

SPARKS NETWORK

**Working with you to
accelerate cross-border
traffic enforcement**

Bill Blakemore
Manager, The SPARKS Network

SPARKS Network?

- An influencing group
- Seeks to increase effectiveness of traffic enforcement processes across national borders, in relation to Foreign Registered Vehicles (FRV's).
- Sponsored by members: public authorities, not-for-profit groups + commercial members

What's the problem?

15 July 2009



CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Foreign Registered vehicles can ignore the rules

- Deterrence ineffective because the system is broken
- FRVs difficult to identify outside of own country
- Penalties usually not enforceable across a national border



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London created SPARKS

- London local authorities have many traffic responsibilities:
 - Parking and stopping regulation
 - Bus lanes, One way streets
 - Box junctions, Weight and size limits
 - Other moving traffic regulations
 - London Lorry Control Scheme
 - Congestion charge non-payment
 - Low Emission Zone (since February 2008)
 - London Olympic Route Network (2012)

SPARKS Network members today

- London boroughs of Enfield, Hillingdon, Barnet; Westminster City Council
- Metropolitan Police
- Transport for London
- London Councils
- Antwerp
- Amsterdam
- VVSG (Flemish Cities association)
- European & British Parking Associations
- South East Parking managers group (led by Ashford DC)
- Kent CC (in process)
- Equita
- Leicester City Council

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Campaign Vision: Establish fair but effective enforcement, to encourage compliance

- Fast and easy access to registration data to identify vehicle owners
- End to end legal process to get penalties paid
- A fair system with all vehicles subject to same rules.



- 3m+ foreign registered vehicles enter the UK each year
- 142,000 foreign registered vehicles in the UK at any point
- In London foreign registered vehicles represent 3% of all traffic
- In SE & major cities FRV's are up to 2% of traffic
- Cars make up 87% of the foreign registered vehicle stock
- HGV's make up 9% of the foreign registered vehicle stock
- 1 coach in 15 is an FRV (1300 at any one time on UK roads)

The scale of the UK problem



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Political interest in the FRV issue

Results **1-20** of 150 for "**foreign registered**" section:**Written Answers**

Written Answers — Transport: Motor Vehicles: Foreigners (22 Jun 2009) [See 1 other result from this answer](#)

Mark Lancaster: ...pursuant to his answer of 11 June 2009, Official Report, column 959W, on motor vehicles: foreigners, what steps his Department takes to enforce compliance with the requirement to re-register **foreign-registered** cars after six months of using UK roads.

Written Answers — Transport: Motor Vehicles: Foreigners (17 Jun 2009) [See 1 other result from this answer](#)

Theresa Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of **foreign-registered** (a) heavy goods vehicles, (b) vans, (c) cars and (d) motorcycles using UK roads in each of the last five years.

Written Answers — Transport: Motor Vehicles: Foreigners (11 Jun 2009) [See 1 other result from this answer](#)

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many **foreign-registered** cars entered the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available.

Written Answers — Transport: Motor Vehicles: Foreigners (11 Jun 2009) [See 1 other result from this answer](#)

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanism his Department uses to establish whether a **foreign-registered** car has been driven in the UK for a period of longer than six months.

Written Answers — Transport: Motor Vehicles: Foreigners (11 Jun 2009)

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many formerly **foreign-registered** cars were registered in the UK in each of the last three years.

Written Answers — Transport: Motor Vehicles: Foreigners (11 Jun 2009)

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of **foreign-registered** cars using UK roads which did not re-register within six months in the latest period for which information is available.

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UK FRV 'Behaviour'

Most FRV's do comply with rules, but:

- FRV's twice as likely to fail to pay congestion charge.
- Hard core of frequent offenders abuse parking and bus lane rules
- 11% of the FRV's (15,000 vehicles) remain in UK beyond the 6 months deadline for DVLA re-registration.
- FRVs are 30% more likely to be involved in an accident than a UK registered vehicle
- 60% of HGV's that fail VOSA roadside test for mechanical faults are FRVs
- FRVs are more likely to be caught on camera speeding



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What's the position outside London?

FRVs in Lancashire

“FOREIGN drivers have escaped without paying £130,000 in parking fines in Lancashire in four years.

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act show 2,250 tickets have been cancelled since 2004 because they were given to foreign vehicles”.

Lancashire Telegraph July 2008

Scandal of speeding foreigners

Manchester Evening News April 02, 2009

“FOREIGN drivers were captured speeding more than 1,500 times by roadside cameras in Greater Manchester last year – but escaped without a fine.

Police admit that the offenders - the equivalent of more than 30 a week avoided justice because officers can't access databases of non-British cars.

It means almost £100,000 in potential fines was lost in just 12 months. The Department for Transport said it had moved to close the loophole by giving the DVLA powers to share information with its foreign counterparts....”

Speeding FRVs in North Wales

“ If a vehicle is recorded on camera exceeding the speed limit and the (number plate) is not registered in the UK the offence is rejected, as we are unable to send a Notice of Intended prosecution...to the registered keeper within the required timeframe...”

3,536 vehicles - number of foreign registered vehicles recorded speeding on camera in North Wales constabulary region in 2007/08

Council clampdown on foreign cars

A council is clamping foreign vehicles after a French-registered car clocked up thousands of pounds in unpaid parking fines.

The car racked up the series of tickets when it continued to park without a permit in Bath's Norfolk Buildings.



B&NES council says it is difficult to trace foreign vehicles

A Bath and North East

Somerset Council spokesman (B&NES) said the difficulty of tracing vehicles meant it was powerless to follow up the tickets.

Clamping means the owner has to come forward with their details.

A B&NES spokesman said clamps were not meant to trap unaware tourists and would only be used when a vehicle was illegally parked over two or three weeks 10 or 15 times.

"If we see a foreign car repeatedly parking illegally we will clamp it so that person has to come to us with their details," the spokesman said.

He added: "There are people that have a foreign-registered car and think they can get away with parking illegally.

Plaid highlights danger of tired foreign truckers

Oct 18 2008 by Abby Alford, South Wales Echo

Plaid highlights danger of tired foreign truckers

LIVES are being put at risk by exhausted foreign truckers who also drive poorly maintained and overloaded vehicles, police have found.

Officers in South Wales stopped 101 foreign-registered vehicles last year, information obtained by Plaid Cymru has revealed.

The research released under Freedom of Information legislation found 14 drivers exceeded their limit on hours behind the wheel. The police also found a total of 24 lorries had mechanical issues, poorly secured loads or were overloaded.

South Wales Central AM Chris Franks said: "We have heard this week some foreign lorry drivers work such long hours they are reporting themselves to the police to be sure they get a rest from driving. Unscrupulous foreign firms are pushing some drivers to work over their hours. Tired drivers are a threat to the rest of us.

"It is a lot harder to prosecute these non-UK companies if there are accidents. Plaid Cymru's policies are based on making small and medium-sized firms flourish, unlike the obsession with big business from the London-based parties.

"I am calling for fairness on fuel so Welsh hauliers can compete better with their Continental counterparts."

The figures that were provided were from a specific foreign vehicle operation (Operation Mermaid) which was conducted on the M4 corridor and targeted foreign registered vehicles only.

UK impact?

- If North Wales experience is mirrored across UK: 184,000 FRV speeding offences are not prosecuted each year



The Scottish problem

- How to enforce PCNs on vehicles registered in Scotland?
- Can you register the penalty charge with the Traffic Enforcement Centre?
- Can you transfer debt to sheriff court?



FRVs not just a UK problem

- Applies to all enforcement where the driver is not stopped.
- Camera enforcement rendered ineffective
- Eg: the Bruges experience:
 - 24,000 parking tickets
 - 4,800 from FRV's
 - 60% of those are French
 - No payment
- Dublin motorway ring road
- Low emission zones across Europe



SPARKS influential in *UK*

Local Transport Act changes



Discussions about cross-border data sharing trials proposed to DVLA

SPARKS priorities 2009

- Keep cross-border on the EU agenda
- Persuade national governments to co-operate more to share vehicle data
- Grow Network membership
- Encourage members to get involved

Keeping cross-border on the EU agenda

- Cross Border Enforcement Directive
- Urban Mobility Action Plan



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Persuade UK Government to co-operate more with its neighbours

- Use Local Transport Act powers
- Discuss with DVLA the scope for pilot data exchanges
- Get more police on board
- Wider stakeholder involvement



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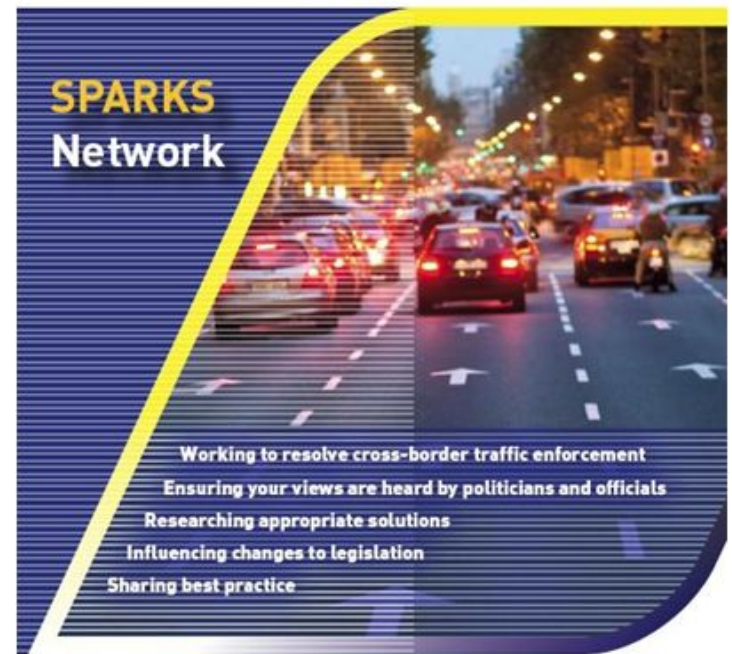
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Growing the SPARKS Network

Discussions underway with

- More London Boroughs
- North Wales Police
- Poole / Dorset CC
- Essex CC
- Edinburgh City
- Brussels Region
- Frankfurt / Deutscher Städtetag
- Rome local police groups
- Maltese local authorities
- Dutch groups
- Other BPA Regions

**A voice that is
heard in Europe**



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How do members participate?

- Joined up lobbying, co-ordinated by SPARKS
- Participate in our meetings: face to face or virtual
 - Web-based conference calls
 - Face to face sessions eg. **Parhex 2009**
- Surveys
 - Measuring FRV impact in your area
- Research activities
 - Eurosparks
- Pilot work?

What does membership cost?

- **Full membership:**
- **Individual local authorities or Coherent groups** of local authorities: £2500* p.a. (requires lead authority for billing / steering group participation)
- Associate membership: not-for-profit associations, academic institutions: £500* pa
- Commercial membership: parking operators, bailiff companies, systems suppliers: £3750* pa

*All prices before VAT

- Other sponsorship opportunities for one-off activities



Is SPARKS relevant to you?

- How important is the FRV issue to you?
- What is it costing you now in unpaid fines, penalties or parking charges?
- Would you like to be involved in the next stages of solving this problem?
- Is government listening to you?

Please do our survey

<http://tinyurl.com/SPARKS-London>

Surveys should be completed by Friday 21st August

Bill Blakemore

bill@sparksnet.org

Tel. +44 118 9313616

www.sparksnet.org

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