



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

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Calls may be monitored for quality control, security and training purposes.

Ms Joanna Kirk
(moultonpc@gmail.com)

Our Ref: RK/ak

Direct Dial: 01473 782701

19 May 2022

Dear Ms Kirk

Thank you for your further mail and letter dated 14 April 2022 regarding speeding in rural areas, and in particular the village of Moulton.

I am sorry that you feel that tackling speeding in rural areas is a low priority for Suffolk Constabulary, but I did outline the specific response to speeding in the village of Moulton in my response to you on 8 February 2022.

More widely, speed enforcement activity takes place across the county using a variety of methods including fixed and average speed cameras, mobile enforcement, Roads Policing and local Safer Neighbourhood Team Officers. The Suffolk Constabulary operates seven Safety Camera Vans with the county. Three of the vans are used predominantly on the strategic road network in Suffolk, with the remaining four smaller vans operating at sites of public concern and supported by casualty, collision and speed data. You will be pleased to know that these four vans operate mainly in rural areas. During the year ending 31 March 2022) the Safety Camera Vans detected 7798 speeding offences, compared to 7584 in the preceding year.

You will recall from my letter to you on 8 May 2022 that I provided some regarding the enforcement activity by the Safety Camera Team in Moulton, and confirmed that existing mobile enforcement sites are visited regularly by the team with 20 excess speed offences recorded between January 2021 and April 2022. It is encouraging that a Community Speed Watch Scheme (CSW) is operating in Moulton and, whilst there have been challenges during Covid-19 with operational restrictions, the team in Moulton now has new camera equipment to work with.

I would add there is a low collision rate reported in the village, with seven minor damage collisions reported since 2018 and one slight injury collision just outside the parish boundary. There have been no reportable collisions in the School Safety Zone (SSZ) during the past four years.

The focus of the Safety Camera Team is casualty reduction, and does have to take into account a range of factors including reports of collisions, recorded injuries and speed statistics when assessing suitable sites for enforcement activity.

Cont/..

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Complaints of speeding from members of the public, Councillors and Parish Councils are assessed and the Safety Camera Team regularly employs Speed Detection Radar equipment (SDRs) to provide a consistent method of collecting speed data across the county.

I note that Suffolk County Council has carried out three speed surveys in Moulton close to the primary school, and thank you for sharing the data in your letter. However, I would stress that from an enforcement perspective it is important to recognise that the School Safety Zone (SSZ) in Moulton has an advisory 20 mph limit (20's plenty). The legal speed limit remains at 30 mph and enforcement can only take place in relation to that legal limit.

You referred to communities installing ANPR cameras to tackle speeding. You may be aware that Suffolk County Council has established an initiative using ANPR cameras in local communities, and this is expected to go live in the Summer. If you would like any further information on this scheme, any enquiries for the scheme should be directed to SafetyandSpeedManagement@Suffolkhighways.org.

I can reassure you that drivers caught speeding will be issued with a Traffic Offence Report (TOR) which can result in them receiving a fixed penalty notice, points on their licence, attending speed awareness courses and appearing in court.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Kearton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Kearton
Deputy Chief Constable