

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Decision notice

Date: 26 July 2024

Public Authority: Chief Constable of Essex Police

Address: PO Box 2
Springfield
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 6DA

Request:

The complainant requested the following information from the Chief Constable of Essex Police on 27 May 2024:

"Officers have made 159 drink and drug driving arrests in Essex as their road safety campaign continues. In April 2024, the Roads Policing Unit arrested a total of 285 people across Essex. That figure included 101 for drink driving and 58 for drug driving as a result of a pro-active national road safety.

Article accessible via: <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/officers-arrest-159-drink-drug-123429659.html>

- 1) Of the 58 individuals arrested in April 2024 for drug driving, please provide a breakdown of the illicit substances tested positive for.

We've launched a new campaign with The Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP), to tackle the issue of drug driving with drug drivers in Essex more likely to be caught than ever before.

Adam Pipe, Head of Roads Policing, said: "By the end of this year we'll have seen as many drug drive arrests in 2019 as in 2017 and 2018 combined.

Drug drivers tell my officers they don't think they'll get caught. The reality is we've more than 500 officers trained to use drug wipes so you're actually more likely to get caught than ever before.

Drug drivers also tell us that taking drugs is part of their lifestyle, part of their daily routine. What they don't realise is that drugs stick around in your system.

Even if you don't look or feel stoned you could still be over the drug driving limit, and if you're stopped and drug wiped you'll be arrested."

Information obtained from the webpage:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/campaigns/campaigns/drug-driving-is-the-high-worth-the-low/>

- 2) Please provide organisational structure chart for your Roads Policing Unit
- 3) In July 2023, 25 drivers are recorded as "fail to provide". Please could you provide a breakdown of what penalty they received as a result

Source: <https://www.essex.police.uk/foi-ai/essex-police/other-information/previous-foi-requests/drinkdrug-driving-monthly-arrest-numbers/>

Commissioner's Decision:

A public authority will breach section 10 of FOIA if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore the Commissioner finds a breach of section 10.

Steps:

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under FOIA.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court

pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Right of Appeal:

Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF**