



## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### Massive increase in crashes at M11 speed camera

According to [The West Essex Guardian](#) the infamous speed camera on the **M11 at Woodford** has seen a massive increase in crashes and crash severity. **Last week the Department for Transport cancelled its speed camera side effect research. This week we have tragic evidence of 5 serious injuries and a death possibly caused or exacerbated directly by a single speed camera....Now we know why!**

#### **The full story follows...M11 Speed camera under spotlight By Charlie Stong**

AN URGENT investigation into one of Britain's most infamous speed cameras has been called for after it was revealed that the number of serious accidents at the scene has dramatically increased since its installation.

The camera on the southbound carriageway of the M11 at Woodford hit the headlines in 2002 when it was revealed it was catching as many as 2,000 motorists breaking the 50mph speed limit every day. It even led to one driver taking his anger out directly on the camera, putting it out of action for some weeks. And, worryingly, figures obtained from the Highways Agency by motorist Hamish Birchall show a sharp increase in accidents in the vicinity of the camera since it was installed in May 2001.

**In the seven years prior to its installation there were only seven slight' injuries caused by accidents in the area. But in just four years after it was up and running there were nine slight' injuries, five serious' and one fatality.**

Mr Birchall said: *"It is very worrying and there is absolutely no question there should be some investigation into this by the police. If these cameras are not working and in fact are contributing to increased accident rates that's obviously a matter of urgency."*

Mr Birchall, a jazz musician from Gospel Oak, was snapped by the camera on February 15 this year after doing 65mph on his way home from a rehearsal in Epping. He has paid his fine but says he is more interested in extra signage being put up to warn drivers to slow down earlier - leading to less accidents.

He said: *"There can be absolutely no justification for keeping it there."*

A spokesman for the Highways Agency blamed the accidents on increased traffic, adding: *"Signs are in place to notify drivers of the change in the speed limit and **the safety camera**. These were further improved in 2003 in response to public concerns. We are satisfied that plenty of warning is given to drivers as they approach the camera, reduced lanes and speed limit change. Safety for road users is our top priority and we will continue to monitor the site as we do with all our roads."*

**The PPP comments ... Whatever the results, including more deaths and serious injuries, of this disastrous and abusive system of camera partnerships they will never admit there is a problem because their jobs depend on it. They are just like cigarette manufacturers, in denial. See our article on 'Inattention' below this one.**