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People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Uninsured driving is out of control. (30/09/05)

DfT plans, announced today for a '**crackdown**' on uninsured driving via the registration records won't work says Safe Speed. The DfT report is at

www.dft.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2005_0098

With an estimated 1.4 million uninsured drivers menacing our roads the government foolishly intends to address the problem via vehicle records. But most uninsured vehicles are improperly registered and the scheme won't work. Safe Speed believes that plans are in place to fund a large-scale ANPR and paperwork exercise from uninsured driver fixed penalties in a carbon copy of the failed speed camera hypothecation scheme. But, as usual, key facts are being ignored by an increasing incompetent Department for Transport. For example:

- * It's the DRIVER that requires insurance, not the VEHICLE, but these plans depend of vehicle records not driver records.
- * At any one time **3 million or so motor vehicles are 'in the trade'** and have no realistic registered keeper.
- * **Many of the vehicles being driven uninsured are 'throw aways'**; lost to the system and have changed keepers many times since the last accurate record.
- * The police have the means to detect and prosecute around 150,000 uninsured drivers each year. **With 1.4 million uninsured drivers the average uninsured driver can expect a £200 fine and 6 points once in NINE YEARS.**
- * **31% of DVLA records are known to be inaccurate.**
- * 'Paperwork' approaches to such problem make more and more people decide to 'work outside the system', and tend to have the side effect of INCREASING the problem.

Paul Smith, founder of the Safe Speed road safety campaign

www.safespeed.org.uk said : "The government must admit that it has failed to tackle the very serious and real uninsured driver problem. A radical overhaul of the way we pay for third party insurance is the only possible solution. **Safe Speed investigations conclude that the only real solution will be to charge a third party insurance premium as a fuel levy. This ends the problem overnight at zero cost, and uses close to zero resources. Such schemes are effective in Australia and South Africa.**"

The PPP comments Whenever we hear the words '**crackdown**', '**initiative**' etc we cringe, because these schemes **always** adversely effect the freedom and finances of the law-abiding majority. **We endorse Paul Smith's proposals sense and reason in road safety personified!.**