



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Our scientist and road safety engineer from Oz, John Lambert just mailed us *his 'ball park' calcs* on a 'big brother' traffic monitoring and charging system.....

I Just did a quick calculation for the UK based on 30 million vehicles being monitored every 10 metres, assuming that at peak traffic flow time the level of travel per unit of time is 4 times the average over the day.

Assumed that a parcel of data per 10 m was 100 bytes (would have to include vehicle identification, location co-ordinates, mass of heavy vehicles, ...).

Works out that the volume of upload data would be around 2,000,000 Mbytes per second, in the big brother scenario, that would have to be processed to determine the location versus the charging regime. As well as the vehicle speed, the speed limit applying at that location, calculate the road user charge, store that data against each vehicle, check the speed against a safe speed for say a high centre of mass heavy vehicle, and so on.

And then there would be the download traffic to reset speed zones, warn trucks of dangerous corners, low bridges, mass limited bridges

Would be an immense high capacity network and processing installation!

The cost of collecting taxes through fuel tax would be infinitesimal in comparison.

The PPP comments.....the track record for publicly funded computer data systems has been both technically and financially disastrous. This proposal must be killed in it's infancy!

In engineering (particularly in the days of ONLY the slide rule) we were expected to carry out 'fast and dirty' experiments and 'ball park calcs' on 'back of fag packet designs' before shouting about our 'brilliant' ideas. This avoided a lot of red faces and daft expensive experiments and projects destined to fail!.

Why can't our politicians do likewise?they never will whilst it's fashionable to be numerically illiterate!