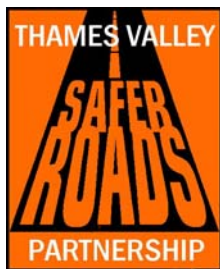


NEWS RELEASE



Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership

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From	Dan Campsall
Release	Immediate
Reference	TVSRP_ICO001
Date	Wednesday, 23 August 2006

Information Commissioner Upholds Right Not To Publish Ticket Numbers

Since April 2005, the Bucks Free Press have been engaged in a protracted exercise of trying to gain access to the number of speeding fines issued from mobile safety camera sites on Marlow Hill.

Prior to pursuing their case on appeal to the Information Commissioner, the paper have also involved public polls and political figures to try and persuade the Safer Roads Partnership to issue the information.

TVSRP have maintained throughout that there are very good reasons for withholding the information, that are in the public interest; also presenting the Bucks Free Press with decisions that the Information Commissioner had already made in similar circumstances that could have set a precedent.

Richard Owen, Operations Manager explained this: "By releasing the information on ticket numbers at sites, we effectively make clear to motorists the sites that receive the most enforcement and more importantly where there is very little chance of being caught."

He continued "Research shows that when motorists believe the risk of enforcement is low, vehicle speeds increase and with these higher speeds comes a higher risk to road users; especially cyclists, pedestrians and children."

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Thames Valley Safety Partnership members :-

Thames Valley Police : Oxfordshire County Council : Buckinghamshire County Council : Milton Keynes Council : Slough Borough Council : Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead : Bracknell Forest Borough Council : Wokingham District Council : Reading Borough Council : West Berkshire Council : Thames Valley Magistrates Courts Services : Crown Prosecution Service :
The Highways Agency

It is this last point that is of greatest concern to the partnership, the release of these figures along with others could jeopardise safety at some sites and increase risk to the public.

In presenting their findings this week, the Information Commissioner's Office have upheld the partnership's argument and defended their decision to withhold the information. In the conclusion to the decision notice they stated:

"The Commissioner recognises that there is widespread and legitimate concern among local road users about the enforcement of speed limits on Marlow Hill. However, the Commissioner considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemptions cited in this case outweighs the public interest in disclosing the requested information."

Commenting on the decision, Dan Campsall, Communication Manager said "Where we believe it is in the public interest, we have always tried to be as open and transparent as we are able. We are pleased that in this particular case, where we have stated our concerns over safety, that the Information Commissioner has upheld our decision."

The Information Commissioners Office has made TVSRP aware of two procedural errors made in answering the initial request for information. TVSRP have acknowledged these errors and have subsequently taken steps to ensure that their procedural obligations are met in future.

Ends.

Notes to editors:

A full copy of the decision notice is available from the ICO website by following this link:

http://www.ico.gov.uk/cms/DocumentUploads/decision_notice_FS50098965.pdf