

Statement Concerning Anti-social/Reckless use of a Vehicle Peugeot XX99 XXX in Earith and Somersham/Colne on 27 April 2019

At approx 1306 hrs on Saturday 27 April 19 whilst sat in my car in the layby adjacent to the bus shelter in Colne Rd, Earith with the car pointing towards Colne, I heard a vehicle start to accelerate fiercely towards me from the rear. I looked in my rear view mirror to see a blackish car. I looked ahead where inbound traffic was about to overtake a parked yellow Mercedes motorhome and was concerned for its safety as this 'black' car Reg No XX99 XXX sped past at a speed that my experience as a driver of 55 years convinced me was well in excess of the 30 mph speed limit, and it continued to accelerate. I believed that behaviour of the black car XX99 XXX driver was reckless and careless in the extreme and fell well below the standard expected of a considerate driver as it placed other road users at extreme risk of death or serious injury as it would any pedestrians that might have been crossing the road at that point, even if horses had emerging from the field on the left (all of which I have witnessed in the past at this location. Fortunately, on this occasion, the driver of the lead inbound, static, Vauxhall car - that was indicating to overtake the static Mercedes - saw the approaching black car in time and held back. A less experienced driver might have assumed the vehicle to be compliant with time to negotiate the static motorhome in time. I used a pre-use calibrated Bushnell speed gun to measure the speed of the black car and it registered 70 mph as it passed the line of static incoming traffic behind the parked Mercedes motorhome. I recorded the Bushnell reading of the black car on a Bushnell on a 2nd webcam. Both independent witness in the car were shown the 70 mph displayed on the Bushnell and one identified the black car as a Peugeot.

This report can be followed by an identical speed of 71 mph outbound in the 30 zone and still accelerating I reckon to 80 mph in the 40 zone) from Somersham, in Colne Rd, Colne on the approach to the busy Cranbrook Nurseries entrance. Separate dashcam video is available for that incident that clearly demonstrates that, as a community, we need proper and meaningful action taken to protect us from this level of dangerous anti-social behaviour.

The speed was excessive from first seeing the vehicle until it braked heavily at the bends at the top of the road. There was no sign of braking in anticipation of the vehicles that might have pulled out to overtake the large yellow motorhome blocking the inbound lane.

In Earith, the video clearly shows the subject vehicle being noticed, the team alerted to its speed and then its speed being called out starting at 50 and at the point it braked a final top speed of 70 being called and the Bushnell reading being shown. The Video also shows the Vauxhall whose judgement call to hold back avoided a fatal accident. The video shows that Reg No clearly as a possible additional witness.

In Somersham, the video for the same vehicle at 71 and still accelerating has the same level of commentary detail including the Reg No XX99 XXX.

Your reference number is: ASD/35/WNJ1/2742019

Response – but this vehicle was NOT reported for speeding as any experienced/interested Police Officer can see!!

Dear Sir,

In relation to your submission we are not in a position to deal with this incident as it does not fit the criteria for the digital evidence team.

We do not deal with incidents off excess speed.

Ongoing issues relating to Speed should be directed to your local Policing team for them to deal with.

Regards ,

Digital Evidence Team

EARITH – Colne Rd



XX99 XXX at 52 mph at this point accelerating and tracked by radar gun to 70 mph before braking fiercely at the bend at the end of the road.

SOMERSHAM/COLNE



There but for the grace of God!!



Resident (and Taxpayer) – Member of the public

EVIDENTIAL THRESHOLD FOR SPEEDING PROSECUTIONS

Dear Road Watch,

I read with interest the article written in the daily mail, together with your problems. You have been mis - informed as to the evidential threshold for a prosecution for speeding.

As an ex traffic cop I have successfully prosecuted hundreds if not thousands of people for speeding in the course of my career. I used to present my own cases at court.

Speeding can be prosecuted by two types of evidence. It requires evidence of opinion and evidence of fact.

A police officer (or anyone) sees a car. They believe it to be speeding. This is the evidence of opinion element. They then proceed to verify this via one of two means.

Typically they use an approved and calibrated device (a speed gun / radar). The outcome substantiates the opinion - and the outcome is evidentially obtained.

The less frequent (but possible) means is to have evidence given by a person who is accepted by the court as an "expert". This standard varies by topic, medical experts would be doctors of high standing. However police officers routinely engaged in traffic enforcement are often accepted by the court as experts in assessing speed. You may achieve this standard in your own right.

Once this standard is achieved you can present your evidence of opinion as "fact." Two "experts" observing traffic independently can be sufficient. No speed guns - nothing. I have done with colleagues and this and successfully achieved prosecutions.

Do not attempt to fully identify the level of speed. Allow a comfortable margin of excess as this avoids pitfalls at court. The 100 mph biker for example would possibly be a case of speeds in excess of 61 mph in a 30 mph zone. This would be sufficient for a ban to be considered.

To exemplify - you agree an enforcement level beforehand. Again this tactic is for " worst of the worst. "

Person 1 sees a vehicle they believe to be speeding (opinion). They say "red ford transit speed over 50 mph". The second person if in agreement with the threshold states there independent agreement "red ford transit speed over 50mph independently agreed". This then has the evidence of opinion and verification by evidence of fact.

You will need to be able to establish at court a suitable level of skill in speed detection. All your practice at speed enforcement will be great in achieving this. Also give your driving history, experience and relevant skills. Paint a picture.

Your last best hope is some simple paint and stop watches. Get quality digital stop watches (at least two). Using a painted square or line measure using a surveyor's wheel the distance to another visible feature. As the vehicle passes the first, start the watch. When the vehicle passes the second stop the watch. As long as you know the distance, you can work out the average speed of the vehicle.

Using the second method you are replicating an average speed camera. Even "automatic" speed cameras had the evidence assessed by a human prior to prosecutions being sent out, giving the opinion element.

A combination of the two approaches may give the best result. When you know your distances and marks you can make a reference table for speeds and with practice you can become highly adept at determining speed. Document any training sessions as this will help achieve your status as experts.

Furthermore, all that is needed to calibrate your speed guns is for a marked police vehicle with calibrated Speedo to drive through your beams weekly. As long as the speeds match, prior and after your guns are correct.

Lastly, there is always more than one way to skin a cat. Consider providing all your evidence to the motor insurance bureau. As this motorcyclist is travelling so repeatedly at such high speeds, there risk of accident and injury is far greater. No insurance company likes to carry such risk. They may advise the insurance company, with likely negative results for the rider. I suggest this action be taken very very rarely. Nothing may happen - but at the cost of a stamp, who cares.

I hope this helps. I have been to so many fatal accidents, speed awareness saves lives.

To the best of my knowledge, none of the above has changed, but I have been retired a while now.

Best regards & good luck,

(a former Police Pursuit Advanced Driver, Fatal Accident vehicle examiner, Advanced accident investigation trained)