

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Speed Cameras Cause Erratic Driver Behaviour. A Press Release 06 August 2010

New research from car insurer LV reveals that many motorists admit to behaving erratically in front of speed cameras with thousands confessing to slamming on the brakes or looking at their speedometer as soon as a camera comes into view.

This erratic behaviour could be leading to the number of accidents which occur around speed cameras with the research showing that at least 28,000 [1] road accidents have been triggered by speed cameras since 2001, as motorists slow down ahead of them and then speed up once they are clear.

Among all motorists, **eight in ten (81%)** said they instantly look at their speedometers instead of the road when a camera comes into view and one in twenty (5%) admitted to braking suddenly, risking losing control of their vehicle or causing a rear-end shunt from the vehicle behind.

Rear-end shunts are the third [2] most common type of car crash and blame is nearly always attributed to the driver who hits the rear of the car in front. Nearly one in three motorists (31%) said they had witnessed an accident or near miss as a result of other drivers' erratic behaviour when faced with a speed camera.

This report confirms everything that the late Paul Smith of Safespeed said about the adverse effects of scameras on his website at www.safespeed.org.uk/effects.html and which all our core members know from their driving experience.

The full report is at www.lv.com/media_centre/press_releases/speed_cameras

[1] ICM Research conducted an **online survey with 1,532 drivers** regarding their experiences with speed cameras. Fieldwork was conducted online between 9 – 10 June 2010. ICM is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. Further information at www.icmresearch.co.uk

According to the ICM research, drivers report that in **1% of accidents speed cameras were a contributory factor**. The Dft latest accident estimates reports that there have been **2.7 million vehicle accidents** (not including cyclists) since speed cameras were rolled out nationally in 2001. Therefore of these it is likely that around **1% or 27,900** accidents have been caused by speed cameras.

The PPP comments ... we agree with these findings in principle but believe the adverse effects are far more serious and widespread. Recently on French Motorways around La Rochelle a member reported that a fixed camera, not seen, but registered on their Sat Nav. database was causing very sudden changes in traffic speed on an already congested section and the resulting tailgating continued for miles.