

“ PPP ” People for Proper Policing in North Wales



AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS FOR ALL ROADS

Average speed cameras **could** replace Gatsos on all UK roads

Specs are now a common sight. Average speed cameras that track drivers over long distances are to be rolled out across the country to replace Gatsos, it has been reported. Currently the cameras – dubbed '**yellow vultures**' – are used where road works are taking place, but ministers now plan to use them in **accident black spots**, in residential areas and on motorways.

The Home Office is expected to grant approval for the technology in January and it would open the floodgates for the cameras to be used nationwide. The cameras work in pairs and can monitor traffic for up to six miles. They calculate the average speed of vehicles and eliminate the possibility of slowing down to pass a camera.

The AA claims that the cameras could jeopardise safety by forcing drivers to tailgate each other as they adhere to the strict limit. Paul Watters, head of road safety policy, said *that half of motorway traffic exceeds the 70mph limit, meaning every other driver will receive a fine.*

A spokesman for the Association of British Drivers said average speed cameras could cause more accidents than they prevented: *'You will get a load of people staring at their speedometers instead of concentrating on what's going on around them.'*

The PPP comments ... **Irrespective of adverse views from organisations that know what they are talking about, the control freak Home Office will carry on.** How can you use an **average speed** camera at **accident black spots?** These cameras will create accidents.

We are already heading for the chaotic situation where lane discipline collapses. Some drivers drive in both the middle and fast lanes at 10% or more below the speed limit, staring at their speedos and refusing to change lanes. Undertaking at high differential speeds is now common. The middle lane crawling by speed limited HGVs add to the chaos and tailgating, bunching, frustration, anger and inattention increase. The inevitable result will be multiple pile ups (MPUs). If their other crazy scheme to use hard shoulders as a cheap capacity increase goes ahead then any isolated incident will cause an MPU as there will be nowhere to go!. For a 'risk assessment' obsessed government, such schemes should be unacceptable. NOTE ... there is a clamour for a hard shoulder on the A55 for sound safety reasons. The points we make above about M.Ways all apply to the A55.

NOTE ... NWPF's CS Geraint Anwyl was recently suggesting Specs cameras for the A55. Enforcement is his 2nd love after armed response!