



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: F-2010- 00120

REQUEST DETAILS:

“Is the Constabulary responsible or partly responsible for ensuring that broken-down lorries on the A14 in the Ipswich area are removed?”

If so, what timescale targets exist for clearing these, if any?

What are these targets, and how well does the force perform against them?”

RESPONSE:

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and our response is below.

Vehicles that are not causing an obstruction on the Highway

With regards those vehicles that are not obstructing the highway or causing an obstruction, the issue of recovery is a matter for the driver/owner of the vehicle. This is not just restricted to the A14 Ipswich rather a countywide approach.

Vehicles that are causing an obstruction on the highway

If a vehicle has broken down on the highway resulting in an obstruction, danger or is likely to cause danger to other road users, the Police consider that it should be moved forthwith. It is the owner / driver present that can arrange recovery and if this is within reasonable time, decided by the Officers discretion, they are permitted to do so.

If the time scale for removal of the vehicle is not acceptable the Officer can invoke powers under the Road Traffic Act 1984 (Removal & Disposal of Vehicles Regulations) and have the vehicle moved. If the Police invoke these powers it will result in a statutory Removal, which will incur statutory charges.

Response Times

In relation to response times, Suffolk Constabulary has contracted a private company to deal with recovery deployment. The contracted Vehicle Recovery Operators are locally based and are required to attend an incident involving LGV's within 45 minutes subject to road and weather conditions.

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SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

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Please note that this is only a guidance time and only relates to attendance at the scene not clearance of the road, which in some circumstances can take hours.

Where a vehicle is involved in an RTC and involves life threatening / changing injury or fatality, the vehicles cannot be moved until Police have finished scene investigation and provide authority to remove the vehicles. In such cases the Vehicle Recovery Operators will be notified of the incident and required to attend when requested.

The targets for response turnout to scenes for standard removals are met. In the case of fatal RTC's there can be no target for the clearance of the scene due to the serious nature and the extent of the Police investigation to gather evidence before the removal is undertaken.