

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 001743
Date 28 November 2017

Council CCTV Cars

Request:

I'm hoping to get some information on CCTV cars being used by councils under the Freedom of Information Act.

My inquiry concerns CCTV cars that have to keep their engines running so their camera equipment can work.

I am approaching a number of councils to get a scope of the issue. So if you do not use CCTV cars in your area, please ignore this request.

There is a lot of concern from people across the country, particularly in urban areas, about the adverse effects idling vehicles have on people's health.

- As such, can you please confirm if your CCTV cars have to keep their engines on to run their cameras?
For example, if a council officer was on patrol in a CCTV car, but had parked the car. If the officer then turned the engine off, would the cameras stop working?
[The City of Wolverhampton Council has only one CCTV vehicle which is used daily during school term time, weather permitting. The vehicle is used to patrol the city schools and capture images of vehicles parked in contravention. It is driven without stopping, around a predetermined route, passing through the designated enforcement areas. At no point will the vehicle park up or will the engine be switched off.](#)
- How often are your CCTV cars parked when they are in the process of monitoring other drivers?
[Our CCTV vehicle does not park up and record](#)
Does most of the CCTV recording happen when the cars are parked or when they're on the move?
[CCTV footage is only captured when the vehicle is on the move.](#)
- Can you also confirm what you use the CCTV cars for?
[Currently the CCTV vehicle is only used to patrol the city schools and capture images of vehicles parked in contravention however we are investigating if the vehicle can be used for other purposes i.e. monitoring occupancy levels on car parks.](#)
- Is it just for parking infractions?

Yes, the vehicle it is only used as stated above.

- Or do you use them to patrol parents dropping off their kids at the school gates?

Currently this is the sole purpose of the vehicle.

- Can you please provide a full list of how CCTV cars are being used to monitor your area? The City of Wolverhampton Council has one CCTV vehicle.
- Are there any other reasons why CCTV cars must have their engines running? For example, is it for the health and safety of the officers inside?
No, there is no other reason why the CCTV car must have the engine running apart from when it is being driven.