



Reference: RFI 1711113

Request:

I'm hoping to get some information on CCTV cars being used by councils under the Freedom of Information Act.

My inquiry concerns CCTV cars that have to keep their engines running so their camera equipment can work.

As such, can you please confirm if your CCTV cars have to keep their engines on to run their cameras.

Yes, the cameras run off the vehicle battery. If the vehicle is stationary undertaking enforcement, then the officer needs to keep the engine running to ensure the cameras don't drain the vehicle battery.

For example, if a council officer was on patrol in a CCTV car, but had parked the car. If the officer then turned the engine off, would the cameras stop working?

Not immediately, but once the battery charge dropped below a certain level, then the camera equipment would stop and the officer would be unable to re-start the vehicle.

How often are your CCTV cars parked when they are in the process of monitoring other drivers?

Information not held

Does most of the CCTV recording happen when the cars are parked or when they're on the move?

The majority of schools are monitored whilst the vehicle is moving. Unfortunately in some situations, due to the layout of the road or the nature of the parking abuse, this is not always possible or effective in discouraging abuse.

Can you also confirm what you use the CCTV cars for.

North Tyneside Council uses a CCTV safety and enforcement vehicle to carry out enforcement of School Keep Clear restrictions and bus stops throughout the borough, complimenting the existing civil enforcement officers to help improve pedestrian safety and aid bus services.

Is it just for parking infractions? Or do you use them to patrol parents dropping off their kids at the school gates? Can you please provide a full list of how CCTV cars are being used to monitor your area.

The CCTV vehicle is only used to enforce School Keep Clear restrictions and bus stops in North Tyneside.

Are there any other reasons why CCTV cars must have their engines running? For example, is it for the health and safety of the officers inside?

This is not applicable in North Tyneside, the sole reason for keeping the engine running whilst stationary is to maintain battery charge.

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