

8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20191041**

**REQUEST**

***My questions are as follows:***

***1. Please provide me with the number of offences recorded by your police force for motorists who had missing or obscured number plates, or number plates with illegal spacing/characters/font/coloured-screws etc. Please provide this data for 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, breaking the results down year-by-year.***

***2. Please also inform me if your constabulary has an official position on this issue. I have been told officers in some forces will not investigate reports of illegal number plates from members of the public due to a lack of resources and manpower. Please confirm what your force's position is for pulling over motorists with/responding to reports of/issuing penalties for illegal number plates.***

**RESPONSE**

I approached the Data Researcher and Systems Administrator for Safety Cameras and Ticket Processing for assistance with your request. He was able to provide the following:

*Please see table below showing the number of tickets issued for Vehicle registration Plate offences.*

1.

<b><i>FPN issued for Vehicle Registration Plate Offences</i></b>						
<b><i>Count of CCCJS_OFFENCE_CODE</i></b>						
	<b><i>2014</i></b>	<b><i>2015</i></b>	<b><i>2016</i></b>	<b><i>2017</i></b>	<b><i>2018</i></b>	<b><i>Grand Total</i></b>
<i>Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations</i>	160	144	99	79	77	559
<i>Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable</i>	37	40	22	35	33	167
<i>Keep vehicle no rear registration plate - registered after 30/09/38</i>	37	32	11	15	10	105
<b><i>Grand Total</i></b>	<b><i>234</i></b>	<b><i>216</i></b>	<b><i>132</i></b>	<b><i>129</i></b>	<b><i>120</i></b>	<b><i>831</i></b>

Q2 - You may not be aware that Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act concerns recorded information a public authority may hold. Your second question appears to be seeking general comment, explanation and opinion which is not covered by the legislation.

However to assist I have contacted the Operational Support & Roads Policing Unit to assist with this question. They advised:

*We don't have a policy on how we deal with public reports of illegally spaced number plates. We certainly wouldn't discount any reports of something illegal and would judge the reports on their own merits.*

*Officers coming across such offences will deal with them proportionately whether this is via process or warning using their discretion which will hopefully be identified in the answer to question 1.*