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Dear

West Midlands Police – Joint Working Agreement for Average Camera Speed Enforcement Scheme

As we continue to navigate the complexities of promoting road safety, I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for the open and honest discussions our organisations have recently held regarding the operation of the Average Camera Speed Enforcement Scheme.

I know we remain committed to our shared goal of creating safer roads for all. Our ongoing collaboration in speed enforcement has been instrumental in fostering a culture of responsible driving and minimising road harm.

I believe that the discussions thus far have been extremely positive in enabling us both to share the challenges that we face during the ongoing operation of the Scheme. Looking ahead, I am eager to build upon our achievements and explore solutions that enable us to progress the Scheme to better deliver for our partnership.

We have shared the full breakdown of costs incurred by West Midlands Police in managing the Scheme as it currently operates which demonstrates that we are operating the Scheme at a loss. As a result of this, there are no surplus funds available which the Council would be able to benefit from. One of the reasons for this, which we have shared with you, is as a result of inflation based increased salary contributions during a period where the income generated by the courses did not increase.

In addition, on the basis that existing contractual arrangements are due to expire within the next few months, we will be drafting a new agreement for your review which will address any issues that previous agreements have flagged and return the Scheme to financial and operational viability.

[REDACTED] will continue meeting with your representatives and to propose a number of commitments that can help return the Scheme to financial and operational viability benefitting both us and the wider public. These key proposals will include a commitment to:

- significantly increase enforcement of Local Authority cameras;
- undertake an Annual Strategic Assessment of camera locations and the enforcement capacity to help determine where new camera installations can be progressed;
- sharing enforcement volumes and locations and the ongoing partnership work to understand and mitigate risks to road users;
- enforcing other types of endorsable camera offences (such as red-light infringements);
- enforcing spot speed cameras (in addition to average cameras) where appropriate;
- work towards WMP contributing towards the camera maintenance contractor costs that your organisation incurs; and by
- creating an annual Regional Road Safety Fund which will be held by the Regional Road Safety Strategic Board and will be available to all Local Authorities to apply to for road safety initiatives.

We hope that you will consider these to be positive steps that benefit all partners and eliminate some of the concerns your authority faces with revenue expenditure.

In order to progress these proposals, we will supply your legal and finance teams a draft agreement to consider. [REDACTED] will continue constructive dialogue with your officers to seek to deliver this new partnership which will better serve our organisations, but most importantly, have a far greater impact on our shared commitment to achieving Vision Zero. I would highlight however, that if we fail to move into a joint agreement, West Midlands Police will potentially not be in a position to extend the current arrangements as they come to an end.

I would also like to extend an invite for you to meet with me as you did on the 7th June this year, in order that we can seek to reach agreement on the principles of the new arrangements. I therefore ask for you to attend a meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 13 December 2023 taking place at West Midlands Police Headquarters, Lloyd House, Birmingham B4 6AT and to acknowledge by accepting the diary invite.

I am really grateful for the longstanding partnership and combined efforts that we have made to introduce this Scheme and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that the Scheme is financially viable, more impactful operationally, and delivers greater road safety improvements.

Yours sincerely

Mike O'Hara
Assistant Chief Constable
Operations

[REDACTED]