at 4 per cent, and Mixed Race at 2 per cent. This is a proportionate distribution in relation to ethnicity data held by the ONS."

4 - I wondered if your force felt it needed to stress any particular points to any particular demographic group?

5 - Please let me know if you can provide me with any data, or anecdotal accounts and comments as soon as possible today for a report I'm working on for the BBC website,

CRU Advice

Firstly, there is a lot of text contained within this request, therefore I have numbered the specific questions in order to formulate a coherent response.

As with any request, if you believe determining if the information is held, locating and retrieving it for this request takes you over the allotted timescale of 18 hours of work then the Section 12 exemption under the FOI Act 2000 is recommended to be used. If cost is relevant to your force, when issuing your s12 refusal notice we suggest you invite the applicant to refine their request if feasible to do so.

Some forces have acknowledged that their capacity to enforce the law for speeding is reduced due to manning issues during the C19 pandemic. Therefore, it is likely that if a comparison for speeding offences is made over the periods 24 March to 6 May 2019 and 24 March to 6 May 2020 for example, there will be noticeably less convictions in 2020. There may be s31 Law Enforcement concerns with disclosure, as it could indicate that there is less capacity to enforce the law for speeding, although it is well known that traffic during the pandemic has significantly reduced. Therefore local assessment by forces is required as to whether s31 (law enforcement) is necessary bearing in mind that the use of exemptions could just serve to highlight the issue. It is believed that in most cases that information regarding such comparisons can be released.

Q1 – We see no harm in replying ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to *“Has your force seen the same occur? Has it seen a rise in speeding offences or more offences recorded of excessive speeding since lockdown began?”*

Q2 – We see no harm in disclosure.

Q3 – This information might be due for future publication, therefore s22 can be cited. If the information is not held, then NIH applies.

Q4 – Probably NIH, however if your force has stressed *“any particular points to any particular demographic group,”* this will have been done publically, therefore s21 can be cited.

Q5 – The applicant can be signposted to any relevant information from a reliable source that is already in the public domain s21.

If you require any further assistance please contact the CRU,

Kind regards

S.40(2)

National Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)
National Police Chiefs’ Council

T. **S.31(1)**

A. c/o ACRO, PO BOX 481, PO14 9FS

E. **S.31(1)**

W.

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/NationalPolicing/NationalPoliceFreedomofInformationandDataProtectio.aspx>