

## A90 Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE A90

#### **Where on the A90 will the Average Speed Camera System be used?**

Average Speed Cameras have been deployed over 51.5 miles of the route from Dundee to Stonehaven and will become operational in October 2017. This is a replacement for the 18 fixed cameras and mobile enforcement strategy.

#### **Why are Average Speed Cameras being introduced to the A90?**

23,000 vehicles use the A90 daily, with three in five vehicles speeding and one in five exceeding the speed limit by over 10mph. While the existing enforcement strategy has seen casualties reduce at camera locations, the route is still one of the trunk roads in Scotland with the highest collision record.

The nature of the A90 in terms of its length, forward visibility/geometry, junction spacing, vehicle speeds and accident record (high proportion of KSI accidents and wide distribution of accidents across the route) indicate that an Average Speed Camera System would be likely to positively influence road safety on this route.

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

It is anticipated the A90 ASC 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.

The A9 ASC system was installed in 2014 and evidence has shown a significant reduction in fatal and serious injury collision.

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

The ASC system on the A90 costs £2 million. This will be 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 every single fatal accident in Scotland costs over £2.1 million to the wider economy.

### ROAD USER QUESTIONS

#### **How will the A90 ASC system address driver frustration?**

Driver frustration on the route is partly due to the behaviour of other drivers and partly due to unreliability of journey times. Observations indicate that Average Speed Camera Systems improve driver behaviour and people are more realistic about the speed they can drive at under such a system. Journey times will become more reliable as the cameras will reduce the number of incidents that require closures.

#### **Will there be more accidents due to road users watching their speedometer?**

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

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

A signing regime is in place which 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 and for small goods vehicles of this category, which includes small vans of similar size to Peugeot Bippa/ Citroen Berlingo and Ford Connect etc., 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](#).

### **Will this have a detrimental effect 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 will see 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 has been developed to ensure that road users are made fully aware when they are entering and exiting the average speed camera controlled zone.

### **Will speeding problems move to other roads?**

Safety performance across the trunk road network, including parallel routes to the A90, will continue to be monitored to assess any displacement of both traffic volume and speeds. A similar exercise was carried out on the A77 and A9 and no evidence was found to support any type of displacement.

### **Which type of average speed camera system is being introducing on the A90?**

The Vysionics 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 will be 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.

### **Will the A90 system be capable of detecting 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.

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### **Will 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.

### **Will 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. The A90 ASC scheme will result in better speed limit compliance, 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, will be 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.