



# Freedom of Information

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## Headlines:

- Annual Report complaint figures, p.17
- ICO accused of waving white flag to Cabinet Office over delays, p.18
- Birmingham CC does its 'level best' to deal with FOI, p.19

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## Transport department's drive for greater transparency

The Department for Transport has written to English highway authorities setting out requirements for the publication of comprehensive information about speed cameras.

The highway authorities have been asked to publish (or ensure the publication of) casualty, collision and speed information for their permanent fixed camera sites as soon as practicable.

The bodies must provide the DfT with the website addresses for the information by 20th July.

The information to be published includes annual collision and casualty data for the numbers of killed and seriously injured people and for all personal injuries.

Where the highway agency is a local authority that supports camera enforcement financially, it should also ensure that a deployment strategy is published.

The Executive Agency of the DfT, the Highways Agency, will set up a central hub providing links to local websites where the data are published.

The move towards greater transparency on the use of speed cameras also affects police forces, which are required to publish the numbers of prosecutions arising from fixed camera sites in their area each year.

Police forces must also publish the total number of offences recorded by all cameras, the total number of offenders and the total number of offenders given a fixed penalty notice or taken to court.

The Road Safety Minister, Mike Penning, *(Continued on page 17)*

## UK uncovers 'most ambitious' open data agenda in the world

The Prime Minister has committed the government to publishing key data on the National Health Service, schools, criminal courts and transport.

The new commitments are set out in a letter from the Prime Minister to Cabinet officials.

When published, the data will reveal the performance of hospital teams in treating lung cancer and other healthcare conditions,

the effectiveness of schools at teaching pupils across a range of subjects, criminal sentencing by courts, data on rail service performance, current road conditions, car parks and cycle routes. The information will be in an "open format for use by all".

The Prime Minister said in his letter "As you know, transparency is at the heart of our agenda for government.

We recognise that transparency and open data can be a powerful tool to help reform public services, foster innovation and empower citizens. We also understand that transparency can be a significant driver of economic activity. These commitments represent the most ambitious open data agenda of any government in the world."

Information Commissioner, Christopher *(Continued on page 17)*