



## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### Bike-catching average-speed cameras type approved

MCN By Steve Farrell - 21 December 2009

Hi-tech average-speed cameras capable of catching motorcycles are finally ready for roll-out after winning Home Office type approval. So-called Specs3 cameras are a new generation of the average-speed cameras already seen at motorway road-works across the country.

But whereas the old kind are all front-facing, the new ones can be rear-facing and therefore capable of reading motorcycle number plates. The old ones measure vehicles' speed between two points as they are only linked in pairs. But the new ones allow many to be linked together to create speed control zones in which vehicles are constantly monitored.

Maker **Speed Check Services** says the cameras will be on 20mph and rural roads. A statement on the firm's website says: *'The long wait is over and Specs3 has received its full Home Office Type Approval. This means that the latest in average-speed enforcement technology can be applied on the UK road network. Specs3 allows a network of cameras to measure the average speed of vehicles between camera locations, covering simple sections of road or area based networks... Remote video cameras continually monitor traffic as it passes, routinely sending number-plate data back to a remote central server... It is anticipated that Specs3 will be operated in 20mph zones, rural routes [and] strategic trunk roads.'*

**The PPP comments ... our google search revealed this interesting summary ... the SPECS 3 average speed camera system is a high-tec and potentially high revenue generating alternative to humps. The workings and the advantages of which are explained by the MONOPOLY MANUFACTURERS at [www.speedcheck.co.uk/company.htm](http://www.speedcheck.co.uk/company.htm) ( a list of their directors & major shareholders would make interesting reading) And the link between government approval of a penalty fine issuing speed camera alternative to road humps – and **long resisted** admissions of their shortcomings is established by erstwhile fans of road humps including **Green Party GLA member Jenny Jones**. Jones is now supporting the spread of average speed cameras to enforce 20 mph limits throughout most streets in London. But as Webster reveals, Jones now acknowledges that one advantage of the speed cams over humps is that they would “reduce emissions”. **COST ISSUES** The cost of these cameras systems is, nevertheless, the basis for a whole new set of concerns. Prices for a **SPECS 3 camera start at £150K per pair**. But TC is told that the sums required to cover large areas of residential streets – as envisaged by Jones & Co in the capital – could easily run into £millions. Nevertheless, TC also notes that there may be no need for local authorities to worry about such seemingly massive drains on their coffers. As Quentin Wilson reported recently, a **'confidential report'** reveals that SPECS camera systems could **monitor “31,000 miles of road at a cost of £443million”** (!) However, the report goes on to say that this could be recouped in two years – because **just one pair of specs cameras in Notts generated an impressive £4.2million surplus in just five years**. The Government are expecting them to fail as speed controlling systems and more than pay for themselves. The WAR against the motorist (i.e the whole population) and a major stealth tax GOES ON and ON. Enter **camera** in our article search .... ALSO Remember Hoon the Buffoon then follow this link <http://www.properpolicing.org.uk/articles/AVERAGE%20CAMERAS%20TO%20REPLACE%20GATSOS.pdf>**