



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

Com Sec: 10\3979

27<sup>th</sup> July 2010

*Dear Mr Hamilton,*

**To ask the Minister of Justice how many speeding fines were recorded, but not processed, by the PSNI in each of the last five years.**

The above mentioned question was placed before the Minister of Justice, who has deemed that this is an operational matter for the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Therefore the Chief Constable has been asked to respond directly.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland does not impose speeding fines; these are a matter for the Courts, however appended to this letter is information relating to speeding offences, Fixed Penalty Notices and Conditional Offers.

To explain the figures, it is worth explaining why speeding detections may be cancelled. Some of the most common reasons are as follows:

- During the period 2005 – 2009 the overall number of speeding detections has doubled, thereby leading to a corresponding increase in the number of cancellations.
- Where vehicles are detected via the Safety Cameras we frequently find either the vehicle is foreign registered or the nominated driver is a foreign national, neither of which is capable of being dealt with through the fixed penalty process, resulting in a cancellation.
- Where a driver either fails to surrender their driving licence as required or has already received too many penalty points, the fixed penalty will be cancelled and will become a prosecution matter and referred to the courts.
- Either due to false information provided by motorists or through failure to inform DVA of changes to addresses, there are a number of motorists every year who are unable to be traced.
- Emergency vehicles whilst legitimately responding to a call are legally exempt from adhering to the speed limit.
- Where a genuine and substantiated case is put forward by drivers who have, for example, been summonsed to the hospital where a loved one is critically ill. In addition every year, we cancel notices where the recipient has since died.

If you have any queries regarding this response, please address your correspondence to Command Secretariat, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT5 6LE.

I trust this is of assistance.

*Yours sincerely,*  


**JOHN MCCAUGHAN**  
Superintendent  
for Chief Constable

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## Cancelled Speeding Offences

01/01/2005 to 31/12/2009

Offence	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
E004 (excess speed)	161	143	153	91	99	647
E167 (R driver exceeding 45mph)	0	3	4	3	3	13
E005 (Breach of temporary speed limit)	0	0	16	14	19	49
Conditional Offers (speeding offences)	1509	1146	2283	2143	3636	10717
<b>Total</b>	<b>1670</b>	<b>1292</b>	<b>2456</b>	<b>2251</b>	<b>3757</b>	<b>11426</b>

### Conditional Offers.

A person can only be prosecuted for an offence if he or she is advised at the time of the incident, or in writing within 14 days, of the facts of the incident and possibility of a prosecution to include the nature, date and time of the alleged offence. In relation to the offence of excess speed detected by a Safety Camera, a Conditional Offer to pay a fixed penalty will be issued to a person who has been detected travelling at excess speed. This offer is sent to the registered keeper of the offending vehicle. That person is required to return the completed notice within the 14 days, confirming that he or she was the driver at the time of the offence, or advising as to who was driving at the material time, as per their legislative requirements. If the driver decides not to pay the penalty the driver must sign the form indicating this and this has the effect of requesting a court hearing. This offer is considered to have been served even in cases where it is returned from the address as undelivered or for any reason not received.