

Update on the Auto Speed Watch Device as discussed at the last meeting

The company Auto Speed Watch Limited were contacted with a couple of questions such as whether it is worth installing the device when there isn't a community speed watch group and whether permission is required from Somerset County in regard to installing the devices on poles on the roadside.

The answer received is below: -

There's an independent report that shows that AutoSpeedWatch (with signs) reduces the speeding by 49.9% before any involvement from the police, so many parishes have bought the system without prior agreement of the police, especially if they have mounted the unit on private ground or a non-highways asset. However, we feel it is better to seek police support first as the system is really intended to provide the intelligence for better enforcement efficiency, and without enforcement the system lacks 'teeth'. We find that highways departments generally support whatever the police want.

Now, whilst many other forces (Glos, West Yorkshire, Kent, Suffolk, Cumbria and others) are happy (indeed keen) to support AutoSpeedWatch, Avon & Somerset decided 3 years ago that they could not. Some suspect that they just didn't want to. Anyway, that decision was made on grounds that have since been shown to be wrong, and it subsequently *seems* (according to the PCC) that Avon & Somerset now support the use of AutoSpeedWatch at least for heatmap data, although we're currently waiting for clarification of this. I am told this clarification should be within days, but it has been 'blood-from-stone' territory so far! I think they've been slightly cajoled into revisiting their decision after other forces (like [Glos](#)) have taken much more of a lead. The bottom line is that it seems the new PCC and the new Chief Constable are both supportive but due-process is taking time. There's plenty of background on this available on the [AutoSpeedWatch Facebook group](#), should you want to join. Until we get official 'support' from Avon & Somerset, Somerset Highways will refer back to the previous decision and will likely be negative towards it.

Currently there are at least 6 units in Somerset used without official police involvement, some without active existing CSW groups, and I know that many parishes are currently querying Avon and Somerset's odd stance. You can imagine that it's been frustrating for parishes in Somerset with speeding problems, but we're so busy supporting the other 40 police forces and all their parishes, that we're now leaving it to Somerset councillors to take it up with the police or PCC directly.