

Legal Services
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Head of Legal Services

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We welcome calls via Tynetalk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: PMKS/

Date: 21 November 2018

Dear

RE: FOI 1116 REVIEW

On 13 November 2018, you requested an **internal review** of the Council's handling of your FOI request 'Greenhithe Station to Ingress Park bus lane - Camera'. You say '*the Council's responses make light of significant failure of information provided to the Joint Transport Board, where a [sic] enforcement system is proposed. In addition the cameras mentioned in the minutes to the JTB have now been installed. So there has been procurement of a system. If this has been done by KCC and that they and Kent Police are enforcing, then that information should have been provided, and I would contact Kent Council. The overall tone of the response is flippant.*'

Your **initial request** dated 16/10/2018, was for information on the installation of ANPR cameras on the Greenhithe Station to Ingress Park bus lane and more specifically with reference to the Joint Transportation Board of 5 June 2018 and the following:

1. information including all tender documents, emails to suppliers, and agreements with Kent County Council on the procurement of the ANPR system;
2. data on the misuse of the bus lane in question, and how many fines have been issued;
3. project plan for the installation of the cameras, including likely live date of enforcement;
4. planned levels of enforcement penalties when camera go live;
5. DBC plans to take action on bus lane misuse during the interim till the cameras are installed.

The Council responded as follows:

1. Not available because no decision has been taken to procure an ANPR system;
2. Not available. See 1. above;
3. Not available. See 1. above;
4. Not available. See 1. above;
5. Not applicable as the current offence is enforceable by the police.

Background:

- (a) Through the Joint Transportation Board (an advisory committee) (JTB), Dartford Borough Council (DBC) and Kent County Council (KCC) jointly cooperate regarding highway and transportation issues in the interests of the residents of the Borough of Dartford. KCC is the highway authority and continues to discharge the highway functions regarding the Borough of Dartford.
- (b) On 5 June 2018, the JTB considered Fastrack Busway Enforcement: *'Dartford Borough Council (DBC) have received a proposal from SEA Roadflow for the deployment of a ROADflow Flexi system trial for Fastrack. Following liaison between officers at DBC and Kent County Council (KCC) Public Transport, KCC have agreed to fund this trial. An approach has now been made to SEA to accept the proposal and a meeting has been requested to progress. The trial will take place on the Ingress Park – Greenhithe Station busway section where previous concerns on contraventions have been raised'*.
- (c) By email dated 06/11/2018, with reference to (b) above you stated *'So this shows that procurement has happened, discussions on going, and funding in place. So could you answer the request as it is clear that procurement is happening, unless this is false information provided to the JTB?'*

On 06/11/2018, the Council responded ' it is not a trial - it is simply a survey to ascertain the level of non-compliance.' The Council apologised for the confusion.

Review decision

- (a) KCC produced the report to the JTB. The JTB was briefed on Fastrack by KCC officers present at the meeting.
- (b) I have reviewed the responses to your initial request and conclude that no relevant recorded information is held by the Council. However, although DBC is not required to answer a question if it does not already have the relevant information in recorded form, this did not prevent DBC providing answers or explanations as well, as a matter of normal customer service.
- (c) DBC provides relevant explanations as follows:

DBC is aware that an ANPR camera has been installed on a lamp column, but that it is currently non-operational. No evidence packs are being processed or warning notices or fines issued. The camera will be monitoring for non-compliance events for a limited period of time once switched on.

For further information, please contact dan.bruce@kent.gov.uk

If you should remain dissatisfied with the decision on internal review, you may appeal to the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

MARIE KELLY-STONE
HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES (electronic signature)