

# Saunders Law

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## Speeding

Once upon a time police would follow a target vehicle down a road in their police car if they thought it was speeding. Now they are more likely to be operating on an industrial scale and have a choice of several different types of speed measuring devices to trap motorists and provide evidence of speeding.

The types of devices which can be used include Gatsometers (the classic speed camera), VASCAR in car systems, automatic number plate recognition systems that are used to calculate the average speed of vehicles and a system of road tripped devices known as Truvelo.

It is an inherent requirement in any prosecution to prove that any speed detection method is properly placed and calibrated. The officers using any equipment must also be properly trained in its operation.

The Crown Prosecution Service must be able to demonstrate when, where and how a machine was used, and that it was in accordance with specific rules. Without this proof the prosecution may well fail to prove a speeding offence, as proof must be beyond reasonable doubt, and usually there is no back up evidence.

1.92 million speeding tickets were issued in 2005 (the last year for which data is available) with the majority of offences being dealt with under the fixed penalty scheme. Motorists are increasingly accepting a speeding conviction without ever seeing the evidence against them, or allowing a Court to test this. These points can quickly build up and courts will not just impose the minimum of 3 points for any individual offence, depending on by how much the limit is exceeded. Drivers all too often face the courts as a Totter – with the points already on their driving licence and the new points totting up to 12, the threshold for disqualification.

Saunders Law Ltd has a dedicated motoring team which look at all aspects of an individual's case. If a case can be defended we will do so and vigorously. If on the other hand, a driver is pleading guilty but facing disqualification as a totter, it may be possible to put forward a legal argument on the basis of exceptional hardship. If successful then no disqualification would be imposed and the individual gets to drive another day!

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A driving licence is a valuable thing and should be protected at all costs. Saunders Law Ltd is only too aware of this, and will rise to the challenge.