* PPP * People for Proper Policing in North Wales

The Police federation hits out at speed cameras - again

In the latest issue of 'Police', the Police Federation hit out again against speed camera policy.

Alan Gordon, vice chairman of the Police Federation, dismissed Government policy on roads policing as 'naive in the extreme' after claims any officer can enforce traffic legislation. And said: "The irresponsible siting of speed cameras for income generation has been a highly effective means of eroding public support for the police. Their benefits are strictly limited to speeding offences and do nothing to tackle the array of other dangerous driving offences."

He added that the revenue should be ploughed back into policing and not more cameras.

Safe Speed has long been concerned about the effect of speed cameras on the Police / public relationship. But in August a freedom of information request issued to the Home Office revealed that no research, nor even any discussion, has been conducted regarding this vital issue.

Damage to the Police / public relationship is just one dangerous side effect of the speed camera programme. The government has comprehensively failed to investigate the issues. They appear to have no idea about the damage that is being done. Respect for the Police has been nurtured over 150 years. Now it's being squandered daily. The government must wake up and take a far broader view of its own policies. Speed cameras are bad for safety and bad for policing.

The PPP comments....we endorse the federation's and Paul Smiths' view and again the dangerous divide between the professionals and the amateurs in the government is highlighted.