



**People for Proper Policing in North Wales**

## **Speeding prosecutions are 'postcode lottery'**

MCN By Steve Farrell - 16 December 2009

Speeding prosecutions are dished out in a postcode lottery with the chances of getting one varying widely from one region to another, according to a report.

**One in eight motorists in North Wales received points on their licence for speeding in 2007 compared to one in 100 in Durham.**

For all traffic offences, Northamptonshire led the way in England and Wales with on in six motorists getting points.

Durham was again bottom of the table with a rate of one in 50.

In Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway beat even North Wales, with one in five getting points.

The rate of drivers getting points for using mobile phones also varied, from 1% in Merseyside to one in 500 in Leicestershire.

A spokeswoman for the magazine Auto Express, which obtained the figures, said: "*The risk to your licence simple depends on where you live.*"

**The PPP comments ... Many years ago when Brunstrom and North Wales PF were again persecuting more motorists than any other force the Chief Constable of Durham Paul Garvin refused to follow his lead and clearly justified his stance with his own road incident causation data..**

**we quoted him at the time viz** He believes that fining people for speeding does not reduce accidents, which, he says, are almost always caused by other factors, including drinking, drug-taking or simple carelessness.

*"If you look at our casualty figures we are currently **43 per cent lower than comparable forces**. It isn't because we are a rural force with no major roads. One of the busiest motorways in the country, the A1M, and one of the busiest dual carriageways, the A66, pass through Durham."*

Mr Garvin said that as well as having fewer casualties, Durham also had **34 per cent fewer road accidents than the national average**. These low accident and casualty rates were, he said, because speed was rarely a factor in crashes.

Mr Garvin explained: "*I actually believe in casualty reduction and trying to make the roads safer. But, having looked at the accident statistics in this area, we find that if you break down the **1,900 collisions we have each year only three per cent involve cars that are exceeding the speed limit**. Just 60 accidents per year involve vehicles exceeding the speed limit.*"

**Despite the truth and logic in the above analysis Brunstrom and his fellow travellers in the government continued to pressurise CC Garvin. We believe this pressure caused him to take early retirement**

