

Request reference: 5158/11

CLARIFICATION POINT ONE

"After calibration, please confirm if the Gatsometer BV Type 24AUS Speed detection cameras are returned with a shutter speed of two photographs at intervals of 0.5 seconds, and if your Camera Enforcement Officers make any adjustments to the shutter speed or flash setting prior to reinstallation and, if so, what are the setting adjustments?"

There does appear to be some misunderstanding, so I will try to phrase the response as clearly as possible.

Shutter speed is the length of time a camera's shutter is open when taking a photograph.

According to the manufacturer's instruction manual this is fixed at 1/1000 seconds.

The camera takes two photographs with a specified time interval between them.

According to the instruction manual, it is possible to set this time interval between the two exposures to 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9 or 1.0 seconds.

Before they are used all Gatsometer BV Type 24AUS cameras used in the West Midlands are set by the Enforcement Officer to take photographs at an interval of 0.5 seconds.

We do not have any recorded information on what time interval this is set to when the cameras are returned from calibration.

The intention behind Q1 and Q2 was to calculate the individual costs of calibrating each type of camera but unfortunately the data is pooled with additional data and so I will have to re-request this data more specifically.

CLARIFICATION POINT TWO.

"Please confirm the cost of single calibration of one Gatso Speed Camera for each of the past three years, with the same data for one Gatso Red Light Camera, so that comparisons and trends may be appreciated".

2008/09

Speed: £553
Red light: £430

2009/10

Speed: £609
Red light: £452

2010/11

Speed: £658
Red light: £527

2011/12

Speed: £684
Red light: None calibrated yet, so no invoices to find price from.

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21/10/11

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The final clarification relates to the Q and A regarding Q1.

"Q1. How many fixed post Gatso (FPG) and Gatso Red Light(GRL) cameras were in use, on an annual basis, by your partnership in the past three financial years?

2008/2009: 56 Gatso speed, 7 Gatso red light

2009/2010: 55 Gatso speed, 11 Gatso red light

2010/2011: 53 Gatso speed, 9 Gatso red light

This is the number of cameras used during the year, not the number of cameras owned, and may include cameras loaned from Serco".

I do have some confusion as there is a discrepancy with a recent FOI response provided on 18 July 2011, ref 4797/11, quote "How many fixed speed cameras are there in the West Midlands Police force area and how many have been turned off since the start of the financial year 2011/12? There are a total of 55 safety cameras which can be rotated around 305 fixed safety camera sites in the West Midlands Police force area. No cameras off since the start of the financial year 2011/12. How many fixed speed cameras have no film in them at present? Of the 55 safety cameras, 33 cameras are currently calibrated and available for use".

CLARIFICATION POINT THREE.

Please provide an explanation for the different answers regarding `cameras in use` given to me and that provided in response to FOI 4797/11, and confirm which is correct. If I have been told that 53 Gatso speed cameras are currently in use but FOI 4797/11, from 2 months ago, indicates only 33 are calibrated.

Please confirm if 20 cameras are in use without having up to date calibration or if they have been calibrated subsequently. Please confirm how many Gatso speed cameras are currently `on loan` from Serco and, if so, what are the financial terms for the loan.

There is no discrepancy as the requests were referring to different time periods.

FOI 4797/11 asked how many were in use at that point (during the 2011/12 financial year) to which the answer was 33.

FOI 5031/11 asked how many were in use during the previous three financial years, i.e. 2008/09 to 2010/11. In 2010/11 there were 53 in use.

No Gatso speed cameras are currently on loan from Serco.

CLARIFICATION POINT FOUR.

Reference reply to Q2, why are WM Police exempt from VAT on the calibration charges?

Under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. See Section 33 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1994/23/section/33>.

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