



My Ref: FOI 5771  
Enquiries to: Information Requests  
E-Mail: [informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk)

Dear Requester,

**Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

**I am requesting information relating to the camera located at or near the junction of Barnsley Road and Michelson Avenue, Dodworth, Barnsley.  
Please provide the following information:**

**1. The purpose of the camera installed at this location.**

The weather station at Michelson Avenue is positioned there because it provides an accurate representation of local road and micro-climate conditions that are critical for winter decision-making. Dodworth sits at a transitional point between lower-level urban areas and higher-elevation routes leading towards the Pennines, where temperatures and road surface conditions can change quickly.

Placing a station at Michelson Avenue allows the Council to:

- Monitor a known cold-spot area  
Dodworth often experiences earlier temperature drops and frost formation compared with central Barnsley. Data from this point helps validate when surface temperatures are approaching freezing.
- Capture conditions on a key strategic route  
Michelson Avenue feeds into several important local distributor roads used heavily by commuters and emergency services. Real-time information ensures timely gritting decisions for routes with high demand.
- Support gritting decisions for the western corridor  
The station provides early warning of deteriorating conditions before they develop further west on higher ground. This helps the winter service team decide when to deploy gritters to protect the wider network.
- Provide reliable, representative local data  
Its open location, distance from buildings, and unobstructed exposure make it suitable for accurate measurement of road surface temperature, air temperature, moisture, and other indicators used in forecasting.  
Overall, the Michelson Avenue site strengthens the Council's ability to respond proactively to changing winter conditions and ensures gritting decisions are based on robust, hyper-local data.

**2. The organisation responsible for owning, maintaining, and operating the camera.**

The Findlay Irvine weather stations located here are owned and operated by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

Routine servicing, maintenance, calibration, and any technical support for the equipment are carried out under contract by Findlay Irvine Ltd, the specialist supplier and manufacturer of the monitoring system.

**3. The type of camera system installed (for example: traffic monitoring, CCTV, ANPR, bus lane enforcement, red light enforcement, speed enforcement, or other).**

The cameras are weather observational cameras recording still images every 60 minutes.

**4. Whether the camera is capable of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) or any other vehicle identification technology.**

They are not capable of any form of vehicle identification

**5. Whether the camera is used for traffic enforcement or issuing penalties.**

No it is not.

**6. Whether footage or data is recorded and stored, and if so, the data retention period.**

Images are stored for a period of 2 years

**7. Whether the camera feeds into any wider monitoring network or control centre operated by the council or another organisation.**

No.

**8. Whether the camera shares data with any third parties, including but not limited to the South Yorkshire Police or other law enforcement agencies.**

No.

**9. The date the camera was installed and any upgrades or changes to its functionality since installation.**

Installed 18/03/20 and no changes to their functionality since then.

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**10. Any policies, procedures, or impact assessments governing the operation and data use of this camera.**

No

**If the camera is not owned or operated by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, please confirm the responsible authority.**

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC  
Information Requests Team  
PO Box 634  
Barnsley  
S70 9GG  
email: [informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team  
Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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**PO Box 634, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 9GG**