

# AMPOW Campaign

## Against Misuse of Police Waivers

Roger Lawson



# Why So Many?

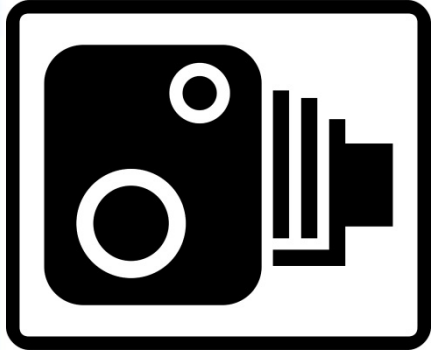
- Why are there so many speed cameras?
- Why so many speed prosecutions (NIPs)?
- Why so many offers of speed-awareness courses?



Because there is a direct financial incentive to the police to maximise income..



## The Numbers



Speed awareness courses – 450,000 in 2010 to 1.2 million in 2014/15.

Police now receive a flat fee of £35 (out of £80+) for each attendee, i.e. at least £42 million (and more!).



## Accident Causes

In what proportion of road accidents is speed in excess of the speed limit a contributory factor?

**5%**

And it is one of the least important factors that are rated!

But this is not a campaign against speed cameras – only against how they are financed.



# Accident Causes - Details

**Table [RAS50002](#) Contributory factors allocated to vehicles or pedestrians  
Great Britain, 2010-2014**

Contributory factor reported for vehicle or pedestrian <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Number/percentage									
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Driver/Rider failed to look properly	50,847	42	51,946	44	51,168	45	48,038	44	53,259	46
Driver/Rider failed to judge other person's path or speed	27,304	23	27,106	23	26,566	23	25,411	23	27,551	24
Driver/Rider careless, reckless or in a hurry	19,242	16	19,797	17	18,219	16	18,594	17	20,883	18
Poor turn or manoeuvre	16,453	14	17,101	14	17,306	15	16,542	15	18,916	16
Loss of control	18,180	15	17,091	14	16,282	14	15,260	14	15,350	13
Pedestrian failed to look properly	12,078	10	11,631	10	11,055	10	10,462	10	10,888	9
Slippery road (due to weather)	15,250	13	10,014	8	11,565	10	10,218	9	9,802	8
Sudden braking	9,662	8	9,517	8	8,938	8	8,271	8	8,768	8
Following too close	9,052	7	8,658	7	8,413	7	7,934	7	8,330	7
Travelling too fast for conditions	10,302	9	8,868	7	8,896	8	7,677	7	7,921	7
<b>Total number of accidents<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>120,827</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>118,403</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>114,696</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>108,934</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>115,673</b>	<b>100</b>

1 Includes only accidents where a police officer attended the scene and in which a contributory factor was reported.

2 Includes only the ten most frequently reported contributory factors. Factors not shown may also have been reported.

3 Counts the number of participants for which a contributory factor is reported. If two participants in an accident have the same contributory factor, this will be counted twice.

Source: Department for Transport (DfT)

Exceeding the speed limit not listed in the above because it is not a top ten factor. It is only a significant factor when there is other criminality involved (stolen vehicle, etc)



## Accident Causes – Details-2

Note: these are contributory factors not causes! So other contributory factors may be more important even when speed above the limit is relevant.

Even if all normally law abiding citizens stayed within the speed limit, the impact on overall personal injury accident levels might be insignificant based on this data.



## The History

Before 2007, police in “speed camera partnerships”, could receive fines on a “hypothecated” basis. Result: complaints that camera were being sited and operated to make money. So the Government decided all fines should go to the Crown.



# Alternative Funding

With grants to “Road Safety Partnerships” being reduced, some cameras were not maintained or operated and staff laid off.



So ACPO (now NPCC) devised an alternative way of funding them. Namely speed awareness courses.





## Is It Legal?

- There is no supporting legislation or regulations.
- Offering money to the police to ignore offences is a crime, and using threats of prosecution is an abuse of police powers.
- QC's opinion – open to legal challenge.



# Do Speed Awareness Courses Work?

- Have you been on one?
- Do they change behaviour?
- Do they cut accidents?

Answer: Nobody Really Knows



# Where the Money Goes

- On Administration Costs Only? No!
- Used to pay for more cameras, more staff, ANPR systems, motorcycles (Essex: 2 for £70,000), etc.
- Only £35? No due to “local levies”.

See <http://www.speed-awareness.org/evidence.html>



# Bedfordshire and Olly Martins

- Former Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner in Parliament:

"I am now looking at things like turning on the HADECS cameras on the M1 and driving revenue from that, looking at sponsorship opportunities: does someone want to sponsor panda cars, our police officers' uniforms, ....."



## The Objections

- Why not take a course and avoid the points, and higher insurance costs?
- If you do you will just be financing more cameras as well as wasting your time plus you should notify your insurers. And you can only do a course once in 3 years.



# How to Respond to An Offer

- We cannot give you legal advice, but there are some things you may wish to consider.



# AMPOW Campaign Objectives

- To stop the slush fund that finances more cameras.
- Get it properly regulated, and offers only made after prosecution and conviction.
- Ensure that there is good evidence it works, or it should be scrapped.



## What We Are Doing

- Pursuing legal and political channels.
- Raising more support.





# How You Can Help

- Write to your MP.
- Sign the petition and encourage others to do so.
- Donate some funds.
- Give us a case.
- Volunteer to help.

For more information go to:

<http://www.speed-awareness.org>



## Conclusion

- Remember this is not about improving road safety. It is driven by the desire by the police to plug budget holes and protect their jobs.



# Questions

