



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Speed camera panic may have caused death of motorist

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Preview: A DRIVER may have been killed because he braked suddenly after spotting a speed camera.

Police say Graham Davies, 45, is unlikely to have even been speeding when he lost control of his car.

The businessman died instantly when his Skoda Fabia hit a lamp-post near an accident blackspot on the A9. **Traffic policeman George Fergus claimed braking was a natural reaction for any driver unaware of their exact speed.**

He told an inquiry: *"Witnesses said that, for no apparent reason, the victim's vehicle braked heavily, there was a lot of smoke and the car veered left and collided with the lamp-post."*

Graham, of Stockton-on-Tees, crashed near Auchterarder, Perthshire.

Fergus added: *"There is no reason to believe Mr Davies was speeding. However, we find many drivers - when approaching a camera - see the camera or road markings and it is a natural reaction to brake hard then check their speed and accelerate again."*

"I believe that is what has happened here, he has braked hard then lost control."

Perth sheriff Michael Fletcher will issue a **fatal accident inquiry report** on the tragedy last May.

THE PPP comments ... this is an extreme case of the distraction caused by speed cameras. The behaviour of the driver, a businessman, probably doing a high annual mileage, may have been close to losing his licence as many are. A member witnessed a similar incident which killed a third party driver. A motorist came round a bend and saw a Gatso camera on his right and braked suddenly. A Motorcyclist following him in procession swerved right to avoid him and hit a car coming the other way. If both vehicles were within the 40 limit their collision speed was 80 mph and the rider suffered fatal injuries. Also at 40 mph a vehicle travels 59 feet in ONE second. The rider would need to have been at least 20 feet behind the car to avoid a collision as he braked down to 30 mph. The rider may also have been checking his speed which can take over 0.5 seconds This highlights the negative effects of cameras and the convoy driving that is now prevalent. It also emphasises the fact that over 95% of KSI result from crashes within the speed limits.