



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

April 2016

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 001120/16

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 11th March 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

In the years 2013, 2014 and 2015:

What was the total and average value of fines given out to motorists for making unlawful modifications to their car?

How many motorists were prosecuted for making unlawful modifications to their car?

How many cars were unlawfully modified?

What were the top five most modified cars? (make and model)

Response to your Request

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk Constabulary estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

In order to establish what information is held, relevant to your request, we have contacted both our Central Ticket Office and Roads Policing Unit. The information you have requested is not held in any easily retrievable format. The Vehicle Defect Restoration Scheme (VDRS) is designed to give owners and drivers the opportunity to make their vehicles roadworthy, thereby improving safety for all road users. The Constabulary will promote the use of the scheme as an alternative to prosecution, where appropriate.

Further details can be found in the force policy document which is linked below:-

<http://www.norfolk.police.uk/aboutus/yourrighttoinformation/freedomofinformation/publicationscheme/idoc.ashx?docid=8f455348-02ab-425a-ada8-34b9b22b8836&version=-1>

During the 3 year period requested, there have been almost 9,500 VDRS issued. Each of these would need to be reviewed to see if they hold any information, relevant to your request. It should be noted that many of these will not be as a result of an unlawful modification and not all modifications are illegal.

These figures do not include those occasions where a VDRS was not suitable and the registered owner was reported for an offence. Again, this information is not easily identifiable and would require the review of prosecution files.

To carry out the above processes, in order to locate relevant information, would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act states that a public authority is not obliged to:

“...comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit”.

The Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, defines the ‘appropriate limit’ for the Norfolk Constabulary as £450, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

Advice and Assistance

Although excess cost removes Norfolk Constabulary’s obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. 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.

We have provided below the number of VDRS issued by officers, along with the defect category.

2013

Danger of injury due to purpose for which vehicle is used	19
Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	22
Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with the regulations	50
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable	20
Drive vehicle / vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	14
Drive vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	28
Exceed 30 mph speed limit in contravention of a Local Traffic Order - manned equipment	1
Fail to use headlamps / fog lamps on unlit road at night or in poor visibility	1
Glass not as prescribed	1
Keep vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	1
Lamps/ reflector/ rear markings not maintained	1031
Mirrors not conforming to requirements	25
Opening door so as to cause injury/danger	1
Rear registration mark not illuminated	21
Showing other than red light to rear	8
Tyre - Cut in fabric	6
Tyre - Lump/ bulge or tear	13
Tyre - over/under inflated	4
Tyre - Ply or cord exposed	10
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with incorrectly inflated tyre	4

Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with any of the ply / cord exposed	6
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with cut in the fabric	1
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with lump / bulge / tear	2
Use a motor vehicle - mirrors not fitted	4
Use a motor vehicle - windscreen wipers not fitted	8
Use a motor vehicle / trailer in a condition likely to cause danger of injury	1
Use a motor vehicle / trailer when the rear registration mark was not lit during darkness	29
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with defective brakes	3
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with equipment likely to cause danger of injury	1
Use a motor vehicle on a road fail to maintain lamps / reflectors / rear markings / devices in working order / clean	669
Use a motor vehicle on a road when the speedometer was not maintained in good working order	2
Use a motor vehicle on a road which was not fitted with an exhaust system including a silencer	2
Use a motor vehicle on a road with a defective exhaust system / silencer	37
Use a motor vehicle on a road without a warning instrument fitted	3
Use a motor vehicle showing a light other than red to the rear	17
Use a motor vehicle with defective steering gear	3
Use a passenger vehicle with tyres with insufficient tread - less than 1.6mm	159
Use a small passenger vehicle with tyre with insufficient tread - less than 1.6mm	268
Use a vehicle - condition causing/likely to cause danger	60
Use a vehicle on a road emitting smoke / vapour / grit / oil / sparks / ashes likely to cause damage injury / danger	2
Use a vehicle on a road with an exhaust system / silencer not maintained in a good and efficient working order	62
Use motor vehicle on a road when the glass was not maintained so as to afford the drivers unobscured vision	138
Use motor vehicle on a road when the mirrors fitted to the vehicle did not conform to regulations	18
Use motor vehicle without a test Certificate	1
Use mv - secondary coupling device on trailer not fitted	1
Use on a road a motor vehicle / trailer in such a condition it caused / was likely to cause danger	38
Use vehicle - no warning instrument/horn fitted	2
Use vehicle - speedometer not maintained	3
Use vehicle (other than bus/goods/agricultural) with mirrors not fitted	21
Use vehicle with altered exhaust system/silencer	1
Use vehicle with exhaust gases escaping without passing through silencer	63
Use vehicle with inefficient exhaust system/altered system	88
Use vehicle with windscreen washers not fitted	8
Use vehicle with windscreen wipers not fitted	8
Use vehicle without silencer being fitted	1
Using Vehicle with Defective Brakes	10
Using Vehicle with Defective Steering	3
Vehicle fuel tank not secure or leak proof	1
Windows not clear and unobstructed	255
Windscreen Washers not conforming to Reg's	3
Windscreen Wipers not conforming to Reg's	6
Grand Total	3288

2014

Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	91
Drive a vehicle and trailer with no registration plate - registered before 1/10/38	1
Drive a vehicle on a road and fail to stop engine the when stationary for the prevention of noise / exhaust emissions	1
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable	22
Drive vehicle / vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	12
Drive vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	14
Keep a vehicle and trailer with no registration plate - registered before 1/10/38	1
Keep a vehicle with registration mark obscured	5
Keep vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	1
Leave m/vehicle on a road not attended by person licensed to drive it engine not stopped / parking brake set	2
Open a vehicle door so as to injure / endanger a person	5
Use a bus without mirrors fitted	2
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with incorrectly inflated tyre	3
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with any of the ply / cord exposed	3
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with cut in the fabric	6
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with lump / bulge / tear	3
Use a motor vehicle - mirrors not fitted	33
Use a motor vehicle - windscreen wipers not fitted	6
Use a motor vehicle / trailer in a condition likely to cause danger of injury	40
Use a motor vehicle / trailer when the rear registration mark was not lit during darkness	51
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with defective brakes	14
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with equipment likely to cause danger of injury	1
Use a motor vehicle fitted with a bell / gong / siren / two tone horn	1
Use a motor vehicle on a road fail to maintain lamps / reflectors / rear markings / devices in working order / clean	1301
Use a motor vehicle on a road when the speedometer was not maintained in good working order	2
Use a motor vehicle on a road when there was insufficient transmission of light through the vehicle glass	7
Use a motor vehicle on a road where the aim of the headlamp beam was used to cause undue dazzle / discomfort	1
Use a motor vehicle on a road which was not fitted with an exhaust system including a silencer	6
Use a motor vehicle on a road with a defective exhaust system / silencer	106
Use a motor vehicle on a road with silencer / exhaust system altered to increased the noise made	1
Use a motor vehicle on a road without a valid test certificate	2
Use a motor vehicle on a road without a warning instrument fitted	4
Use a motor vehicle on a road without windscreen washers fitted	5
Use a motor vehicle showing a light other than red to the rear	22
Use a motor vehicle with defective steering gear	3
Use a passenger vehicle with tyres with insufficient tread - less than 1.6mm	299
Use a vehicle / trailer on a road without mud guards / wings fitted	2
Use a vehicle on a road emitting smoke / vapour / grit / oil / sparks / ashes likely to cause damage injury / danger	6
Use a vehicle on a road obligatory lights not complying with regulation 18	370

Use a vehicle on a road when the front fog lamp(s) were used and visibility not seriously reduced / vehicle parked	1
Use a vehicle on a road with an exhaust system / silencer not maintained in a good and efficient working order	99
Use a vehicle with obligatory lighting equipment not fitted	2
Use a wheeled vehicle on a road when the fuel tank was not constructed / maintained to prevent leakage	1
Use motor vehicle - material not maintained - seat belt	1
Use motor vehicle on a road when the glass was not maintained so as to afford the drivers unobscured vision	355
Use motor vehicle on a road when the mirrors fitted to the vehicle did not conform to regulations	27
Use motor vehicle on a road when the seat belt and its anchorage / fastenings / adjustment were not maintained	1
Use motor vehicle on a road when the windscreen wipers did not conforming to regulations	9
Use motor vehicle on a road without a seat belt fitted	1
Use on a road a motor vehicle / trailer for an unsuitable purpose so as to cause / likely to cause danger / nuisance	16
Use on a road a motor vehicle / trailer in such a condition it caused / was likely to cause danger	43
Use on a road a motor vehicle / trailer with a load which was insecure / in a position likely to cause danger	1
Use vehicle on a road fitted with blue warning beacon / special warning lamp / device resembling	2
Use vehicle on a road with a swivelling lamp / reflector	1
Use vehicle on a road with front / rear position lamps obscured	1
Use vehicle with obligatory indicators obscured	1
Grand Total	3017

2015

Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	56
Drive a vehicle on a road and fail to stop engine the when stationary for the prevention of noise / exhaust emissions	4
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable	9
Drive vehicle / vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	42
Drive vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	42
Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations	11
Keep vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate - registered after 09/38	1
Leave m/vehicle on a road not attended by person licensed to drive it engine not stopped / parking brake set	1
Use a goods vehicle without mirrors - maximum gross weight exceeding 3500 kg	1
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with incorrectly inflated tyre	7
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with any of the ply / cord exposed	15
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with cut in the fabric	20
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with lump / bulge / tear	17
Use a motor cycle on a road fitted with an exhaust system / silencer which did not comply with the regulation	2
Use a motor cycle with tyre less than 1 mm tread	3
Use a motor vehicle - mirrors not fitted	62
Use a motor vehicle - windscreen wipers not fitted	9
Use a motor vehicle / trailer in a condition likely to cause danger of injury	43
Use a motor vehicle / trailer when the rear registration mark was not lit during darkness	49

Use a motor vehicle / trailer with defective brakes	15
Use a motor vehicle on a road fail to maintain lamps / reflectors / rear markings / devices in working order / clean	1688
Use a motor vehicle on a road when the speedometer was not maintained in good working order	5
Use a motor vehicle on a road when there was insufficient transmission of light through the vehicle glass	58
Use a motor vehicle on a road where the adjusting device / retracting mechanism for a seat belt was not maintained	1
Use a motor vehicle on a road which was not fitted with an exhaust system including a silencer	7
Use a motor vehicle on a road with a defective exhaust system / silencer	138
Use a motor vehicle on a road with silencer / exhaust system altered to increased the noise made	6
Use a motor vehicle on a road without a speedometer fitted	1
Use a motor vehicle on a road without a valid test certificate	2
Use a motor vehicle on a road without a warning instrument fitted	1
Use a motor vehicle on a road without windscreen washers fitted	6
Use a motor vehicle showing a light other than red to the rear	26
Use a motor vehicle when headlamp not lit in poor visibility / darkness	1
Use a motor vehicle with defective steering gear	1
Use a passenger vehicle with tyres with insufficient tread - less than 1.6mm	251
Use a vehicle / trailer on a road without mud guards / wings fitted	1
Use a vehicle on a road emitting smoke / vapour / grit / oil / sparks / ashes likely to cause damage injury / danger	4
Use a vehicle on a road obligatory lights not complying with regulation 18	76
Use a vehicle on a road when the front fog lamp(s) were used and visibility not seriously reduced / vehicle parked	1
Use a vehicle on a road with an exhaust system / silencer not maintained in a good and efficient working order	32
Use a vehicle with optional lights not working	2
Use an incorrectly registered vehicle	1
Use goods vehicle max gross weight of 3500kgs - tyre with less than 1.6mm depth of tread	2
Use motor vehicle - fastening not maintained - seat belt	1
Use motor vehicle / trailer - tyre less than 1 mm tread	1
Use motor vehicle on a road when the glass was not maintained so as to afford the drivers unobscured vision	333
Use motor vehicle on a road when the mirrors fitted to the vehicle did not conform to regulations	27
Use motor vehicle on a road when the structure was not maintained adjacent to a seat belt anchorage point	1
Use motor vehicle on a road when the windscreen washers did not conform to regulations	4
Use motor vehicle on a road when the windscreen wipers did not conforming to regulations	7
Use on a road a motor vehicle / trailer in such a condition it caused / was likely to cause danger	41
Use on a road a vehicle towing a trailer by a rope / chain distance exceeded 4.5m or 1.5m when not clearly visible	1
Use vehicle with obligatory indicators obscured	1
Grand Total	3137