

Under media embargo until 12.00hrs Monday 22nd October 2007

## **Police Helpline rings the changes!**

Uninsured driving costs law-abiding motorists in excess of £500m each year or around £30 on their insurance premium.

160 deaths on the roads each year in the UK are caused by uninsured drivers.

23,000 people are injured in accidents involving uninsured drivers each year.

To support the Police and to reassure the public that checks are in place to prevent accidental seizures MIB launched a dedicated Police Helpline to assist the Police in April 2007.

The MIB Police Helpline is now available to all Police Forces in the UK (\*except PSNI) completing the national roll out 4 months ahead of schedule.

The Helpline is there to assist with difficult roadside situations where there may be doubt over the validity of insurance cover for a suspect vehicle.

The officer can ring the dedicated 0845 number to ask for additional checks to be made with an insurance provider to confirm whether cover is active on a vehicle and whether the driver is insured to drive the vehicle.

Ashton West the Group CEO of MIB says,

“MIB has worked tirelessly to provide access to the MIB Police Helpline to all forces and we are delighted to announce that the roll out of this vital tool in the fight against uninsured driving has been completed 4 months ahead of schedule. Dedicated MIB staff are trained to handle queries by the Police and they are there to assist with difficult roadside interactions.”

Ashton goes on to say,

“The MIB Police Helpline is also there to reassure the public that responsible checks are in place to prevent accidental seizures from occurring. Calls to the MIB Police Helpline may

result in a driver being asked to provide proof of insurance at a later date to their nearest police station once their documents have arrived in the post. This is particularly helpful when the post has been disrupted by the postal strike, but also when there are delays in the post generally. We know last year 78,000 vehicles were seized by the Police for no insurance. The Police are working hard to stamp out uninsured driving and MIB continues to support the Police with that in mind. Those who drive without insurance are selfish in the extreme as they expect the rest of us law-abiding motorists to subsidise their driving. Thanks to the efforts of the Police last year 78,000 uninsured cars are no longer on our roads. This will also go a long way to make our roads safer for all road users.”

The following remaining forces have now got access to the MIB Police Helpline, completing the national roll out:

Avon & Somerset, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Devon & Cornwall, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Suffolk, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia and British Transport Police.

\*PSNI do not yet have access to the MIB Police Helpline due to changes required in the administration of the legal process under section 165 of the Road Traffic Act and how it is operated in Northern Ireland. PSNI will be joining the MIB Police Helpline once this process has been completed.

**Ends**

**For more information, please contact:**

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#### **Notes to editors**

1. Supportive materials are sent to each force as they join the Police Helpline. To obtain you copy of the pdf image of the briefing sheet that is sent to all forces please contact Quay2Media listed above
2. 25.4 million enquiries were made on the MID by the Police during 2006, exceeding the target of 15.2 million by 67%

3. Members of the public are advised to contact their insurer or broker if they are in any doubt whether their vehicle is on the MID
4. The Motor Insurers' Bureau compensates the victims of road accidents caused by uninsured and untraced motorists
5. The Motor Insurers' Bureau handles claims under the Green Card System and is the Compensation Body under the 4<sup>th</sup> Directive
6. The MIB also operates the Motor Insurance Database, which contains details of all insured vehicles in the country

For more information please visit [www.mib.org.uk](http://www.mib.org.uk).