

# 'Chase' cops stood down

**EXCLUSIVE**

**Nicole Cox**

Police Reporter

TWO police officers have been suspended over claims they tried to evade speeding fines, saying they were engaged in a pursuit.

The officers have been stood down over a \$75 fine and at least two other cases are under review, amid concerns that speeding infringements have been fraudulently "written off".

*The Sunday Times* understands the two suspended constables, claimed to have been chasing a vehicle along Stirling Highway, Cottesloe, last year when they were snapped by a speed camera allegedly travelling 7km/h over the 60km/h limit.

But a review of several seconds of video footage taken by the camera after the alleged offence revealed there were no other cars in sight.

Internal affairs officers are also probing if the police vehicle's emerg-



ency lights and sirens were activated.

The investigation has been referred to the Corruption and Crime Commission and police are considering if charges can be laid against the officers – who were both working at the Perth police station – for attempting to pervert the course of justice and falsifying paperwork to "write off" the fine.

Under the Road Traffic Code, police and emergency services personnel are exempt from speeding tickets if the offence occurs during "official duties" and the driver is taking reasonable care with blue or red flashing lights or a siren.

The scandal comes just weeks after *The Sunday Times* revealed that thousands of people had escaped

criminal charges because "incompetent" officers had failed to file basic paperwork and court briefs.

A spokeswoman for Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan said yesterday that the force could not provide specific detail about the case, but "the allegations under investigation are that the officers provided false or misleading information to justify an exemption from prosecution for a speeding offence".

She said the officers were stood down on April 1.

WA Police Union president Russell Armstrong said he could not comment in depth as the matter was under investigation and union lawyers were acting for the two suspended officers.

But he warned the state's 5900 officers that it was not worth losing their jobs over a speeding fine.



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