

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM WARWICKSHIRE POLICE
RE: POLICE DRIVING IN LEEK WOOTTON

...I am the lead for Warwickshire Police Specialist Operations which includes all of the uniformed units based at Leek Wootton and as such have been forwarded your email regarding police drivers in Leek Wootton.

I appreciate the concerns raised by residents but hopefully I can give some reassurance and explanation. All police officers, once appropriately trained, have exemptions in law which allow them to exceed posted speed limits if a policing purpose exists. Due to the nature of the units at Leek Wootton they are very often leaving HQ to attend incidents where lives are at risk and as such may exceed the speed limit in the Leek Wootton area.

The units working out of Leek Wootton include the Roads Policing team, the Firearms response team and the Dog team and Leek Wootton was chosen for it's relatively central location and easy access to the strategic roads network. All of the officers on those units are trained to advanced level which means they are the most highly skilled drivers within the force.

Each officer will have progressed through the following courses;

- An initial one-day basic driving authority.
- A four-week standard driving course which includes initial pursuit training.
- A four-week advanced driving course which includes psychometric testing.
- An additional week learning and practising tactics to prevent pursuits or bring them to safe conclusions.

As such they are experts in advanced observations and assessing the risks that driving more quickly presents. All advanced drivers receive a refresher every three years to ensure their skills are maintained to the highest level.

All of the vehicles based at Leek Wootton are equipped with telematics allowing managers, myself included, to monitor driving behaviour. This provides another tool to ensure driving standards are maintained.

Taking all of the above into account, police officers responding from Leek Wootton will be constantly assessing the circumstances, using professional judgement, and only achieving speeds which they deem to be safe in line with their extensive training. However, I'm very mindful that the perception of these speeds can be concerning to members of the public.

Ultimately Leek Wootton is an operational response base for Warwickshire Police and as such it's often important that units make progress from that location. While I am unable to give assurances that police vehicles will not use their legal exemptions around Leek Wootton, I can say that my units are aware of their place within the community and will only use those exemptions when absolutely necessary and applicable. I can also assure you that I will continue to monitor.

Kind regards,



Jem Mountford
Chief Inspector
Operations