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## **MIB SUPPORTS THE MET IN MAJOR CRACKDOWN**

- **1158 calls made to police helpline**
- **558 vehicles seized**
- **76 arrests**

Following a major operation to target uninsured drivers and disrupt criminal activity in London last week (Wednesday, 19 October 2011), the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) has taken the highest number of calls to their dedicated police helpline since it was started in early 2007. This contributed to 558 vehicle seizures and 76 arrests in the capital in one day.

1000 MPS officers were posted in a co-ordinated series of operations, targeting uninsured drivers, who are more likely to be involved in criminal activity, five times more likely to be involved in collisions and less likely to have vehicles in a road-worthy condition. Roadside check points using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) were used at number of locations in London, while officers actively pursued uninsured drivers using fixed cameras or routine number plate checks.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe and the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson launched the operation and used a pile of crushed cars to demonstrate the consequences of being uninsured.

Over 1000 calls were made by the police across the UK to MIB's contact centre, of which more than 500 were made roadside from the Met. The Motor Insurance Database

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(MID) which holds records of over 36 million insurance policies, was instrumental in assisting MIB's police helpline service with Operation Reclaim and identifying uninsured motorists.

Neil Drane, Head of Database Services at MIB said: "We were pleased to support the Met and other police forces across the country in tackling the menace of uninsured driving. At times it was a real challenge with the calls coming in to our contact centre but Operation Reclaim is proof of the crucial role that the MID plays in assisting the police with on-road enforcement and keeping our roads safe. We are continually learning how to improve things and look forward to working with the Met and others to repeat this soon.

"Combined with new legislation under the Continuous Insurance Enforcement (CIE) scheme, which is the systematic comparison of the DVLA registered keeper database and the MID to identify potentially uninsured vehicles - it means that there is nowhere to hide for uninsured motorists."

Since the police have had the power to seize vehicles with no insurance since 2005, they have taken possession of approaching 900,000 uninsured vehicles. It is estimated that uninsured and untraced drivers kill 160 people and injure 23,000 every year. Uninsured driving also adds around £30 a year to every motorist's insurance premium amounting to more than £500m a year in additional premiums.

Leader of the operation, Commander Steve Watson from the Metropolitan Police said: "It is our intention to really step up our levels of enforcement activity in respect of uninsured vehicles and last week's operation was the first of many which are now being planned. Given that the vast majority of uninsured drivers are also habitual criminals,

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this is a really targeted way of bringing the police into contact with the type of person who will use vehicles for all manner of unlawful activity. As uninsured drivers are also five times more likely to be involved in collisions, there is also a really important road safety aspect to this type of initiative. I am particularly grateful to the MIB for their invaluable support in assisting the Met to make such an impact. We will be working together to coordinate our resources even more effectively for future operations."

**-Ends-**

**MIB Press Office (an ISDN line is available for interviews)**

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**Notes to editors**

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 provides compensation to innocent 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 Continuous Insurance Enforcement (CIE) scheme in 2011 to identify registered keepers of vehicles that appear to have no insurance. The registered keeper of a vehicle without insurance will receive a letter reminding them 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](http://www.askMID.com).