



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

Joint Information Management Unit
Operational Headquarters
Tower Street
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8ZD

Telephone 101 **Direct Dial** 023 8047 9580

Fax 01962 874201 **Text Relay** 18001 101

Mr Jon Pennycook
request-530952-
67eb5aad@whatdotheyknow.com

Email Address
public.access@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

26 November 2018

Our ref: CM/PA/002727/18

Your ref:

Dear Mr Pennycook

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I write in response to the above referenced Freedom of Information request submitted on 08 November 2018, Hampshire Constabulary has now considered this request, which has been repeated below and have responded accordingly.

Close passing of cyclists is both dangerous and off-putting - 56% of cyclists in a survey said "they were worried by close passes". Close passes, and the fear of them, can put off new cyclists from continuing, and can cause experienced cyclists to stop cycling for a while whilst they recover. I am frequently passed too closely whilst cycling on my way to work, or when I go shopping - usually on roads like Hatch Warren Way (Basingstoke), Brighton Way (Basingstoke), Harrow Way (Basingstoke), Jays Close (Basingstoke), Grove Road (Basingstoke), Pack Lane (Basingstoke and Oakley), and the B3400 between Basingstoke and Whitchurch.

Waiting for cyclists to report close passes is not enough - not all cyclists have helmet cameras. Many cyclists do not believe that the police care unless they see proactive action by the police.

Can you tell me, for the area covered by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Hampshire Constabulary does not hold this information in a retrievable format. The cost of determining if the information is held, locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It is estimated that it would cost more than £450 to comply with your request.

In relation to question 2 of your request, this information is not held in a retrievable format as the recorded budget is not split within our safer roads department to enable us to provide you with a figure specifically for the purpose of preventing close passes. In order to answer this question a manual review of the budget would be required, to ascertain how much is apportioned solely for the purpose of preventing close passes. The costs associated with such a review, would far exceed the cost limit set by the FOI regulations.



www.hampshire.police.uk

Deaf? Non-emergency text **07781 480999**

For crime and community information www.hampshirealert.co.uk

**HAMPSHIRE
ALERT**



(including Whitchurch, Tadley, Overton, Kingsclere, and almost to Hook), or for the area covered by Hampshire County Council (i.e. not unitary council areas like Southampton and Portsmouth):-

1. What proactive action you have taken to show drivers that close passing of cyclists is unacceptable? For example, use of the "Close Pass Mat" on roads.

2. How much of your budget has been spent in those areas in support of preventing (as opposed to reacting to) close passes?

3. The number of reactive actions taken in those areas after close passes or brake tests, e.g. charging drivers with careless or dangerous driving?

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, if one element of a request exceeds the statutory cost limit, the whole request may be refused on grounds of cost. As such, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of your whole request. This does not, however, preclude us from supplying some information that is relevant to your request as a gesture of assistance and with this in mind we have provided some information below.

Information Provided

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied some information below, relative to your request. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

In relation to question 1:

Across Hampshire and Thames Valley the Road Safety Team have proactively been targeting drivers who overtake cyclists too close. We call this operation 'Give Space Be Safe' and it started following a visit to West Midlands Police who initiated it.

In relation to question 3:

So far we have run 16 of this type of operation and educated at our check sites 124 drivers of cars, van and lorries. We have been extremely proactive in terms of telling people we are doing this campaign by running media campaigns on TV, Radio and social media. Below is a link to one of our operations which was covered by BBC Inside Out and gives a good overview on how our operation works:

<https://youtu.be/k4qnxqDiDJs>

We have additionally taken our



www.hampshire.police.uk

Deaf? Non-emergency text **07781 480999**

For crime and community information **www.hampshirealert.co.uk**



| | |
|--|---|
| | display and mat along to many events to show the public what we are doing and how we are raising awareness to drivers who overtake too close to cyclists. |
|--|---|

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Hampshire Constabulary, you can lodge a complaint with the force to have the decision reviewed within 2 months of the date of this response. Complaints should be made in writing to the Public Access office at the address at the top of this letter.

If, after lodging a complaint with Hampshire Constabulary, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, via telephone on 0303 123 1113 or 01625 545745 or at the website www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Amy McDonald
Public Access
Joint Information Management Unit



www.hampshire.police.uk

Deaf? Non-emergency text **07781 480999**

For crime and community information **www.hampshirealert.co.uk**

