

Roads Ahead

Police Federation Roads Policing Newsletter

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Foreword

Alan Jones

Police Federation Lead on Roads Policing

With the festive season now behind us and the New Year ahead somewhat lacking in prosperity, we continue to retain the focus on roads policing at our annual conference later this month.

Our strengths and value in the roads policing arena should not be underestimated. We have unrivalled experience, skills and knowledge, which is a significant asset in order to meet the demands and expectations placed on this essential frontline service.

The scope and extent of budget cuts could not have been predicted 12 months ago and many of you will be feeling vulnerable. Much is still unclear but rest assured, we will do all we can to champion the cause. An opportunity presents itself between the 20th and 21st January for those attending our annual roads policing conference to network with friends and colleagues and hear the latest on what's going on in the traffic world of policing.

In this edition, we are pleased to include a piece from this year's title conference sponsor, the Motor Insurers' Bureau.

We hope you can join us at conference later this month.



Transport Committee - First Report

Drink and drug driving law

Browse the report together with the Proceedings of the Committee. The published report was ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 24 November 2010.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmtr an/460/46002.htm>

Particular points to note in conclusions and recommendations are 7, 8 & 9. Comprehensive evidence was given in relation to the North Review on drink and drug driving. Whilst it is unfortunate that no firm recommendations were made regarding the reduction in the drink drive limit, positive progress has been made in relation to drug driving and roadside screening devices – something that the Federation's roads policing group have been calling for for some considerable time.

Vehicles & bad weather

How difficult has it been in your force area with the recent treacherous weather conditions? We are specifically looking for feedback in relation to problems experienced. Please email roadspolicing@polfed.org

NEW INSURANCE LAW

Continuous Insurance Enforcement (CIE)

From January 2011 a new law will give DVLA more power to combat uninsured driving. Continuous Insurance Enforcement (CIE) will compliment and run alongside continuing police roadside enforcement. Meaning that as enforcement can take place for both keeping AND driving a vehicle without insurance there will be no place for illegal motorists to hide.

The scheme will work by the DVLA comparing its registered keeper records with details of vehicles kept by the Motor Insurers' Bureau on the MID (Motor Insurance Database) – the UK's central record of vehicle insurance – to identify uninsured vehicles.

If a vehicle does not have insurance the registered keeper could face:

- £100 fixed penalty fine
- Their vehicle being clamped, seized and disposed of, and
- Court prosecution with a maximum £1,000 fine

Following payment of the Fixed Penalty Notice, the registered keeper must still purchase a valid insurance policy or make a SORN declaration. If the vehicle remains uninsured the keeper could still, with no further warning, be subject to further enforcement action.

Dean Smith, MIB's Police Liaison Manager, said: "CIE is a significant step towards reducing the level of uninsured driving - but as CIE enforcement has a slight delay built into the process, police roadside enforcement remains the single biggest threat to unlawful motorists and has a massive impact in terms of keeping our roads safe.

"MIB remains committed to supporting police forces across the UK and helping them deny criminals use of our roads. To facilitate this we have recently extended access to the MID and enhanced the support we give to officers."

How will CIE work?

After comparing DVLA records with the MID an insurance advisory letter (IAL) will be sent by MIB to registered keepers that appear to be uninsured

The IAL tells vehicle keepers that, unless their vehicle is declared as 'off road' to the DVLA, it is a legal requirement to have motor insurance and what actions to take next. These include checking



they are on the MID at www.askMID.com

If the registered keeper does not comply and remains uninsured then the next stage will be enforcement from the DVLA.

When will the scheme start?

Although CIE will become law in January 2011 it will go 'live' with a 'soft launch' in April 2011. Initially a significantly reduced number of letters will be issued as part of this to allow MIB, DVLA and the industry to be able to assess customer and public reaction and make any necessary adjustments. Enforcement action will follow in quarter two of 2011.

How will this reduce uninsured driving?

There are currently about 1.5 million uninsured drivers. Over the past four years as a result of roadside enforcement uninsured driving has been reduced by 20%. The DVLA and MIB estimate that CIE will help reduce uninsured driving by a further 20%. However it is important to remember that both the approaches are needed to tackle the problem – for example CIE will not detect the uninsured driver of a vehicle owned by a third party.

For more information about how MIB can support you email: police@mib.org.uk or visit <https://www.mibpolice.org.uk> through your force intranet.



1600 Vehicles stopped in one day

During Thursday 14th October 2010, 47 forces took part in Operation Mermaid 5 across the UK together with colleagues from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), UK Borders Agency (UKBA), Trading Standards and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMR&C). Just under 1600 vehicles were stopped and checked of which 42% were found to be committing offences and 214 vehicles were not able to proceed any further due to prohibitions for mechanical defects, overweight, drivers' hours offences or the carriage of dangerous goods offences. There were 17 arrests across the UK for crime matters, warrants, a driver who was over the drink drive limit, 3 disqualified drivers and 3 for drug offences.

Chief Supt Geraint Anwyl (North Wales, Chair of National Roads Policing Intelligence Forum) said; "The results of this operation reinforce the importance of joint working and proactive

intervention on the strategic road network. While the range of offences detected is broad it is fair to say that the operation only scratched the surface. Disrupting criminality on the roads by effective patrols and intervention is key to improving road safety and ultimately providing public reassurance."

Alan Jones, Roads Policing Lead, Police Federation of England and Wales said; "The fact that over 13% of vehicles stopped had to be immediately prohibited is staggering in terms of irresponsibility and lack of compliance with the law, which highlights the serious risks people are exposed to out there on the road every day. The arrests for criminal matters and court warrants show how effective these co-ordinated joint operations can be in combating and disrupting criminal activity."

Over £400,000 of stolen plant recovered over two-week operation

During a two week period in early November 2010, at least 21 forces took part in Operation Crassus, focusing on stolen plant and equipment. The operation also involved the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMR&C) and the Environment Agency. Nearly 2150 vehicles were checked and 30% were found to be committing offences, whether they were maintenance, drivers' hours or carrying stolen plant.

Nearly £415,000 worth of plant was recovered from telehandlers to JCBs, tractors and generators all over the UK. There were 47 arrests half of which were for crime either handling stolen property or theft but there were two disqualified drivers, five drivers arrested for drink driving, four wanted on warrant and five arrested for drugs offences. Over 100 Graduated Fixed Penalty tickets were issued to drivers as traffic offences for drivers' hours, weight, documents, carriage of dangerous goods and maintenance issues.

Ch Supt Geraint Anwyl (North Wales Chair of the National Roads Policing Intelligence Forum) said "This operation shows the real benefit of partnership working. Plant theft is an enormous problem in the UK which can lead to serious financial consequences for industry during what is already a difficult time. The other offences detected serve as a reminder of the broad scope of activity in which Road Policing Officers are

involved and the negative impacts to the UK economy of criminality on the strategic road network."

STOP PLANT THEFT

If you have any information on the theft of machinery or require advice, then contact: Plant & Agricultural National Intelligence Unit

Did you know...

- The Plant and Agricultural National Intelligence Unit is a specialist Police Unit whose remit is to assist Police and other law enforcement agencies with the identification of stolen plant or agricultural machinery.
- We offer support and advice to help you identify any type of plant or agricultural machine.
- We maintain the most accurate police database of all stolen machines throughout the UK.
- We record all national theft data and have access to the PNC and the majority of plant insurers and manufacturers loss data.
- We offer advice, intelligence and statistical information regarding organised criminal networks working in your area.
- We can provide suitable 'sting' vehicles including tractors and excavators at all cost.
- We provide specialist police examiners for pre-planned operations.
- We provide training and advice to officers around identification and investigative techniques.

You can contact PANIU during office hours by ringing 0207 230 7290
 DC James Elliott - 0044 (0) 7823 111 493 - DC Zain Siddiqui - 0044 (0) 7823 111 489
 or email: paniumat@police.uk

Out of these hours the PANIU stolen equipment database can be accessed by Police by ringing CESAR on 08 450 700 440 24 hours a day!

PANIU is staffed by Police Officers there to help You!

The Official Security & Registration Scheme
 www.cesar-scheme.org

PANIU promotes the CESAR registration scheme where registered plant equipment can be identified by any person without the need for detailed examination or specialist equipment. CESAR was created as a direct result of police highlighting the difficulties they faced when dealing with equipment theft.

14 CESAR

Email roadspolicing@polfed.org for pdf file of poster

Last Chance to Register

National Roads Policing Conference, 'Working to meet tomorrow's challenges' 20-21 January 2010

The New Year brings our fourth operationally relevant roads policing conference, jointly organised by the Police Federation of England and Wales and ACPO. At times when budgets and resources are being seriously challenged, the service needs to consider how it can maintain an effective and strategic delivery of policing across the roads network over the coming years. This event is important for operational officers, managers, policy makers and partner agencies who will hear from a number of key speakers about the future direction and priority demands for policing the roads, be it at district command

level or centralised traffic. Delegates will have the opportunity to gain valuable information on the latest strategic and tactical options affecting modern roads policing.

On the evening of the 20th, we will be joined by leading after-dinner compere, Malcolm Lord; comedian Josh Daniels; and Embassy World Snooker Champion Dennis Taylor.

Please register today by emailing nyki.curtis@polfed.org

Unable to attend the Roads Policing Conference in January?

Please email any questions to roadspolicing@polfed.org and we will put to the panel on your behalf.

Traffic Training Programme

What are your views?

Do you have any issues in relation to the standard traffic training programme which is running in some forces?

Please email your feedback to roadspolicing@polfed.org

Regional Traffic Representatives

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