

FoI ref: 2015-00164

Request received: 7 March 2015

Response sent: 11 March 2015

This Freedom of Information request relates to the practice of offering speed awareness courses to those drivers who have exceeded a speed limit and where the course is an alternative to prosecution or a conditional offer.

On 21st December, 2010, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) received a Counsel's opinion on the legality of offering speed awareness for payment. This opinion was also sent to the Home Office. The opinion was obtained by Road Safety Support Ltd. (RSS).

My request is for the following information:

1. The date that your constabulary received a copy of this opinion and the name of the body that provided it;
2. The earliest date on which this opinion, in whole or in part, was disseminated to:
 1. police officers;
 2. others employed by the constabulary; and the generic titles of those employees, e.g. central ticket office staff;
 3. any partnerships involved in the speed awareness scheme; and the names of those partnerships;
 4. any body which received any of the money paid by drivers to attend the courses; and the names of those bodies.
3. The means by which the opinion was disseminated in the first instance;
4. Whether or not the dissemination is a continuing process for new officers, etc.
5. Did the constabulary obtain its own opinion? And if so the date on which it was obtained.
6. If the constabulary did not receive the RSS opinion and did not obtain its own legal opinion then what Common Law and/or Statute does the constabulary rely on to demonstrate that charging motorists for speed awareness courses is lawful.

Response:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request below. Unfortunately we do not hold the information that you have requested. The information may be held by West Midlands

Police therefore would you like me to forward on your request to them for their consideration?