



# The Alliance of British Drivers

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## Press Release – ABD London Region

For immediate release

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### **ABD Launches Campaign Against Speed Awareness Courses**

#### **AMPOW Campaign Against Misuse of Police Waivers**

The Alliance of British Drivers (ABD) has launched a campaign against the misuse of speed awareness courses (named AMPOW) because the actions of the police in offering such "Education Courses" as an alternative to prosecution for speeding and other offences are distorting road safety policy. It is leading to the proliferation of speed cameras and threatened prosecutions because the police now have a direct financial incentive to maximise their activities in this area. This is wrong.

In our view there is no statutory support for this activity and it is contrary to law. In addition it is a perversion of justice for the police to waive prosecution on the basis of money being paid to them.

There is also no hard evidence that putting people through a speed-awareness course has any impact on their subsequent accident record, or behaviour in general. So what we now have is an enormous industry dedicated to raising money to pay course operators, the police and other organisations who benefit from these arrangements.

The Government has claimed that the police only recover their "administration" costs but that is not in fact true. They are actually using their proportion of fees paid by course attendees to finance more cameras and more staff to operate them plus to fund other equipment and activities from the surpluses generated. We can provide evidence on this.

We ask the Government to put a stop to these arrangements forthwith simply because Parliament has never approved these activities. If they do not we will consider a legal challenge to prevent these abusive practices from continuing.

## **More Information**

You can learn more about this campaign from a new web site set up to support the campaign here: <http://www.speed-awareness.org> . Members of the public can register their support for the campaign and sign a petition here: <http://www.speed-awareness.org/join.html>

A document that gives all the evidence on what has been happening and why it is illegal is present here:

<http://www.speed-awareness.org/Speed-Awareness-Campaign-Summary.pdf>

For more information on this issue, contact Roger Lawson on 020-8295-0378, email: [roger.lawson@abd.org.uk](mailto:roger.lawson@abd.org.uk)

## **About The Alliance of British Drivers (ABD)**

The Alliance of British Drivers was formed from a merger between the Association of British Drivers and the Drivers Alliance. 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 Alliance 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](http://www.freedomfordrivers.org) and [www.abd.org.uk](http://www.abd.org.uk)