

**Chris Bowen
Chief Superintendent
Oldham District Commander**



Date: 14/02/2022

Dear Harry,

Re: Oldham's Roads Are Not Racetracks For Criminals

Thank you for your letter dated the 16th December 2021 in relation to the councils concerns around some of the driving and criminality on Oldham's roads.

Greater Manchester Police is committed to making all the roads in Greater Manchester safe for everyone to use. The Chief Constable Mr Watson is on record stating that under investment in roads policing is an issue for Greater Manchester Police. This is being rectified and we are currently undergoing a recruitment campaign to increase the road policing offer we have.

Greater Manchester Police Safer Transport Teams regularly carry out targeted operational activity to enforce speed limits, respond to anti-social vehicle behaviour and criminal behaviour across Greater Manchester, including in Oldham.

The force works in partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester and the local authorities to target areas of concern identified by data or that the public have highlighted via social media, online reporting tools and interactions with local policing teams. These areas are then risk assessed and patrolled by roads policing officers on a regular basis.

Over the past few months, Roads Policing Officers have increased this activity and have been out in communities engaging, educating, and where appropriate enforcing inappropriate driving.

In January this year, officers from the Safer Transport Teams worked with Oldham district, on a day of action, as part of our enforcement campaign and saw some excellent results:

- 10 vehicles were seized for driving without a licence or insurance.
- 1 stolen vehicle was recovered
- 2 persons were arrested, 1 for disqualified driving and 1 for drug driving.
- 1 vehicle was prohibited from the roads.
- 35 traffic offence reports were issued
- 10 vehicle defect rectification orders were issued

In relation to your specific questions:

1. Greater Manchester Police proactively challenge any driving that can be classed as anti-social, which could include dangerous driving. On the first occasion officers will issue both the vehicle and driver with a section 59 warning. A marker is placed on the person and vehicle on the police computer and should either be involved in similar

driving the vehicle is seized. We also regularly seize vehicles for no insurance, no licence or used in crime, unfortunately we cannot easily obtain an exact figure for Oldham.

2. Greater Manchester Police works within the law and guidance in relation to the seizure and disposal of vehicles. Where the law allows, we do everything possible to ensure these vehicles do not end up back in the hands of those same individuals who were using them to cause a danger to others.
3. Oldham District regularly receives support through the Greater Manchester Police processes to request specialist support. This support is given when we can show an evidence base for the assistance requested. When not deployed in hot spot areas, officers from Roads Policing provide 24/7 coverage across the whole of Greater Manchester.
4. I am not able to put a figure on the amount of money and resource is spent on tackling speeding and dangerous driving in Oldham. Oldham is served by local district resources, specialist resources including roads policing staff and speed camera detection vans. The amount they are deployed varies daily, in line with the threats and risks across the whole of GM.

Roads Policing within Greater Manchester Police is set to see some significant investment over the next couple of years, which will hopefully see the support offered to local districts improve across GM.

The safety of road users remains a priority for Greater Manchester Police and in particular officers based here in Oldham, where my officers continue to work hard to meet the needs of all our communities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bowen', with a date '1/Sept.' written below it.

Chris Bowen
District Commander