



The Association of British Drivers

London Region: PO Box 62, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5YB; Tel: 020-8467-2686;

Web: www.abd.org.uk and www.freedomfordrivers.org

Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release

12 January 2011

SPEED CAMERAS DO NOT SAVE LIVES

The RAC Foundation recently published a report on the “Effectiveness of Speed Cameras”, and widely promoted it under the headline “Cameras Save Lives”. The Association of British Drivers (ABD) has reviewed the evidence in that report, and has come to exactly the opposite conclusion. Our analysis of the RAC report (which was authored by Professor Richard Allsop), shows that much of the information presented is misleading, that there is no certainty at all about the impact of speed cameras, and that much of the contrary evidence has simply been ignored. Our full analysis is present here:

www.freedomfordrivers.org/Effectiveness%20of%20Speed%20Cameras%20Review.pdf

Regrettably Prof Allsop also totally ignores the fact that there is clear evidence that if the same amount of money as is now spent on speed cameras was used instead on speed display devices (otherwise known as Vehicle Activated Signs – VAS), then many more lives and injuries would be saved. They are probably 50 times more cost effective.

In our view the RAC report is a polemic and not a proper scientific study of the evidence. The excessive reliance on speed cameras in the UK over the last two decades has affected road safety adversely. A massive diversion of resources towards speed enforcement and away from more cost-effective alternatives has regrettably resulted. This process has primarily been driven - and supported - by the financial interests of the equipment manufacturers and of the safety camera partnerships, rather than by concerns for improvement in UK road safety. This is why we say speed cameras cost lives rather than save them.

But we urge readers to judge for themselves the merits of the arguments by reading both the RAC Foundation report and our commentary on it.

More Information

The RAC Foundation report can be found at:

www.racfoundation.org/research/safety/effectiveness-of-speed-cameras

The rebuttal by the ABD can be found at:

www.freedomfordrivers.org/Effectiveness%20of%20Speed%20Cameras%20Review.pdf

Contact

For more information contact ABD Chairman, Brian Gregory on 01642-589372, email: brian.gregory@abd.org.uk, or Roger Lawson on 020-8467-2686, email: roger.lawson@abd.org.uk

About The Association of British Drivers (ABD)

The ABD is the leading independent organisation which represents the interests of private motorists in the United Kingdom. We campaign to protect the rights of individual road users and believe that road transport is a beneficial and essential element in the UK transport infrastructure. We oppose excessive taxation of motorists and are against tolls and road usage charging. We also campaign for more enlightened road safety policies. The Association is a "not for profit" voluntary organisation which is financially supported primarily by its individual members. More information on the ABD is available from our web sites at www.freedomfordrivers.org and www.abd.org.uk