

Request:

1. The question below relates to 'close pass operations', by which we mean:
- any operation to target drivers who overtake a cyclist in a potentially careless / inconsiderate or dangerous manner. This may involve, for example, a police officer riding a bicycle and reporting (and filming) 'close passes', with drivers stopped by a separate officer for an appropriate intervention (e.g. roadside education or penalty). A number of police forces have been carrying out such operations since 2017.
- any operation of this nature, whether carried out exclusively by the police force, or by the force alongside other services, and whether they were called 'close pass operations' or given a different name (e.g. 'safe' pass).

For each of the past four years (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, please provide answers for each year separately):

- a) How many 'close pass operations' were carried out by the force?
- b) As a result of these operations:
 - i. How many individuals were stopped by police and received an educational intervention and/or verbal warning, regardless of whether further action was taken?
 - ii. How many individuals were offered an NDORS course as an alternative to prosecution?
 - iii. How many individuals were prosecuted for careless / inconsiderate or dangerous driving, including any issued with an FPN?
 - iv. How many individuals were prosecuted, including any issued with an FPN, for offences other than careless / inconsiderate driving or dangerous driving?

2.

- a) As part of its enforcement of driving offences, does the force accept the submission of video evidence by members of the public to report driving offences, whether the recording device is handheld or attached to a vehicle or rider (e.g. dash/handlebar/helmet cameras)?

For each of the past four years (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, please provide answers for each year separately):

- b) How many submissions of video evidence were received by the force relating to reports of driving offences?
- c) How many of these reports:
 - i. Resulted in prosecution?
 - ii. Resulted in a driver being offered an NDORS course as an alternative to prosecution?
 - iii. Resulted in no further action being taken?

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- d) How many submissions of video evidence were received by the force relating to driving offences where the driver was reported to have overtaken a cyclist in a potentially careless / inconsiderate or dangerous manner (so called 'close passes')?
- e) How many of these reports:
- i. Resulted in prosecution?
 - ii. Resulted in a driver being offered an NDORS course as an alternative to prosecution?
 - iii. Resulted in no further action being taken?
- f) How many full-time equivalent staff (whether officer or civilian) does the force employ to review the submission of video evidence relating to driving offences?

Response:

1. Searches were conducted within Northamptonshire Police to locate the information requested and I can now confirm that Northamptonshire Police does not hold some of the information relative to your request. That is because Operation Close Pass is an ongoing campaign and involves any operational officer that is out on patrol. The Operation also encompasses many different aspects of Close Pass as well as many different teams; there is no central recording facility for the dates and locations where it has been carried out.

Within Northamptonshire Police Operation Close Pass takes a number of forms. One of those is similar to the West Midlands model that many are familiar with where a suitably trained person rides a bike and any identified offences are passed ahead for the vehicle to be intercepted for either engagement or enforcement action. We also work closely with the local authority to provide training and awareness using a close pass mat to provide drivers a visual representation of an acceptable passing distance, this is used at numerous locations and events across the County. The final arm of Close Pass is the processing of offences submitted to us via our Operation Snap portal, which allows cyclists experiencing instances of close pass to provide us with helmet cam footage and a suitable statement to support a prosecution.

Please note:

- Results for the period October 2018- 7th July 2020 inc relevant to Operation Close Pass are given below however please be aware that these may not have arisen as a direct result of a specifically held/timed operation
- All incidents have been included: two searches carried out with a matches pattern filter on the Incident Description and Log Text Detail to match the wordings 'Close Pass'
- All Occurrences have also been searched with a matches pattern search filter on the MO Description with the wording 'Close Pass'

For 2018:

- 2 incidents and occurrences were reported with 'Close Pass' in the Incident description, log text detail or MO description relating to cycling incidents
- Neither of these resulted in further action taken

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For 2019:

- 16 incidents and occurrences were reported with 'Close Pass' in the Incident description, log text detail or MO description relating to cycling incidents
- 7 of those reports led to Notices of Intended Prosecution being sent out, with 1 case going to court
- 9 of the reports were deemed not a dangerous close pass, and therefore no further action was taken

For 2020:

- Nil return for incidents or occurrences with 'Close Pass' in the Incident description, log text detail or MO description

Northamptonshire Police does not hold any information relative to your request regarding prosecutions. That is because this information i.e. Results at Court, are held by Her Majesty's Court Service.

2. a) Yes – via the Operation Snap portal which was launched in August 2019

2. b) August – December 2019: 175 January – June 2020: 320

2. c)

- 25: this information only exists for the 2019 year as the offences have now concluded
- 79: this information only exists for the 2019 year as the offences have now concluded
- 2019: 92 2020: 188

2. d) & e) Searches were conducted within Northamptonshire Police to locate the information requested and I can now confirm that Northamptonshire Police does not hold any information relative to your request. This is due to the way in which offences are recorded, which does not show if the offence was specifically for a 'cycling close pass' incident but rather as part of an offence such as 'driving without due care or attention'.

Available outcome data for driving offences is readily available from the Northamptonshire Police website via the following link:

<https://www.northantspas.com/PAWeb/Portal/Portalish.aspx?page=4>

The FOI tab holds the details relating to all offences since 2011. We hold data for offences year by year (calendar) with a monthly breakdown up to December 2017. From January 2018 the information is provided within individual monthly files you can access from the same tab. The lifecycle of an offence is 6 months which due to the COVID 19 pandemic has been extended even further. As a result we are unable to provide a breakdown of the actual disposal routes for the vast majority of offences.

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The information we do have is already produced as part of the disposal download from our PAS system and all of the earlier PAS files have now been updated so that they can be filtered by camera type to identify Operation Snap offences.

2. f) Specifically 1, however they are part of a wider team who view them

Due to the different methods of recording information across 43 forces, a specific response from one constabulary should not be seen as an indication of what information could be supplied (within cost) by another. Systems used for recording this information are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the information. For this reason responses between forces may differ, and should not be used for comparative purposes.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this data has been extracted from a number of data sources used by forces for police purposes. The detail collected to respond specifically to your request is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when interpreting this data.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of unpublished data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data. The figures provided therefore are our best interpretation of relevance of data to your request, but you should be aware that the collation of figures for ad hoc requests may have limitations and this should be taken into account when those data are used.

If you decide to write an article / use the enclosed data we would ask you to take into consideration the factors highlighted in this document so as to not mislead members of the public or official bodies, or misrepresent the relevance of the whole or any part of this disclosed material.

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