

Responses from Sussex Police to the Public Questions 3, 5, 6 and 7

Question 3. Should 20 mph limits be introduced in West Sussex residential streets (e.g. Worthing) will the policing of the limit be any different from the policing of the current 30 mph limits?

Any speed enforcement wherever it occurs within the Sussex Police area will be undertaken in accordance with the ACPO Speed Enforcement Policy Guidelines 2011-2015: Joining Forces for Safer Roads and in conjunction with the Force Speed Management Policy.

Essentially the answer to this query is no, the police will enforce all speed limits which are supported by a lawful traffic regulation order or enactment. The Governments recently published Circular 01/2013, 'Setting Local Speed Limits' outlines a number of key points, the first is:

- Speed limits should be evidence-led and self-explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self-compliance. Speed limits should be seen by drivers as the maximum rather than a target speed.

It is only fair to point out, the service has limited capacity and resilience and will assume that if correctly placed, speed limits will be self-enforcing and the Highway Authority will be responsible for ensuring it meets those aims.

Question 5. The question relates to 20 mph zones and is as follows:

1. How many prosecutions have there been over the last two years for exceeding the speed limit in a 20mph zone in the greater Bognor Regis area?

None. This should not be considered abnormal as the 20 mph zone is contained within the Bognor Home Zone, an area of relatively newly constructed properties and roads designed specifically for 20 mph or existing 30 mph roads which have had traffic calming measures installed to encourage self-compliance.

2. Were these prosecutions successful?

Not applicable

3. Would those prosecutions have been pursued if the limit had been 30 mph?

Not applicable

4. How many prosecutions have there been over the last two years for exceeding the speed limit in a 20 mph zone in the Chichester area?

None. The general 20 mph speed limit in Chichester was not introduced until June 2013 and where such limits existed previously either in Westgate or within the Walls, the roads were either supported by traffic calming or were such that they encouraged self-compliance. The new 20 mph speed limit is subject to post implementation monitoring by WSCC and any overt directed policing activity is likely to skew any speed data obtained.

5. Were these prosecutions successful?

Not applicable

6. Would those prosecutions have been pursued if the limit had been 30 mph?

Not applicable

Question 6. Summons and self-incrimination

1. When issuing a summons do Sussex police provide a warning to motorists that they do not have a right to silence?

Regarding the issue of a summons, there is no requirement to do so - a summons is a legal document informing an individual that legal proceedings have commenced and their presence is required at a Criminal Court to answer the information that has been laid down by the prosecuting authority.

2. If the answer is no, then will you ensure that, in future, the Police are required to inform members of the public, in an honest, truthful and decent manner, that the legal right of silence does not apply to motorists?

Not relevant

3. How many motorists were convicted in Sussex over the last 3 years using the technique of compulsory self-incrimination? (i.e. that they were made to provide driver details under the threat of a penalty if they did not).

We are unfamiliar with what is meant by 'technique of compulsory self-incrimination' but we believe the question relates to Sec 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 - Duty to give information as to identity of driver etc in certain circumstances - this is specifically written into an Act of Parliament and as such there is a legal obligation placed upon the keeper of a vehicle to give such information where the driver of a vehicle is alleged to be guilty of an offence to which the section applies - this obligation was upheld by the European Court of Human Rights in their judgment in 2007.

S172 requests are mainly sent out as a result of safety camera detection and for the preceding three years 184,251 were sent to keepers. During that period 50,173 drivers paid fixed penalty notices and 9,091 elected to have their case heard at a criminal court.

4. What percentage of the overall figure is that?

There are other forms of case disposal coupled to the fact that not all those attending court will be convicted, therefore an overall percentage figure would not be a reliable indicator.

Question 7.

My question this year relates to crime statistics, for the same period as "performance plan year 2013/2014":

Please advise:

- The number of crimes recorded
- The percentage resolved by way of:
 - prosecution
 - warning
 - and other criteria you may use
- The percentage pending, or still under investigation
- The percentage now closed and un-resolved

Further research has indicated that not all "items" reported to the police are regarded as crimes, but many are recorded as 'incidents', and are not therefore included within crime statistics.

- Please advise the criteria by which an incident is identified.
- How many "incidents" were recorded last year?

The last quarterly report showed an alarming rise in my ward of St Andrews. When I asked what the "clear up rate" was, the answer given was "that it is difficult to calculate, and not data we have access to".

Please therefore advise:

- which of these crimes have been resolved;
- which are still under investigation; and
- the number un-resolved and closed.

For 2013-14, for St Andrews ward Burgess Hill

The number of crimes recorded - 168

The percentage resolved by way of:

charged/summons - 19

youth caution - 8

adult caution - 9

taken into consideration (not previously) - 1

penalty notice for disorder - 1

cannabis warning - 2

community resolution – 6

The number pending, or still under investigation - 1

The percentage now closed and un-resolved 121

How many "incidents" were recorded last year? 1258 (including incidents which are then recorded as crimes)

Incident result type group

Working
Serial Count

Administration	235
Alarms	6
Anti Social Behaviour	147
Burglary	22
Civil Dispute	15
Crime Other Types Not Specified	9
Criminal Damage	33

Drugs Possession Or Use	5
Hoax Calls To Emergency Services	29
Medical Incident/Concern	135
Missing Persons	163
Motor Vehicle Crime	10
Non Crime Domestic	48
Non Notifiable Crime And Incidents	3
Not Crime	5
Police Activity	58
Railway Related Incident	1
Road Related Incidents	89
Road Traffic Collision	29
Suspicious Activity	131
Theft	35
Violent Crime	34
Wildlife	8
	8
Sum:	1258