

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

SPEEDCAMS DAMAGING POLICE WARNS TOP COP

Police chief wants review into 'unfair' cameras

Public confidence in the police has been damaged by the use of too many speed cameras, a senior officer said today. **Ian Johnston, President of the Police Superintendents' Association**, now wants to see a review into the 'unfair' use of **Gatsos** because the public do not believe they are effective in road safety.

'One of the most negative aspects of how the public view the police is the use of speed cameras,' he said in extracts of a speech released ahead of the association's annual conference next week. 'The public don't think they are fair and they don't think there is a link between cameras and reducing road deaths or injuries. We should review the use of speed cameras. I am not looking for their abolition, but I am saying that we must reassess them if we are serious about addressing public confidence.' Mr Johnston believes that public confidence overall is 'dented and bruised' and that officers should provide a better service.

The number of cameras has spiralled to an estimated **7,000** and critics believe they are simply used as a way of raising revenue for the Government. **AA President Edmund King** said: *'What the public get incensed about is the lack of common sense and flexibility. Policing should be about common sense.'*

The PPP comments We have heard it all before, In most of the UK the use of GATSO's is excessive and causes a great deal of speedo watching and distraction. Often councils have lowered limits to ridiculous and illogical levels. Dual carriageways in the same area with limits of 60, 50, 40 or even 30 backed up by GATSOs are common. In North Wales the problem is similar but using mobile cameras in a 100% negative and abusive and often illegal manner.

Edmund King's sound bite is not good enough from the president of such a national organisation. On his appointment in Dec. 2007 he said " I am very proud of the work I have done at the (RAC) Foundation but could not resist the exciting challenge of moving to a bigger organisation with exceptional potential for championing the interest of the motorist in both a representative and commercial sense. The public face of the AA is rightly exemplified by the excellent work done by patrols but there is also huge potential in further promoting the voice of the AA in the broader campaigning arena"

The press release entitled 'Restoring public confidence' issued by the Superintendent's association prior to their recent meeting is at
<http://www.polic-supers.com/uploads/news/public%20confidence.doc>