

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRANSPORT MINISTER SUPPORTS INDUSTRY WORK TO CUT UNINSURED DRIVING

Cracking down on the UK's uninsured drivers was the hot topic when the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Mike Penning MP, visited the Motor Insurers' Bureau in Milton Keynes this week.

Mr Penning was shown how MIB has been working with roadside policing to reduce the numbers of people injured (about 23,000) and killed (about 160) every year by uninsured drivers. The police seizure of uninsured vehicles at the roadside has delivered a 20% reduction in uninsured driving in the last four years.

Officers from Thames Valley Police showed the Transport Under-Secretary how uninsured vehicles are detected on the road using the MID and ANPR technology. The Minister also saw how MIB's Police Helpline, which provides current insurance information, supports police officers at the roadside.

Under-Secretary of State for Transport, Mike Penning MP, said:

"I was really impressed by the work MIB carry out to tackle the menace of uninsured driving. The industry plays a vital role in helping the police to get these people off the roads and I look forward to working with MIB in the future."

Ashton West, MIB's Chief Executive, said: "Motor insurance has always been required by law and the costs for claims arising from accidents with uninsured drivers are transferred to every responsible motorist. The industry remains committed to working with the Police and DVLA as crucial partners in taking uninsured vehicles from our roads."

MIB is working with the Department for Transport on the development of a new scheme, known as Continuous Insurance Enforcement (CIE). CIE would give DVLA new powers

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in partnership with MIB aimed at expanding the existing enforcement approach to further reduce uninsured driving.

The scheme would reach anyone who keeps a vehicle without valid insurance by comparing the records on the Motor Insurance Database (MID) with registered keeper data at the DVLA. Warning letters would then be sent to anyone keeping a vehicle that has no insurance and those who failed to insure their vehicle would face enforcement action.

Ends

For more information, please visit www.mib.org.uk or contact:

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Photographs of Mr Penning MP during his visit are available on request.

An ISDN line is available for interviews.

Notes to editors

The Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) aims to significantly reduce the level and impact of uninsured driving by working closely with partners across government and the insurance industry. The Bureau guarantees compensation to victims involved in accidents with drivers who have no insurance or failed to stop.

The Motor Insurance Database (MID), introduced in 2001, is the only central insurance record of more than 34 million vehicles in the UK. The MID supports a range of users entitled to different levels of information about insured vehicles, including the police, solicitors, the DVLA and the public.

The MID is being used as part of a new scheme in 2011 to identify registered keepers of vehicles that appear to have no insurance. The registered keeper will be reminded that insurance is a legal requirement and failure to act will result in a fixed penalty.

All drivers can check their vehicle is recorded on the MID for FREE - visit www.askMID.com.

Key Facts

- There are about 34 million vehicles on UK roads, of which 4% are not insured at any one time.
- 1 in 3 (34%) of all uninsured drivers are under the age of thirty.
- Research by MIB found that 1 in 10 of 18-34 year-old drivers are unaware that car insurance is a legal requirement.
- The annual cost of uninsured driving - about £500 million - is paid by all honest motorists to a value of about £30 per insurance premium.
- The UK has one of the worst levels of uninsured driving in Western Europe, with the highest levels of uninsured drivers concentrated in the West Midlands, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, London Metropolitan and Merseyside.

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- Research shows that uninsured drivers are 5 times more likely to be involved in road collisions, to fail to comply with other road traffic requirements, and to be engaged in other criminal activity.
- About 23,000 people are injured and 160 people killed by uninsured and untraced drivers every year.

Tips for all drivers to stay insured

- Check your insurance provider has sent your information to the MID - visit www.askMID.com.
- Check your insurance certificate to make sure the information is accurate, particularly if you have moved address, changed your car, or added other drivers.
- Make a note of the expiry date on your policy and diarise a renewal.
- Be familiar with the terms of insurance cover, such as extensions to use another vehicle.
- Be careful about loaning your vehicle to someone else - you can remain liable if you permit a vehicle to be used on the road without insurance.