

Press release

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MANCHESTER DECLARED UK'S No.1 UNINSURED DRIVING HOTSPOT

West Gorton in Manchester has been exposed as the UK's worst district for uninsured driving, according to figures released by the Motor Insurers' Bureau today.

The number of uninsured drivers in West Gorton per head of population is over six times the national average.

Bakerend in Bradford is second in the UK's uninsured driving hall of shame, followed by Newtown in Birmingham and Liverpool's Everton and Croxteth in fourth and fifth places.

In total, Birmingham has three districts in the top ten, Liverpool, Manchester and Bradford have two and London has one.

The figures show that the problem of uninsured driving is particularly acute within the UK's major metropolitan areas.

The MIB are using these statistics, which can identify particular hotspots down to individual postcodes, to help police forces across the country to crack down on uninsured driving.

"Together with the police, we will make it increasingly tougher for uninsured motorists in these areas to escape detection," said Ashton West, chief executive of the MIB. "Now that the police know where the highest proportions of uninsured motorists are, they can focus their resources and make life very difficult for these criminals."

The measures that police forces apply include making ever-increasing use of number plate recognition cameras and new hand-held technology that enables officers to check vehicle details at the roadside.

In addition, the MIB now regularly forwards details of suspected uninsured vehicles directly to police forces, under new powers contained within the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act.

This has enabled police forces up and down the country to seize in excess of 25,000 vehicles since the beginning of 2006. More than 40% of these were crushed as their drivers did not provide satisfactory evidence of insurance required for return of the vehicle.

Association of Chief Police Officers spokesperson, Chief Constable Meredydd Hughes said:

“We know that people who do not pay for tax or insurance are often involved in other forms of criminal activity.

“By targeting vehicles and focusing police activity in specific areas, the police are able to effectively deal with criminals who use the road.”

Mr West continued, “These rogue motorists are not only raising the cost of honest drivers’ insurance premiums but they are also undermining road safety. Research has proven that uninsured drivers are:

- 10 times more likely to have been convicted of drink-driving,
- 6 times more likely to have been convicted of driving a non-roadworthy vehicle,
- 3 times more likely to have been convicted of driving without due care and attention.”

The UK’s top ten uninsured driving districts are:

Ranking	Postal District	Postal District Name	Index – x times the national average for uninsured driving
1	M 12	Manchester - West Gorton	6.27
2	BD 3	Bradford - Bakerend	6.19
3	B 19	Birmingham - Newtown	5.45
4	L 5	Liverpool - Everton	5.09
5	L 11	Liverpool - Croxteth	4.93
6	B 18	Birmingham - Hockley	4.92
7	N 17	London - Tottenham	4.80
8	B 66	Birmingham - Smethwick	4.79
9	BD 8	Bradford - Whitefield	4.74
10	M 8	Manchester - M8	4.73

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Notes to editors

The Motor Insurers' Bureau compensates the victims of road accidents caused by uninsured and untraced motorists.

It also operates the Motor Insurance Database, which contains details of all insured vehicles in the country.

Table notes:

- The statistics are drawn from all claims involving uninsured drivers from 1997 to 2005 and offer the most complete picture of where the problem areas are for uninsured driving in the UK.
- The index indicates how much more likely an uninsured driver from the postal district is to be responsible for an MIB claim. 1.0 is the expected index based on the UK population and incidences of uninsured driving across the country.
- The MIB uses several forms of hotspots data in its work with the police. It also examines data over a shorter space in time where sudden spikes of activity can be identified, e.g. between accident years 2001 and 2004 Peterborough (PE1) rose from 376th to 7th in the list of hotspots during this period and has led to an increased focus in this area.

For more information please visit www.mib.org.uk.