

Privacy Notice:
Community Speedwatch (CSW)

Sussex Data Protection Officer: **Jim Collen**
DPO@sussex.police.uk
[Full Privacy Notice](#)

This Privacy Notice tells you how Sussex Police retains, processes and shares the information obtained through Community SpeedWatch (CSW).

The use and disclosure of your personal information is governed in the United Kingdom by UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) legislation. This legislation requires organisations to process data in a fair, lawful and transparent manner. It mandates that certain information must be communicated to data subjects to ensure that they are as well informed as possible about how their data will be processed.

The Chief Constable for Sussex Police is defined as the '[Data Controllers](#)' for the purposes of the legislation and are required to ensure Sussex Police handles all personal information in accordance with that legislation. Sussex Police takes that responsibility very seriously and takes great care to ensure your personal data is processed appropriately to maintain your trust and confidence.

What is personal data?

Personal data is any information that relates to an identified or identifiable natural person. An 'identifiable natural person' is anyone who can be identified, directly or indirectly from information, including a Vehicle Registration Mark (VRM).

This document has been created to make it easier for you to understand what personal data Sussex Police processes about you in connection with Community Speedwatch

What is CSW?

CSW is a national initiative where, in partnership with the police, members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds. CSW is a scheme designed to support local communities to improve road safety by allowing residents to address speed concerns in their community with the support of the police in their area. This is achieved by enabling Community Residents to report the details of speeding vehicles in specific areas where speeding is of concern.

The volunteers report drivers exceeding the speed limit to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down. If the data proves a driver is ignoring repeated warnings police can prosecute them. The aim is to:

- reduce death and injury on the roads
- improve the quality of life for local communities
- reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

What is the lawful basis for processing your personal data?

Sussex Police is a Competent Authority under Part 3 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and may process your personal data for law enforcement purposes. This is defined under Section 31 of the Data Protection Act 2018 as: necessary for the performance of a task carried out for that purpose by a competent authority. The definition of statutory function for 'law enforcement purposes' is 'purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, including the safeguarding against and the prevention of threats to public security.

Data Controllorship:

Community Speedwatch UK is a national organisation that has a framework to facilitate local CSW groups in their area. Community Speedwatch UK, local CSW groups and the Police are all separate entities, each being independently responsible for determining the processing of the personal data they each capture and ensuring it is compliant with the legislation.

Sussex Police are not a Data Controller for the data collected by the local CSW or Community Speedwatch UK. However, once the data is passed to Sussex Police, we become the Data Controller and as such, determine the purpose and means of the processing.

How Does CSW Work:

When a local CSW group is in operation it will use devices to notify the volunteers if a vehicle is speeding through the monitored zone. Where a speeding vehicle is flagged, the CSW volunteers will note the Vehicle Registration Number (VRN), Make, Model and Colour of the vehicle to share with the Police. More information about Community Speedwatch UK can be found on the [Community Speedwatch website](#).

What information do we process?

Data processed by Police may include:

- VRN Vehicle Registration Number
- Vehicle make, model and colour
- The location of your offence and the speed captured
- The date and time of the offence
- Digital still image of your vehicle

Supplementary personal data collected by Police from the Police National Computer (PNC) includes:

- Registered keeper name and address

Community Speedwatch does not result in prosecution itself. However, if a persistent speeding driver is identified through the scheme, police can use this evidence to take action against them if required. If there is a persistent general speeding issue where highway improvements are required (e.g speed bumps), the relevant agency will be contacted. Processing data collected by CSW allows Sussex Police:

- Send advisory letters to the registered keepers of informing them of their speed in excess of the limit; and
- Support Community Residents in safely delivering schemes where speeding is of a specific concern to the community.

What disclosures do Police make of your personal data?

The processing is a one-way exchange, meaning that the CSW share information to the police, however the police do not return the registered owner or insured details to CSW. The VRN is also checked against DVLA / Motor Insurers Bureau to ascertain the Registered Keeper / Insured Driver detail. These individuals are then contacted by Police with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour.

Who is responsible for how your information is handled?

Sussex Police is responsible for the secure and lawful handling of the speed monitoring data that it is provided with and collects. Sussex Police will do so in compliance with Part 3 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Management of Police Information (MoPI). All data is stored within the United Kingdom and personal data is not used for any automated decision making or profiling.

How long do we keep your personal data?

CSW data about speeding vehicles is retained for one year for road safety purposes. If a vehicle with the same registered keeper is recorded 3 or more times in a one year period, then a warning letter will be issued, and if recorded 3 or more times in a rolling 6 month period then the data is reviewed for appropriate action.

Join Community Speedwatch

To become part of CSW, please go to [CSW Online](#) to register and for more information. CSW Online works on behalf of the police and communities to organise and coordinate CSW activity. Volunteers receive training, and neighbourhood policing team staff will support them.

What are your rights over your personal data we process, and how can you exercise them?

Under the Act you have a number of rights that you can exercise in relation to personal data processed about you. These are detailed in the Force Privacy Notice which can be found [here](#). Please be aware, Sussex Police and CSW are separate entities, therefore if you have any questions about CSW processing you will need to contact them directly.

If you have any concerns about your personal information processed by the Police, please contact our Data Protection Officer (DPO). They are responsible for making sure the information about is used in a secure, legal and appropriate manner. You can also contact the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) who is responsible in the UK for making sure we comply with data protection legislation (further information about the ICO can be found [here](#)).

Sussex DPO@sussex.police.uk
Data Protection Officer
Sussex Police Headquarters
Church Lane
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2DZ

Changes to our Privacy Notice

We keep our privacy notice under regular review. This privacy notice was last updated on **September 2026**.