

NORTHUMBRIA SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP **POLICY ON DECOMMISSIONING OF CAMERA SITES**

1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this paper is to outline the policy for the decommissioning of safety camera sites.

2. **BACKGROUND**

As part of the annual review process of all camera sites within the Northumbria Safety Camera Partnership area, a decision may be required as to whether a site should be decommissioned.

The sites where decommissioning should be considered fall into 3 categories:

- sites where an engineering or other solution has been put in place, which significantly reduces the hazard to road users;
- fixed sites where there have been no casualties for at least 3 years and speed surveys indicate an 85th percentile below the ACPO enforcement thresholds;
- mobile sites where there have been no casualties for at least 3 years and speed surveys indicate an 85th percentile below the ACPO enforcement thresholds.

In the case of fixed sites installed before the partnership came into existence (April 2003), it must be remembered that these sites were commissioned and paid for by the partner organisation and, in the case of local authorities, paid for by the local ratepayers. Therefore, the final decision to decommission must rest with the partner who commissioned the site.

3. **Policy**

In order that a consistent and logical approach is taken to decommissioning, the following policy has been adopted:

- for sites where an engineering or other solution has clearly reduced the hazard of speed related collisions the site will be decommissioned. If these were installed prior to April 2003, the commissioning partner may choose to maintain the site as a continuing deterrent. In this case, the site will only be enforced at periodically. Before any fixed site is decommissioned, consultation with councillors, MP's and parish councils must take place, with the Local Authority agreeing to remove the camera;
- for fixed sites where there have been no casualties for at least 3 years and speed surveys indicate an 85th percentile below the ACPO enforcement thresholds (but there have been no significant changes to

road design or layout) the site will be maintained and enforced at periodically to ensure that the original problem does not recur;

- for mobile sites where there have been no casualties for at least 3 years and speed surveys indicate an 85th percentile below the ACPO enforcement thresholds, enforcement will be scaled down over the following 12 months and speed surveys will continue to be taken. If speeds remain below ACPO enforcement thresholds, enforcement at these sites will stop.
- Alternatively, for both fixed and mobile sites, if the Local Authority no longer considers that camera enforcement is an appropriate safety measure for any approved site, the site will be decommissioned. For audit purposes, a written request will be required in these circumstances.