

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

North Wales Police road policing Operation Focus continues

New tactics are to be employed by police in a bid to assist in an operation aimed at driving down the number of motorcyclists who are killed and injured on the roads of North Wales.

Covert speed cameras and the testing of average speed enforcement devices will be introduced under Operation Focus over the next couple of weeks. These will be used alongside the tried and tested enforcement methods used by officers working on the operation.

Superintendent Simon Shaw, Head of Roads Policing for North Wales Police said *“Law abiding responsible riders have nothing to fear from the introduction of these new tactics, however, we are reminding the riders that persist in riding at speed that they face the very real likelihood of prosecution. The portable average speed enforcement devices will be deployed at various locations along the routes favoured by the motorcyclists and will be tested over distances of one, five and ten miles.*

Supt Shaw added: *“The good weather we have enjoyed over the last 3 weekends has seen large numbers of motorcyclists descend on North Wales to enjoy rides through the magnificent North Wales scenery. **The vast majority of the motorcyclists are responsible careful riders** that ride at appropriate speeds for the conditions. Sadly, there is a significant minority of riders that use the North Wales roads as race tracks. Their recklessness not only puts their own lives at risk but also poses a real danger to other road users.”*

Each year around 10 motorcyclists are killed on the roads of North Wales. In addition to this figure, **many more sustain life changing injuries.** In the majority of cases the journey was purely recreational with excessive speed a contributory factor.

To minimise the risk of riders killing themselves or others North Wales Police has mounted specific operations for each of the last 3 weekends. The operations to date have involved a range of tactics including the deployment of marked and unmarked police vehicles and the force helicopter.

Typically a **weekend operation will see around 400 motorcyclists stopped.** In the majority of cases the only action taken by the police officer will be to offer words of advice. In around **50 cases breaches of road safety legislation are detected and enforcement action is taken.**

Despite this level of policing it is evident that not all motorcyclists are heeding our warnings and high speed riding by a significant minority remains a problem.

Operation Focus will continue each weekend and on the bank holidays until October.

The PPP comments ... The numbers of deaths and very serious injuries to motorcyclists is unacceptably high as is the risk to other road users. We also believe and have witnessed a large minority drive very dangerously. We fully support the Police PROVIDED they do not interfere unnecessarily with the freedoms of the legal and sensible majority.