



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Freedom of Information Request Reference No:

I note you seek access to the following information:

I would like to know how fast police drivers are permitted to drive when attending an emergency and does this vary depending on the type of road.
Does this speed vary depending on the type of vehicle being used e.g can police van be driven at the speed a regular police car is there maximum speed limit
police driver must not exceed when attending an emergency please provide me with Met Police Policy on how fast drivers are allowed to drive.

DECISION

I have today decided to disclose the located information to you in full.

Please find attached information pursuant to your request above.

I have attached three extracts from policy, one regarding police exemptions to speed, a second in regards to the speed levels whereby the PDSU (Police Driver Standards Unit) may make a Supervisory Intervention, and the third regarding attitude when driving.

All Police Drivers that are trained by Hendon Driving School to use warning equipment (Blue Lights and Two Tones) afford the exemptions described. Drivers will risk assess each drive throughout, with the principles of safety first.

Hendon train drivers with the principles of ROADCRAFT which is a widely published and available book.

Therefore, in answer to your question, there are no speed limits, however drivers must adhere to their training and constantly risk assess their drive in regards to road type, weather, road conditions etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the MPS.

Information Rights Unit

Extracts from the Police Driving & Vehicle Policy

1. Legal Exemption for vehicles being used for a police purpose

The Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 and Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 exempts emergency vehicles from the observance of speed limits, observing keep left/right signs and complying with some red traffic signals, if such observance would hinder the use of the vehicle for the purpose it was being used for on that occasion. In terms of police driving, making use of these facilities is commonly referred to within the Service as 'Making use of our police exemptions'.

There is no legal definition of what would or would not constitute justification for 'making use of our police exemptions'.

The use of police exemptions to override normal traffic legislation must be justifiable and may be the subject of close examination, both internally and externally, should an incident occur as a result of their use.

The legal exemptions regarding red traffic signals, speed and directional signs may exempt a driver from criminal conviction but a driver may still be liable to a civil action if they have driven negligently in any particular circumstances. In this event it will be necessary to show that the use of the exemption(s) was justifiable.

2. Supervisory Interventions

Where drivers exceed the posted speed limit indicated, they will be reviewed by the Police Driving Standards Unit (PDSU), with consideration for site visits and whether the officers driving justifies 'supervision intervention' or award of a sanction by the PDSU and that he/she should have a driving assessment.

Scrutiny of all exemptions granted for speeds of:

- 70mph or higher whilst in a 30mph zone
- 90mph or higher whilst in a 40mph zone
- 110mph or higher whilst in a 50mph zone

3. Attitude

The attitude of drivers themselves, to the task of driving, plays an important part in not having or reducing collisions.

One quote that has been in use for many years is:

"NO EMERGENCY IS SO URGENT AS TO JUSTIFY A COLLISION. IT IS FAR BETTER TO ARRIVE LATE THAN NOT AT ALL". Roadcraft

This is as relevant today as when it was first used.

All MPS trained drivers who are allowed to make use of legal exemptions have received instruction based on Roadcraft that will enable them to:

"ensure that their vehicle is always in the right place at the right time, travelling at the right speed and in the correct gear. Thus, a driver will be in complete control of any situation with which they might be faced".