

# A90 Frequently Asked Questions

## WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE A90

### Where on the A90 are Average Speed Cameras (ASC) deployed?

Average Speed Cameras became operational on the A90 from Dundee to Stonehaven on 31 October 2017.

### What has been the impact of Average Speed Cameras on the A90?

There has been a significant improvement in driver behaviour and speed limit compliance since ASC became operational.

- **99 out of every 100** vehicles are now driving at speeds of 70mph or less. This is a significant improvement when considered against the fact **3 out of every 5** vehicles were speeding under the previous enforcement regime of fixed and mobile cameras.
- Only **1 out of every 2500** vehicles are now speeding at more than 10mph over the speed limit. This is a significant improvement when considered against the fact **1 out of every 5** vehicles were speeding under the previous enforcement regime of fixed and mobile cameras.

### How do you know what impact A90 ASC have had on driver behaviour?

A range of speed surveys were carried out along the average speed camera section of the A90 between Dundee and Stonehaven. In the longer term, this will also include the impact on road safety. Further information is set out below under Evaluation.

### Why were Average Speed Cameras deployed on the A90?

23,000 vehicles use the A90 daily. Evidence showed three in five vehicles were speeding with one in five exceeding the speed limit by 10mph and over.

While the previous strategy of fixed cameras and mobile enforcement had seen casualties reduce at camera locations, the route was still one of the trunk roads in Scotland with the highest collision record with 28 fatal and serious collisions on the route between Dundee and Stonehaven between January 2014 and May 2017.

### What are the benefits of the A90 Average Speed Camera system?

Emerging findings are showing that A90 ASC are helping to improve driver behaviour by encouraging a high level of speed limit compliance. In the longer term, it is anticipated this system will realise a range of improvements. This includes:

- fewer people being killed or seriously injured;
- reduced incident frequency and impact;
- improved journey time reliability; and
- reduced offender numbers.

### **What is the cost of the A90 Average Speed Camera system?**

The system costs £2 million. This has been funded through existing Transport Scotland budgets, with ongoing operational costs met by the Safety Camera Units. This is a cost effective spend, when considering that a fatal accident in Scotland costs over £2.1 million to the wider economy.

## **ROAD USER QUESTIONS**

### **How is the A90 ASC system addressing driver frustration?**

Driver frustration on the route is partly due to the behaviour of other drivers and partly due to the unreliability of journey times. Our evidence is showing that the ASC system on the A90 is helping improve driver behaviour and people are more realistic about the speed they can drive at under such a system.

### **Has there been more accidents due to road users watching their speedometer?**

No. This was mentioned many times before other ASC schemes were implemented across Scotland. However, each of these schemes have successfully reduced accidents.

### **What signage is being used to notify road users they are entering an average speed section?**

Every camera site on the A90 is clearly signed on its approach ensuring that no driver will enter an enforcement area without first seeing this visible reminder.

This signing regime is consistent with that used on the A9, A77 and Average Speed Camera Systems used elsewhere in the UK. This meets current best practice standards.

### **What are the speed limits on the A90 for small goods vehicles under 7.5 tonnes GVW?**

The speed limits on the A90 remain unchanged. For small goods vehicles, including small vans of similar size to the Peugeot Bippa, Citroen Berlingo or Ford Connect, the national speed limit on Dual Carriageways is 60mph.

Please remember that speed limits vary according to the type of vehicle and it is the driver's responsibility to know what is applicable. Further information is available at: [Know Your Limits](#).

### **What is the national speed limit?**

When you enter an area that is signed by a diagonal black stripe on a white background, you are driving under national speed limit restrictions. For most vehicles this will mean 60mph on single carriageway roads and 70mph on dual carriageway roads. It is also 70mph on the motorway network unless otherwise indicated.

The national speed limit for your vehicle is dependent on the classification of your vehicle. Further information is available at: [Know Your Limits](#).

### **What impact has A90 ASC had on connectivity and attractiveness for investment in the north of Scotland?**

The speed limit on the route remains unchanged, so for those obeying the limit their journey times have seen no difference. In addition, journey time reliability will improve as a result of reduced incident frequency and severity. Together, this ensures the connection is safer and more reliable while creating a level playing field for the delivery of goods. This can only be attractive for investment.

### **Will tourists understand how to drive appropriately within the system?**

Driving under an Average Speed Camera System places no additional requirements on road users outside of those set out in the Highway Code. Drivers who understand the speed limit will be able to drive appropriately in the system. It is recognised that the A90 serves a wide ranging mix of traffic, with tourist numbers increasing significantly during the summer months. Clear signing is in place to ensure that road users are made fully aware when they are entering and exiting the average speed camera controlled zone.

### **Are speeding problems moving to other roads?**

Safety performance across the trunk road network continues to be monitored to assess any displacement of both traffic volume and speeds. Evaluation work undertaken as part of other ASC systems in Scotland has found no evidence to support any type of displacement.

### **Which type of average speed camera system is in place on the A90?**

The Jenoptik VECTOR system has been installed on the A90. The VECTOR system can monitor multiple lanes of traffic from a single camera. All columns and camera heads are painted bright yellow to make them more visible to all road users. VECTOR has full Home Office Type Approval which is a requirement for any remote speed enforcement system in use in the UK.

### **Does the A90 system detect all vehicle types?**

Yes. The system is configured to have flexibility in its operation and is capable of detecting and enforcing speeds for all vehicle types, including motorcycles.

### **Does the A90 system track vehicles which switch lanes?**

The VECTOR system is a multi-lane system capable of monitoring all vehicles regardless of lane changes.

### **Does the A90 system work in darkness?**

VECTOR works 24/7 in all weathers and uses infrared illumination when it's dark. This 'invisible' light means the roads don't need lighting for the cameras to be effective and it is a safer way to operate the system.

## **REVENUE**

### **Is this a mechanism to generate additional revenue from speeding offences?**

We don't want your money. Evidence is showing the A90 ASC system is encouraging better speed limit compliance. This results in fewer camera detections and ultimately fewer fines for drivers.

## EVALUATION

### **How will the success of the scheme be measured?**

All enforcement strategies, including the A90 ASC system, are measured in accordance with the Scottish Safety Camera Programme handbook. This involves a comparison of three years data before the scheme was introduced to three years after it was completed. Evaluated evidence will then be used to ensure any further measures introduced are likely to positively influence driver behaviours.