



1965 - 2005

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## **Graduated fixed penalties for speeding**

IHIE response to the Government's discussion notes is as follows.

"IHIE believes that speed limits must be seen to be reasonable and appropriate in order to encourage willing compliance. We therefore strongly support the statements that the level of the penalty needs to fit the crime and that legal penalties are not necessarily the right solutions for every offender. The system of penalty points is particularly contentious.

Active enforcement requires visible police on the road. Camera enforcement of speed limits should not be seen as a quick fix for all road safety problems. The problem of appropriate speed is not easily constrained by blanket limits which are applied without discriminating between time of day, weather etc. This can be particularly true for 20 mph zones.

IHIE believes that the current system of penalty points is seen by the public as disproportionate, punishing drivers irrespective of their level of transgression of the speed limit. IHIE accepts that significant breaches of the posted speed limits are punishable by magistrates by increased penalties (up to and including suspension of a licence) but believes that a graduated penalty system for exceeding the limit by a significant margin, would be more acceptable to the public and the police.

We support reducing current penalty points if the transgression is by a small margin or is a first offence. Rehabilitation courses focused on improving driving standards, not just speeding, should be offered in lieu of a fine.

Perhaps the fining structure could be separated from the penalty points structure so that column one was a fine only. Driving dangerously and without care and attention will still be subject to prosecution and are not necessarily effectively tackled by technological enforcement.