

Document 9

Appendix 4: Public statements
made by Dorset Police with regards
to Driver awareness course

From: .Media Relations
Sent: 22 July 2013 11:49
To: Garrett, Pat
Subject: RE: Media Infomation NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Attachments: 21.4.10 Road safety event in Purbeck driven to success[1].doc; 047 Drivers benefit from new road safety course[1].doc; Driver Awareness Scheme - press release[1].doc

Dear Pat,

I have carried out an extensive search of our recording system and cannot find any public statements made by Mr Baker in respect of the DAS. We do have a couple references made to him in respect of the DAS which are as follows:

1. Tristan Pascoe from BBC Radio Solent requested an interview with Mr Baker on 21 July 2011. His request was as follows:

Tristan Pascoe from the BBC would like to interview Mr Baker regarding the Driver Awareness Scheme.

Tristan has information from DPA papers that the DAS course costs £100 which apparently is the most expensive one in the country. He also thinks it will go up further to £105.

They will be running a piece about this on Monday on the radio and he would like Dorset Police to comment on how successful the course is in helping to make the roads safer and also how profitable it is. Is it generating extra income for the Force as we are facing funding cuts?

Mr Baker was consulted internally and directed the enquiry to ACC Mike Glanville as the then Chair of the Strategic Road Safety Partnership to deal with it.

2. Brian Austin supplied some lines for an 'if offer' in respect of a change in speeding guidelines in April 2011 which mentions Mr Baker. Wessex FM was the only enquirer and these lines were given to them. Please see below:

Hi Luke,

These thresholds have been released to the public domain previously.

FOR OFFER: The Chief Constable reviews ACPO guidelines and the thresholds are currently set by him as in the chart below – note these may change upwards or downwards at the Chief's discretion. Equally it is important to note that the offer of Driving Awareness Schemes is not a right. If, for example, an offender is driving at 40mph in a 30 zone past a school they may be reported for dangerous driving and not offered a course. Also, although those forces operating education under a national scheme have agreed to operate certain thresholds these are still at the discretion of individual Chiefs and may change.

MPH Current DAS Thresholds

30 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 & 41 MPH

40 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 & 52 MPH

50 58, 59, 60, 61, 62 & 63 MPH

60 69, 70, 71 & 72

70 80, 81, 82 & 83

Within these thresholds the offender would be offered an education course, if the below set criteria are met. If the offender exceeded these thresholds or didn't meet DAS criteria they would be normally offered a Fixed Penalty (unless they had 9 points or more on their licence already where they would go direct to court) or they may elect a court hearing at any speed if they wished to challenge the offence. Offenders speeding at 26 miles or more over the signed limit would be sent direct to court.

Current DAS Criteria is:

Applicable to speeding offences and thresholds as above.

That the offender had not previously attended a Driver Awareness Scheme course in the last 6 months.

That strict timescales are met by the offender for driver admission and acceptance of the offer of a course.

Hope that helps.

Regards

Brian

The information that the MCCD have recorded may not be a complete record of statements made by Mr Baker on the subject. Liz Packer did not record all her work on our system and we do not have any record of media enquiries or statements issued by the SEES PR marketing consultants Marketing Manners Ltd and McKenna and Townsend.

Also, the media may have reported on comments made by Mr Baker at the DPA meetings and we would not have a record of questions and answers at those meetings.

I have attached the press releases that we have released since April 2005 which mention the DAS but they do not have any quotes from Mr Baker.

I hope this helps, please do not hesitate to contact me should you need further assistance.

Regards,

Claire

700 3531

Claire Masser
Media Relations Officer
Dorset Police

From: Garrett, Pat
Sent: 22 July 2013 09:10
To: Harrold, Adam
Subject: Media Infomation

Adam

I'm doing a piece of work on behalf of the DCC. This follows an FOI request in to the Force concerning the ex CC M Baker.

The information required is around public statements made by Mr Baker with respect to the Dorset Police Driver Awareness Scheme (DAS). The scope is any and all statements.

I'd be grateful if MCCD could find what we have and pass them to me to review. I have to write a report on my findings around this and other aspects of the DAS scheme.

As discussed I need the information by close of play this week or sooner if possible. Happy to discuss further if needed I'm on 760 501

Regards
Pat

Pat Garrett
Head of SEES
Dorset Police



News release

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177/10/MS

21 April 2010

ROAD SAFETY EVENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE DRIVEN TO SUCCESS

A unique multi-agency road safety event for young people, designed to highlight the dangers of anti-social driving, has been successfully held at a school in Purbeck.

It is believed that 'Consequences'— a multi-agency event held yesterday, Tuesday 20 April 2010, at Purbeck School in Wareham - is the first time a school in Dorset has dedicated an entire day's curriculum to road safety.

The event was organised to help reduce the number of road traffic collisions involving new drivers and riders.

In Purbeck, vehicle related anti-social behaviour is frequently raised as a concern by local residents, often through the PACT (Partners and Communities Together) process. At least one complaint is received every week and forty Section 59 notices have been issued to drivers under the age of 25.

Under Section 59, if a driver is found to be driving in a manner that causes or is likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public they will be issued with a warning. Should the driver repeat the offence within 12 months, the vehicle will be seized and removed.

Partner agencies from across Dorset were involved in the event including Dorset Police, the Driver Awareness Scheme, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service, Purbeck District Council, South Western Ambulance Service and Trading Standards.

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Main Switchboard Tel: 01929 462727 Media Relations Office Tel: 01202 or 01305 223893
Fax: 01929 463755 Public Relations Tel: 01202 or 01305 223640/223780 Website: www.dorset.police.uk

Sponsorship was also provided by local businesses including Halfords to bring the event together.

More than a hundred lower sixth form students (Year 12) listened to presentations on driving standards and skills and road traffic information. In the afternoon, the students took part in various workshops on anti-social driving, vehicle safety and learnt what to do if when involved in, or witness to, a road traffic collision.

They were also given a road traffic collision demonstration which showed the consequences of poor driving standards. This was complimented by a presentation by 21 year old Harriet Shaw, who was herself seriously injured in a head-on road collision on the A35 west of Dorchester last year. The car which collided with her vehicle was being driven by a young male driver who was distracted at the wheel drinking a milkshake and changing the CD. She provided a poignant message to the students demonstrating the impact of collisions on your quality of life.

Sergeant Jon Wasey from Dorset Police, helped put the partnership event together, he said: "This is not just your standard road safety event, this is a multi-agency event working at its very best which we plan to repeat annually for all Year 11 and 12 students.

"It is a fact that young drivers and riders are more vulnerable as they lack experience on the roads. We are aiming to give them all the information they need to become safer drivers and riders.

"I don't know of any other event like this in the area so hopefully the information the students take away yesterday will benefit their driving ability and therefore make Dorset's roads even safer."

Assistant Head Teacher of Purbeck School, Dawn Wilk said: "We are extremely proud to be working with partners on this community project which we think will have a huge impact on the lives of our students.

"Many of them are about to start driving or have provisional licensees so the timing of this event could not have been better."

The event in Purbeck complements the No Excuse campaign which was launched in January 2010 by Dorset Road Safe. It is a hard-hitting year-long enforcement and media campaign to crack down on antisocial and illegal driving behaviour.



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Notes to Editors:

- An mp3 file is available containing an interview with Harriet Shaw who was seriously injured when she was involved in a head-on road traffic collision in Dorset.

- There is also audio available with Sergeant Jon Wasey and voxpops with some of the students from Purbeck School.
Please contact Marina Scott to request any of this audio.

- A JPEG photo is provided for visual use – some of the students pose with the emergency services at the school.

●●● Issued by Marina Scott, Communications Officer, DORSET POLICE on 07717 425246. Visit our website at www.dorset.police.uk

●●● Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been set up by Dorset Police under the government Neighbourhood Policing initiative. They work with PACT (Partners and Communities Together) Panels - made up of partners, such as local authorities, fire and rescue and housing associations - to engage with communities and tackle the issues that matter the most to local residents

●●● For the latest news updates, call the Dorset Police 24 hour media relations voicebank on 0871 550 3004

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News release

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047/08/kh
4 August 2008

DRIVERS BENEFIT FROM NEW ROAD SAFETY COURSE

Dorset Police has introduced a new road safety course – to provide advice and information to migrant drivers about UK driving rules.

Entitled 'Driving in the UK – Helping you drive safely', the course has been successfully delivered to migrant drivers across the county. Most recently, it was held in Bournemouth for Arabic and Polish speaking drivers.

The course educates people who are new to driving on UK roads and ensures that cultural and legislative differences are explained and understood.

It lasts for one hour and is translated into the driver's own language. The course teaches participants about road signs, understanding the differences between miles per hour and kilometres per hour as well as hazard perception.

It also covers legal aspects of driving including insurance, drink driving and using mobile phones.

Dorset Police Head of Driver Education, Nisha Devani, said: "We are aware that differences in culture and legal requirements can lead to drivers from other countries becoming confused or uncertain when driving in the UK.

"Through this course, we aim to proactively reach people who have chosen to live and work in Dorset and ensure they understand the rules of driving in the UK. We want to prevent them from committing offences and ultimately avoid them being involved in a collision."

Majid Yasin, Imam and Director of Bournemouth Islamic Centre & Central Mosque, said: "We were most pleased to host the recent course here at our centre and we would welcome further courses in the future.

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"It was certainly well received and many expressed their appreciation for a course that enhanced their knowledge of safety on the roads in this country."

For more information about the course please contact Nisha Devani, Head of Education at Dorset Police, on 01305 22 22 22 or email nisha.devani@dorset.pnn.police.uk.

For general enquiries or to report a non-urgent crime, call Dorset Police on 01202 or 01305 22 22 22. Only dial 999 if life is in danger or a crime is in progress.

Notes to Editors:

Head of Education Nisha Devani may be available for media interviews. Please contact Kirstin Hay, on 01202 223913, to arrange.

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Driver Awareness Scheme

The Driver Awareness Scheme is part of a comprehensive tool kit that Dorset Police, in conjunction with its partners, utilises in its ambition to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on the County's roads and to deny criminals the use of the roads.

Dorset Police utilises fixed cameras to detect speeding offences, Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology from fixed sites, mobile units and integrated within its fleet of traffic cars to identify vehicles being driven illegally (no tax, no insurance, no MOT) or wanted in connection with other criminal activity.

The Traffic Police Unit consists of specially trained officers equipped to deal with a wide variety of incidents both responding to events as they happen, working on preplanned operations, often in conjunction with other forces, and undertaking high visibility patrol across the County.

Divisionally based officers also work in conjunction with the specialist units and receive regular training updates and tasking designed to reduce risk on our roads.

The combined activities of the above resulted in:

- 56,000 motorists convicted of speeding
- 3,000 use of mobile phones
- 2,500 no seat belts
- 6,000 no insurance / tax / MOT
- 500 stolen vehicles recovered
- 3,000 other driving related offences

The total cost of policing the roads in Dorset is approximately £9m.

Where a fixed penalty notice is issued or the court impose a fine, the income is all paid directly to the courts. Dorset Police, nor its partners, receive any of this.

Dorset Police do operate a number of education courses aimed at improving driver behaviour which are, in some circumstances, offered as an alternative to a fixed penalty notice. The income from these courses contributes both to the cost of providing the course and the wider enforcement activity. In the current year the Force originally budgeted to receive income of £3.9m. This included potential income from supplying services to other forces. In the event, expected income in the current year is £3.8m. This is still sufficient to cover the direct costs of all the courses. Difficulties in staff recruitment and availability of venues has restricted increasing the range of offences for which training would be appropriate. These include mobile phones and seatbelts. The Force is currently reviewing its training and enforcement plans for next year to ensure they continue to be focused on reducing the devastating consequences to individuals and families of road traffic collisions.