



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

AUTO DRINK DRIVE BAN TO BE SCRAPPED?

Government intends to lower limit but introduce points system

Drink drivers would not automatically be banned under new proposals to lower the alcohol limit to less than a pint of beer. The Government is planning to change the law to a 'two strikes and you're out' system to prevent too many people automatically losing their licenses.

It would mean those just over the new limit would get six points instead of a ban.

The problem is, according to the Government, that some drivers, depending on their metabolism, would be over the new 50mg of alcohol per 100millimetres of blood after just one drink. Under the 80mg limit almost everyone is legally fit to drive after one drink.

Under the new proposals there would still be an automatic ban for those over 80mg, but those between 50mg and 80mg would get a second chance. Britain has one of the highest drink drive limits in Europe with many countries already having a 50mg rule.

However **campaigners** are concerned a new 'two strikes' rule would confuse drivers and make people take more risks, but **Rob Gifford of the influential Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety** said *'it was undecided about whether to support ending the automatic ban. If it resulted in double the number of people losing their licences for breaching the lower limit, it could clog up the courts and create more of a problem because people would just drive while disqualified.'*

The PPP comments ... Maybe it is WE who are stupid, but it seems to us that, currently, the lack of traffic patrols, particularly during licensed premises' closing times, is allowing an increase in incidents of serious drinking and driving to avoid detection. The result has been an increase in high energy and often fatal collisions at these times. Again, a high proportion of those involved are younger drivers.

We do not see the logic of changing limits when **the current limit is inadequately enforced**. Frequent highway patrols are a major deterrent to ALL driving offences and other crime. The PPP strongly believe in **TARGETED DETERRENCE & PREVENTION** as it does NOT generate victims or criminals in overcrowded jails and all the associated paperwork and legal activity.

Note that the Police collect all the data necessary to confirm our conclusions AND predict the outcome of such changes. Their data from the badly targeted Christmas purges and the breath tests of accident victims will tell us who is drinking, when and how much. If only we had more sense and science and less idle talk by the likes of Gifford we could make some progress. Gifford & Co & high profile OTHERS should be held responsible for the tragic loss of our worldwide lead in road safety improvements.

Note a points system will mean that you get a NIP, a big fine, 6 points and don't go to court. If the points tot up to 12, your banned anyway as Millions of drivers would be.

