



Working for Safety on the Road

WORKING FOR SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Newsletter Feb 2018

Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

From The Chair.

By: Nick Croft AGM Update

On the 31st of January the Annual AGM took place at the Holiday Inn Coventry. The following synopsis has been made available by email to members.

Members will recall that I had circulated a paper entitled 'The Future of AIRSO'. In that paper, I set out what I believed to be three options available to the Charity to follow over the next twelve months. Those options were:

1) We make no changes to operating practices, the charity effectively withers, starts to die and we wind it up as per the terms outlined in the AIRSO Constitution.

2) We modernise, change the way we do our business and increase our connectivity and social media presence whilst ensuring that our secretarial services meet the needs of the members

3) We consider merging with another prominent road safety/transport orientated organisation to ensure the future of AIRSO.



In my paper that set out the three possible options relating to the future for AIRSO I asked that members who couldn't attend the AGM send in their thoughts around those options to the AIRSO Secretary Gareth Morgan. We had about 35 responses and the content was very useful. The matter was then discussed in some depth at the AGM and a vote was finally held where a virtually unanimous decision was made by those present.

There was a lengthy and often lively debate about the future for AIRSO. I started the debate by delivering a presentation that set out current threats, challenges and opportunities for the organisation, before opening up the session to the meeting. The Council of Management and I are grateful to those members present on the day and those who contributed via e-mail for their honesty and often constructive feedback. This meant that we had a very good meeting where the past, present

and future for the organisation was discussed.

The motion carried on the day is actually a blend of option 2 and option 3. Members clearly want AIRSO to continue to flourish as a standalone organisation that maintains its own identity. We are proud of our history and what we stand for. There was a recognition that there had been some problems over the last 12 - 18 months with communication between members, the AIRSO secretary and the Council of Management. Members also spoke about the need for the organisation to modernise in order to continue to flourish.

Members acknowledged that they had seen a recent improvement in communication and information flowing to members since the recent appointment of a new secretary. They were heartened by this and wanted to give the new Secretary and the Council of Management twelve months to continue to improve communication, information sharing and stabilise/grow the membership. We will also be making greater use of social media including setting up an AIRSO Twitter feed. This is now live and you can follow us @_AIRSO.

AIRSO outreach events will once again be held and the first will be a breakfast meeting in Cardiff on 22nd March 2018, we hope that members will be interested and register for this event.

Option 3, outlined in my paper, was about whether AIRSO should consider merging with another organisation. Members recognised that a merger might ensure that AIRSO lives on in the event that the organisation couldn't modernise and improve. They acknowledged that

members might benefit by gaining access to services that AIRSO currently doesn't provide and arguably would never be able to provide. However, any negotiated merger arrangements would have to be voted on by the membership. Members didn't want to close down this option and gave approval to the Council of Management to talk to organisations that might be suitable for AIRSO to partner or merge with in the future.

So in conclusion, the AIRSO Council of Management will be moving forward by

- Improving communication with members
- Improving the provision of road safety related information
- Rejuvenating AIRSO outreach events
- Improving the provision of secretarial services
- Improving our social media presence



This work will be done in conjunction with the Chair and members of the Council of Management holding exploratory talks with organisations that AIRSO might wish to partner or merge with if required in the years to come.

I am really pleased that the AGM discussions were held in such a supportive and developmental fashion. I believe that the conclusions reached were right for AIRSO at this time and the

Council of Management look forward to managing and implementing members preferred options.

Finally, I would like to welcome onto the Council of Management three new members; Nick Stillwell, Gerard King and Simon Turner-Kenworthy. The Council is made up totally of volunteers and we need proactive and committed people to help to strategically and tactically drive the business. I'm sure that members would want to join me and offer our thanks to our new council members for stepping forward and giving of their time to help us to secure the future for AIRSO and endure that we remain a prominent voice in the road safety arena for years to come.

We welcomed new members to AIRSO during February.

1. Claire Henry

A helipad Coordinator for the London Air Ambulance.

2. Steve SHAW

A vocational Driver Trainer from Shrewsbury.

3. Steven McDonald Carroll

A self-employed driver trainer from Musselburgh.

Upcoming AIRSO Events For the Diary

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Preparation is underway for the breakfast meeting at the Whitchurch Rugby club on the 22nd of March 2018.

Speakers include

- a. Wayne Tucker
South Wales Police road safety officer.
 - b. Rebecca Ashton
IAM Roadsmart.
 - c. Gareth Morgan
AIRSO Secretary.
2. Event Planning is underway to hold an ACADEMIC Conference in May at ASTON University. Further details will follow as soon as they are finalised.
 3. **Fellowship of the Association.** Certificates for new fellows will be awarded at the National Blue light users conference on Tuesday the 28th of August. Invites will follow in due course.
 4. The next Council of management meeting will be held on the 4th of April, location to be confirmed.
 5. The 2018 AIRSO Trustees meeting will be held at the Hinckley Island hotel on the 28th of August.

New Members of Council of Management



Nick Stilwell

Nick is a Chartered Civil Engineer, specialising in Road Safety Engineering and Auditing.

For the last 25 years he has run his own Highways and Drainage Consultancy -

The Stilwell Partnership (now part of the Patrick Parsons Group). Nick is a long standing member of AIRSO (Fellow, Member of the Road Safety Advisory Panel. Stilwell Road Safety (srs) is a not for profit social enterprise aiming to deliver;

srsCULTURE.org.uk

Free to all schools.



Gerard King



Gerard re-joined St John Ambulance in 1987. In the early 2000's I served for some years in the SJA Policy Commission on Transport where the first national policy on fleet and driving training and assessment were devised and written. My work in St John Ambulance now is in the North Region as Regional Driving Standards and Verification Officer, working to improve driving standards and investigate any incident involving any of our large and varied fleet of vehicles. Across England now St John Ambulance operates a large diverse fleet of 1,400 vehicles; many of the vehicles are used every day in support of the National Health Service and Hospital Trusts.



Simon Turner



Turner Kenworthy Limited

Specialists in Duty of Care Awareness

And Fleet Risk Management

And

Campaign Director, Driving for Better Business

Simon Turner and is the MD of Turner Kenworthy, a H&S/Fleet risk consultancy. It is through this consultancy that he runs the Driving for Better Business campaign for Highways England.

His work includes

- Helping directors understand the personal and business risks for fleet safety.
- Financial analysis of crash metrics and costs
- Fleet risk gap analysis and opportunities to reduce cost
- Safe driving policy review and development

- Liaising with insurance brokers over risk reduction programmes
- Compliance activities
- Safe driving culture

Airso Secretary achieves his lifelong ambition



As an avid follower of F1 Gareth has followed with great interest the William Formula one team, with a special interest from the formula one days of Nigel Mansell, who is well known for his road safety support with the IAM and many many more organisations.



During February Gareth was invited with former colleagues from the Hendon Metropolitan Police driving school to visit the Williams factory for an access all areas special.



Accompanied by Dave Jenkins AIRSO member and several visitors from KPMG the tour started with an introductory talk from Johnathan Williams.



The Williams museum was next on the tour with some of the most

Iconic cars in racing history on display.

Nigel Mansell's car from those heady days during the 80s and 90s



You may recall the Williams F1 car that lost Mansell the world championship when he suffered that horrific blow out in the 1986 Adelaide Grand Prix, it was there, along with his championship winning car. Also within touching distance were the championship winning cars of Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve.



If that wasn't enough to get a self-confessed F1 petrol head going, moving into the Williams 2018 F1 assembly line there was the great man himself, Sir Frank Williams, surveying the future builds. Gareth and the team were extremely fortunate to have several minutes of his time. What amazed them all was

his interest in them rather than the other way around.



A tour of the high tech workshop, had an impact on all present. The ground breaking technology, commitment, and clinical atmosphere was so impressive.

Sometimes when watching F1 throughout the season we forget the support in place behind the scenes just to get those two cars to the Grid for the green lights. The investment in technology is massive, with many innovations eventually filtering down to every road car in use today. The fact that this British industry does so well globally is testament to the genius of the likes of Sir Frank Williams, Patrick Head and Adrian Newey.

Whilst in the machine shop they witnessed the Wheel nuts for the race cars being produced. It may be a small piece of the car but the explanation given by the machinist on the detail, technology and tolerances involved just to get this component working effectively was impressive to say the least. Did you know that Williams F1 hold the current record for the fastest ever pit stop. In the 2016 European Grand Prix the Williams Team completed a pit stop for Felipe Massa in 1.89 seconds. Another amazing fact from the

machinist was that the team will use on average 1,500 wheel nuts during the season.

A truly memorable day out.

Paula Moody
paula.moody@motor
ingassist.com

GEM warns motorists as winter weather threatens

ROAD SAFETY AND breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is urging motorists to take extra care as winter weather and plunging temperatures are predicted from this weekend.

Pressure on breakdown organisations is likely to increase significantly as motorists attempt to deal with flat batteries and other issues made worse by temperatures expected to fall several degrees below freezing across much of the country.

GEM is once again encouraging drivers to make good use of some simple safety tips in order to reduce the chance of risk, delay and difficulty.

- Don't drive if you don't really need to. If you have to make a road journey, ensure your car is properly equipped for the likely conditions.

- Listen for weather updates, and plan your travel accordingly.
- Prepare a set of essential items, including shovel, fully charged mobile phone, torch, ice scraper food, water, jump leads, first aid kit, warm clothes and a supply of sand or gravel to assist with grip if your wheels are spinning.
- Keep your speeds down, leave plenty of space between yourself and the vehicle in front, don't overtake snowploughs and gritter trucks, and be ready for sudden, rapid deteriorations in conditions.
- Remember that driving in winter conditions can be hard work, so ensure you build in breaks on your journeys.
- Take a look at the GEM e-Book on winter driving. It's available for download free of charge from <http://www.motoringassist.com/winter-driving/>

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth says: "Forecasters have made clear that it's likely to become very cold during the weekend and into next week. We urge drivers to have a plan ready now which will hopefully make the likely winter conditions easier to deal with.

"Top of the list of course is to postpone a journey if you possibly can. Agree to reschedule a meeting or a visit if it's not vital. In that way, you're avoiding a lot of potential trouble for yourself, and ensuring you won't be putting additional strain on emergency and recovery

crews, who are sure to be at full stretch in the coming days.

"And if you do have to travel, please make sure you have a good breakdown policy in place".

Follow GEM on Twitter @MotoringAssist for the latest industry news.

AIRSO ON TWITTER



Its early days, but those who were able to attend the AIRSO AGM will know that to enable us to meet your ideas and wishes to keep connected we have recently launched an Airso twitter account (The link is available on the AIRSO webpage). We want you as members to engage with the road safety debate as much as possible to keep AIRSO at the forefront of developments on social media information for Road safety. At present we have some 71 followers but we can do so much more. If you are on twitter please connect with @_AIRSO and get involved as much as you can



PRESS RELEASE

HGV safety scheme keeping cleaner trucks off London's roads, says FTA

London's Mayor is scuppering his own work to clean up the capital's air, by trying to rush through an ill-considered road safety scheme, says the Freight Transport Association (FTA).

FTA believes hundreds of cleaner trucks would be on London's roads now, if it were not for uncertainty over Sadiq Khan's plans for a Direct Vision Standard (DVS), which aims to improve the safety of heavy goods vehicles operating in the capital.

According to FTA, whose members operate half of the UK's HGV fleet, the length of time it is taking to finalise the qualification levels for the DVS, alongside an unrealistic schedule for its implementation, are causing frustration and confusion for logistics operators. They are being forced to postpone the procurement of new, cleaner vehicles because they may not be eligible for use in London in the years ahead.

FTA, the only organisation in the UK that represents all of logistics, is calling on Transport for London to rethink its plans for DVS and coordinate its implementation with the tightening up of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone, to give logistics operators a chance to plan their fleets properly. It has set out these points in its submission to TfL's phase 2 consultation on the DVS scheme. Natalie Chapman, FTA's Head of Urban Policy, says:

"The Mayor has scored a spectacular own goal with DVS. FTA, along with everyone living and working in London, wants to see an improvement in the city's air quality,

but this could have happened faster if the new DVS had been better planned. FTA's submission to the latest consultation on the scheme provides evidence that truck owners and operators are delaying procurement of the cleanest Euro VI vehicles, because they have no idea whether they'll meet the requirements of the DVS."

According to figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, new UK truck registrations in Quarter 3 of 2017 were down 5.7 per cent on the same period the previous year. FTA believes this is due, in part, to uncertainty about the DVS and Ultra Low Emission Zone in London and plans for clean air zones in other parts of the UK. Ms Chapman goes on to explain:

"FTA members support Sadiq Khan's aspiration to reduce the number of injuries and deaths caused by heavy goods vehicles on London's roads, but any road safety scheme involving new vehicles needs to be carefully planned to avoid disrupting supplies to the capital and requires the support and cooperation of all road users.

"HGVs form the backbone of the capital's logistics system transporting everything the city needs, from food and medical supplies to building materials and waste recycling. The Mayor should be doing everything he can to help responsible operators buy the cleanest and safest vehicles."

- FTA would like to see implementation of the Direct Vision Standard delayed until October 2020 to coincide with the tightening up of London's Low Emission Zone for HGVs.

- A copy of FTA's formal submission to TfL's consultation is available from the press office.
- Full details and a timetable for the TfL consultation process can be found here:

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/roads/direct-vision-standards-phase-2/>.

- The latest registration figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders can be found here:

<https://www.smmmt.co.uk/vehicle-data/heavy-goods-vehicles-registrations/>

Government consults on key road investment plans

The Department for Transport has launched two key consultations relating to significant future investment in UK roads.

'Shaping the future of England's strategic roads' will play a vital role in dictating the nature of investment in England's strategic road network from 2020-2025. This provides an opportunity to upgrade the safety of our busiest roads and invest more in cycling, to encourage more sustainable and healthier journeys.

Government is also consulting on 'The Creation of a Major Road Network (MRN)', for the very first time. The MRN will receive funding from the new National Roads Fund and so its definition, and scope, will play a crucial role in local roads investment and safety for years to come.

Beep Beep! days are back!

Schools, nurseries, playgroups and childminders who work with children aged 2-7 can now register to run a Beep Beep! Day in 2018.

Everyone who registers will receive free resources designed to help them run their activities on different road safety topics. The next nationwide Beep Beep! days will take place on 7 March, 27 June and 21 November 2018



NETWORKING

Items for the DIARY

Building an Innovative, Customer-Focused Public Transport Network: Developing Integrated Services that Support Local Growth

Grange Wellington Hotel, London

Wednesday 11th April 2018

David Sidebottom

Director
Transport Focus

Stephen Joseph OBE

Director
Campaign for Better Transport

Chris Stevenson

Head of Commissioning, Connected
Essex, Integrated Transport
Essex County Council

Joe Irvin

Chief Executive
Living Streets

Philip Lightowler

Head of Public Transport
Kent County Council

Professor Roger Vickerman FAcSS

FRSA FCILT FeRSA (Event Chair)
Professor of Transport Economics
University of Kent

Protecting Wildlife on Local Highways

Safeguarding Wildlife Habitats
alongside the Strategic Road Network

Grange Wellington Hotel, London

Thursday 17th May 2018

Ben McCarthy

Director of Strategy
Plantlife UK.

Building an Innovative, Customer-Focused Public Transport Network: Developing Integrated Services that Support Local Growth

Grange Wellington Hotel, London

Wednesday 11th April 2018

David Sidebottom

Director
Transport Focus

Stephen Joseph OBE

Director
Campaign for Better Transport

Chris Stevenson

Head of Commissioning, Connected
Essex, Integrated Transport
Essex County Council

Enhancing UK Cycling: Better Safety, Better Mobility, Better Streets

Amba Hotel Charing Cross, London

Tuesday 24th April 2018

KEY SPEAKERS:

Amy Foster

Former Chair
Dulwich and Herne Hill Safe Routes
to School forum (2016-2018)

Clare Rogers

Committee Leader
Better Streets for Enfield

Spain: driver tests positive for 'every possible kind of drug'



TRAFFIC police in northern Spain were left in disbelief after a motorist tested positive for 'every possible kind of drug.' It comes as the Guardia Civil launched a crackdown on illegal street racing and 'exhibitions of reckless driving' on an industrial estate near O Campiño, Galicia.

Having set up a series of drug and alcohol controls, a 42-year-old man from Vigo was stopped due to his 'suspicious' driving style.

He tested positive for cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, methamphetamines and THC, the main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis.

The Prime Minister hints at restrictions on new drivers under graduated licence system

The Prime Minister, Theresa May, has suggested that the UK could introduce a graduated driving licence system that would place restrictions on new drivers in an effort to cut casualties on the roads.

Mrs May said she would ask the Department for Transport to look into a graduated licensing system - which could ban young motorist from carrying passengers or

In the News

driving at night - after a question during Prime Minister's Questions.

Fed-up driver blocked speed camera, called cop 'a pig' - then claimed he was Elvis



Fed-up of 'invisible' speed cameras, the 49-year-old stormed over to 'scared' police and started to film THEM

Shared By

Ian Johnson

A miffed motorist got revenge on police speed cameras - by blocking one with his body. Sick of 'invisible' cameras, Matthew Middleton saw red after spotting one outside Hartlepool Rugby Club. So the 49-year-old parked up, marched over to it and stood right in front of one. But the dad-of-two's stunt - which was inspired by YouTube clips - landed him in court. It heard he got his own back on officers by filming THEM as cars beeped in support - but it got him nicked as his wife watched on in dismay.

"When arrested the defendant called the officer a pig and began making a snorting noise," prosecutor Joanne Hesse told Teesside Magistrates' Court.

"He then gave his name as Elvis Presley."

But magistrates fined Middleton after Monday's sentencing heard the police officer felt "scared and intimidated" by the Peterlee man.

However, Middleton claims he was just fighting back for motorists over the police's use of what the court heard were mobile "cash points".

"They acted like what I did was the crime of the century," he told the Gazette after the hearing.

"I just told the officer if you can record me then I can record you."

The court was told his October 4 Easington Road protest happened in the middle of the afternoon on the busy road.

"I've only ever had one (speeding) ticket, and it wasn't even there," added Middleton, who represented himself.

"But they are just cash machines and supposed to be visible, but you can never see that one.

"I just think they go over the top with the speed cameras. The road is a speeding hotspot, with dual carriageway road switching from 40mph to 30mph upon entering the town.

However Middleton, who the court heard is on benefits, was

hit was a £40 fine for his antics.

The Dunn Road dad, who must also pay £85 costs and a £30 charge, told proceedings; "I know I shouldn't have done it. (But) people have just been laughing about it - well, apart from my wife."

Last February, cheeky Chris Welford made global headlines after using his BMW boot to block a camera in Marske Road.

Teenager caught driving at 120mph 'allowed to keep licence' Darryl Hopwood escaped disqualification.

Teenager caught driving at 120mph 'allowed to keep licence'



Darryl Hopwood escaped disqualification. Picture: contributed

By GARY FITZPATRICK

A teenager caught driving at 120mph on a dual carriageway has avoided a driving ban. Darryl Hopwood, 19, escaped being disqualified despite being clocked in Fife at 50mph over the speed limit in his Ford Focus. His excuse was that he was "running late" for a football match, even though

the offence occurred at 6am. Hopwood, of Linn Mill, South Queensferry, appeared in the dock at Dunfermline Sheriff Court.

He admitted that on 19th August on the A92 between Crossgates and Cowdenbeath he drove a car at 120 miles per hour, in excess of the speed limit of 70mph. Depute fiscal Jane Rennie said the offence occurred at 6am and was detected via a speed camera. Defence solicitor Lene Doherty gave the sheriff three letters of reference on her client's behalf. The explanation she gave was that Hopwood was going to play in a football match and was "running late". She went on, "He appreciates the severity of the offence and accepts the speed was grossly excessive. He appreciates the risks of driving at that speed and has shown remorse." She added that her client had no previous convictions and no penalty points. Appealing for him not to be banned, she said Hopwood was a product support worker with Astrak and his workplace is 30 miles from his home. "If he lost his licence it would mean a daily trip of three-and-a-half hours on public transport, which would be a major inconvenience," said the solicitor. He also needed his licence to take family members to church, she added. These are the new laws that will come into force in the UK in 2018 "He's a young man who made a mistake and has learned his lesson," Ms Doherty concluded.

Craig McSherry said, "Usually in this court people driving in excess of 100mph can expect a period of disqualification. "It's with some reluctance I'm not going to do that." He added that Hopwood's young age, clean driving licence and the fact the offence occurred at 6am when the road would have been relatively quiet were the reasons for that decision. Instead, Hopwood was fined £700 and had his licence endorsed with five penalty points

Read more at:

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/our-region/edinburgh/south-queensferry/teenager-caught-driving-at-120mph-allowed-to-keep-licence-1-4654511>

Operation Snap campaign extended across Wales

By [Natalie Middleton](#)

A campaign encouraging members of the public to report traffic offences is now being run across Wales.



The public is being encouraged to report traffic offences in Wales

First launched in October 2016 by the North Wales Police and the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership, [the scheme was expanded to South Wales](#)

[Police last summer](#) and is now being run by all four Welsh police forces in conjunction with GoSafe (the Wales Road Safety Casualty Reduction Partnership).

The campaign enables members of the public to submit footage and images showing traffic offences being committed - from driving dangerously or carelessly to contravening solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving or ignoring traffic lights.

Inspector Steve Davies who delivered Operation Snap on behalf of South Wales Police, said, "The aim of this initiative is to change driver behaviour and their mind-set behind the wheel. We want drivers to ask themselves two questions: firstly, am I being recorded? and secondly, do I really want to take that chance?"

To submit footage to any of the four Welsh Police Forces, visit

<https://gosafesnap.wales/> or <https://gosafesnap.cymru>

France cuts speed limit on roads after alarming rise in deaths

Reduction on two-lane highways from 90km/h to 80km/h follows 3,500 fatalities on roads in 2016

Agence France-Presse.



An 80 km/h speed limit sign on a road in Hyet, eastern France.

Photograph: Sebastien Bozon/AFP/Getty Images

The French government said on Tuesday it would lower the speed limit on two-lane highways to 80km/h (50mph) from 90km/h, hoping to reverse an alarming rise in road deaths.

Several previous governments had toyed with the idea as a means of reducing highway deaths, which reached nearly 3,500 in 2016, but backed off in the face of widespread public opposition.

About 55% of those deaths - 1,911 victims - occurred on the 400,000km of so-called secondary roads across [France](#), two-lane routes with no separating guardrail.

Do 20mph speed limits actually work?

“Excessive or inappropriate” speed was involved in 32% of those fatal accidents, which far exceeded those in urban areas.

The government says the lower speed limit could save 350 to 400 lives a year.

“Unsafe roads are not inevitable,” prime minister Edouard Philippe said after a meeting of the government’s road safety council, adding that road accidents had killed 105 people in France over the recent year-end holidays.

“Lowering speeds reduces the number of accidents, as well as the severity of these accidents,” he said.

The government has compared the 80 km/h limit, which goes

into effect on 1 July, to the laws enacted since 1973 requiring the use of seat belts, and the installation of automatic speed radars in 2002. Those laws also drew the ire of thousands of drivers, but contributed to nearly four decades of declines in automobile deaths in France, which reached a historic low of 3,268 in 2013.

But in 2014 the toll began rising steadily once again. The trend looks set to continue for 2017, with deaths up 0.9% for the first 11 months of the year compared with 2016.

And Finally

Well this certainly caused some heated debate at the end of January

Published on 30 January 2018

By Rebecca Camber And James Salmon.

Drivers face fines for going 1mph over the limit: Road policing chief demands days of 'soft' treatment come to an end and says drivers should stop 'whingeing' if they are caught

- **Chief Constable Anthony Bangham called for scrapping of 10 per cent 'buffer'**
- **He also claimed that speed awareness courses are being used too widely**
- **The officer said that motorists are no longer afraid of speeding punishments**

Motorists should be punished for speeding even if they are just 1mph over the limit, Britain's road policing chief said last night.

In a dramatic warning of a huge crackdown on drivers, Chief Constable Anthony Bangham said the days of the 'soft' treatment of offenders must come to an end.

He called for the scrapping of the 10 per cent 'buffer' over the signposted limit that most police forces allow, and also claimed that speed awareness courses were being used too widely.



Chief Constable Anthony Bangham said what he claimed was the soft treatment of speeding motorists must come to an end

Signalling a radical departure from the status quo, Mr Bangham said the courses should be reserved for those only marginally over the limit.

Everyone else should get fines and points on their licence.

And he added that traffic officers should stop being 'apologetic' for handing out speeding tickets - and speeders should stop 'whingeing' about being caught.

However, critics warned such a hardline approach risked alienating motorists and making them feel 'victims'.

One MP said a zero tolerance policy would only 'make criminals of good drivers'.

And motoring chiefs warned that such a policy could even prove harmful - with drivers' eyes 'glued' to their speedometers instead of the road

Recent research by some councils has suggested that lower speed limits of 20mph in town centres barely reduced driver speed - and in some cases had made roads more dangerous.

Mr Bangham is the National Police Chiefs' Council lead on road policy. His comments are significant because many chief constables will take their lead from him.



Mr Bangham is the National Police Chiefs' Council lead on road policy. He said drivers were no longer afraid of being caught

The West Mercia chief's speech comes after figures showed a rise in road deaths.

Current police guidelines state motorists should not be stopped if they are caught driving up to 10 per cent over the speed limit. They also are given an extra 2mph allowance above this level.

This leeway, which also applies to those caught on camera, is equivalent to being allowed to travel at 68mph in a 60mph zone or 35 mph in a 30mph zone.

Motorists who exceed this level by just a few miles per hour are usually offered a speed awareness course rather than points on their licence, provided they have not already attended one recently.

Only after that do motorists get points and a fine.

In his speech at the Police Federation roads policing conference yesterday, Mr Bangham said he believed speeding drivers were no longer afraid enough of being caught.

He warned that speed awareness courses had become the 'expected norm', and insisted that instead there should be more penalty points, fines and prosecutions to install fear in drivers.



According to Mr Bangham, there should be more penalty points, fines and prosecutions to install fear in drivers

Mr Bangham said he was proposing that police chiefs ditch the buffer and instead send anyone caught going up to 10 per cent over the limit on a speed awareness

course. The courses typically cost between £75 and £100, depending on where you live

Anyone caught doing over 10 per cent, should automatically face penalty points and a fine.

Declaring 'enough is enough', he argued that police had lost sight of their duty to enforce the law and spent too much time trying to justify speeding tickets and being 'patient' with speeders.

'Let's change the message - we are proud to be law enforcers,' he said. 'I do not want the public to be surprised, I want them to be embarrassed when they get caught... They need to understand the law is set at the limit for a reason. They should not come whinging to us about getting caught.'

'If booked at 35 or 34 or 33 [in a 30mph zone] that cannot be unfair because they are breaking the law.'

The most recent figures available from the Department for Transport show there were 1,792 road deaths reported in 2016 - up 4 per cent from 2015 and the highest annual total since 2011.

Police forces should ditch the buffer that states motorists should not be stopped if they are caught driving up to 10 per cent over the speed limit, the Chief Constable argued

Mr Bangham said he wanted to have the safest roads in the world and there was no reason why police cannot reduce the number of road deaths to zero.

He also accused the Government of pandering to speeding voters

rather than worrying about the rising numbers of road deaths and injuries, adding: 'I would like to see a more obvious, explicit commitment to this across Government.'

Tory MP Sir Greg Knight warned a zero tolerance approach would 'make criminals of good drivers'.

'The police rely in many cases to solve crimes on the good will of the public,' he said.

'I can think of nothing more likely to destroy that good will than an overly aggressive policy towards motorists.'

'It will make criminals of motorists who are basically good drivers trying to obey the speed limit, while keeping an eye on the road.'

A zero tolerance approach would 'make criminals of good drivers', Tory MP Sir Greg Knight warned

He added: 'It is a pity he is not expressing the same enthusiasm for cracking down on violent crime and yobbish behaviour.'

Edmund King, president of the AA, said: 'Mr Bangham would appear to want to go back to the days of Dixon of Dock Green.'

'Of course speeding is dangerous, and drivers should not speed. But surely it is better to educate motorists rather than just slap a fine on them. The last thing we want is drivers glued to speedometer 100 per cent of time. We want drivers to concentrate on road ahead and not be worried about going one or two miles over the limit.'

Howard Cox, founder of motoring campaign group FairFuelUK, said: 'It's clear that the Chief Constable is simply going after easy targets.'

Motorists who drive dangerously must be caught, but at a few miles over the speed limit they should not be subject to these unintelligent threats and intimidation, clearly to fill the force's coffers and to benefit his prosecution rates.'

FROM THE SECRETARY

Just some housekeeping.

1. We will continue the work on updating the AIRSO Website. Any thoughts from members are appreciated and expected.
2. If members are engaged in any road safety **News** that they would like in the AIRSO publication please forward to the secretary at gareth@airso.org.uk
3. I earnestly encourage members to assist me with developing future events across the UK. If you are prepared to host a networking event please contact me. The Council would like the Association to promote more events to ensure **YOU** as members are benefiting and maximising your membership.
4. **Annual subscriptions** Were due in January. I have spent the last 4 weeks chasing up

members for their subscription, however there are still a considerable number of members who have not yet met this annual commitment. I will be most grateful to all members to please ensure subscriptions are met as soon as possible please.

I must stress the importance to those who pay by direct debit, can you please ensure the correct mandate is prepared for £50.

6. **Web and email addresses.** As I audit the systems it is becoming evident that some member's emails are incorrect and addresses are out of date. If you know that you have not been receiving updates from me or AIRSO in general this may account for the problem. If this is the case please feel free to either email or telephone me so I can amend your records accordingly.

Don't Forget you can always get me

on;

Mobile; 07723371796

Home; 01443 844145

Email: info@airso.org.uk

Email: Gareth@airso.org.uk

Newsletter

Feb 2018



Working for Safety on the Road

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www.airso.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1054640

***Registered Office: Association of Industrial Road Safety Officers, Hadley Park
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