

## Latest technology helps police to speed up roadside checks

The DVLA and Home Office have developed technology to allow police officers dealing with motoring offences to rapidly confirm a driver's identity at the roadside by gaining almost instant online access to their photograph held on the DVLA's driver database.

The technology is already in use by 18 police forces with plans to roll out more very soon. Currently it can take up to 16 minutes for officers to confirm a person's identity, but the new technology gives an almost instant response.

While the use of DVLA data in this context is confined to motoring offences, the technology has resulted in significant benefits to the police and motorists.

Initially the officer searches the Police National Computer (PNC) to obtain the driving licence number, a unique identifier guaranteeing the correct image is accessed from the DVLA record. Using this number, the officer then receives the licence holder's photograph to complete the check. Images are only accessible during the enquiry and are not retained.

