

Met Police Lose Enforcement Powers

This exclusive story courtesy of Piston Heads Feb 5th 2009

Police Officers in London can no longer enforce a number of traffic offences after a major shake-up

Metropolitan Police officers have been stripped of powers to enforce a number of traffic offences involving major road signs from today, PistonHeads has learnt. A set of Met Police guidelines has been passed to us that illustrate exactly which misdemeanours officers are no longer allowed to deal with.

These include ‘no entry’, ‘one way’, and ‘no U turn’ signs. It is understood that police officers are furious at the reduction in their powers, which has been implemented with immediate effect. The enforcement now lies with Transport for London and the London local authorities and in many cases cameras will be used to catch motorists.

The memo, which was **circulated to officers today**, reads: *‘Where officers witness offences in circumstances that amount to minor errors of judgement, drivers may continue to be stopped and words of advice given, however, no formal warning may be given or reporting action taken.*

‘Officers must not tell drivers that no proceedings will be brought as a local authority civil enforcement notice could still be issued, for example where the authority has captured the offence on camera.’

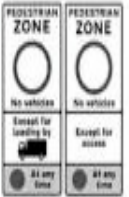
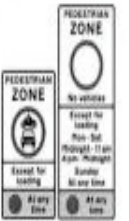
Just two thirds of London local authorities are thought to have agreed to take up enforcement. **The Traffic Management Act 2004** and the London Local Authorities and **Transport for London Act 2003** introduced provisions for the new changes.

If Met Police officers see driving that is **‘blatantly of a poor standard’** they can still intervene and **take action under the charge of dangerous driving.** A **Met Police spokeswoman** confirmed that police officers had been instructed of the new procedures today. She added: *‘Following a review of police powers after the introduction of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Transport for London Act 2003 police no longer have legal power to enforce certain moving traffic offences involving non compliance with signs. The power for enforcement now lies with Transport for London and Local Councils. Where officers see driving that is blatantly of a poor standard or that endangers other road users police will still intervene and take action under their general powers to tackle dangerous or careless driving.’*

The PPP comments ... This the reverse of what the PPP and most people want, namely a more obvious and effective Police presence on all our roads. To prevent by deterrence dangerous driving criminality and to provide a multipurpose professional road policing/road safety service to the vast majority, the law abiding road users. Cameras and their nameless, faceless operators are not what we want or need, primarily because they don’t work. Read this story and consider **Brunstrom’ current campaign as Head Of Road Policing All Wales.** The rest of the UK replaced him as ASCPO head of road policing but the WAG, because of Plaid’s insidious relationship with him!, Gave him ALL Wales to play with!

According to the memo the traffic offences that are included in the changes are: **see below**

Description of traffic sign	Diagram number ¹	Sign		
Vehicular traffic must proceed in the direction indicated by the arrow	606		Entry to and waiting in pedestrian zone restricted (Alternative types)	618.3
Vehicular traffic must turn ahead in the direction indicated by the arrow.	609			
Vehicular traffic must comply with the requirements prescribed in regulation 15.	610		Entry to and waiting in pedestrian zone restricted (Variable message sign)	618.3A
No right turn for vehicular traffic	612		Motor vehicles prohibited	619
No left turn for vehicular traffic	613		Motor vehicles except solo motorcycles prohibited	619.1
No U turns for vehicular traffic	614			
Priority must be given to vehicles from the opposite direction	615, 615.1		Solo motorcycles prohibited	619.2
No entry for vehicular traffic N.B. There is a condition attached to this sign which effectively means that it can only be included in this schedule where there is a traffic order to support its use.	616		Goods vehicles exceeding the maximum gross weight indicated on the goods vehicle symbol prohibited	622.1A
All Vehicles prohibited except non – mechanically propelled vehicles being pushed by pedestrians	617		One way traffic	652
Entry to pedestrian zone restricted (Alternative types)	618.2		Route for use by buses and pedal cycles only	953



¹ - This refers to the sign's diagram number in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002