

The Engine Idling Monitoring and Research Group

Researching effects on the environment, health, fuel wastage and costs.
Plus codes of conduct and legal aspects of idling vehicles.

Newcastle's Market Street Police Station HQ where many buses idle every day.

Though an offence, Police Officers have been seen walking past - turning a blind eye.

Right pic: Buses have been found idling for long periods on the Police HQ door step.

Next 3 pics: A classic sequence of pictures taken from EIMRG video surveillance shows an officer casually walking past a bus that idled for a total of 16 minutes.

A Chief Inspector of Motor Patrols Etal Lane Newcastle stated: "I have instructed patrolling officers to take positive action in relation to this type of offence which hopefully will result in an improvement of the overall situation".

"I can also state there has been no problems encountered with the enforcement of construction and use regulations". (The offence which is supposed to tackle this problem).

A Traffic Division Superintendent said "I am not aware that 'Northumbria Police are turning a blind eye to offences committed under this legislation'.

Whilst I appreciate that you may have examples to support this assumption, I must point out that the decision, or not, to prosecute offences, rests with individual officers. That said, I will circulate your correspondence to officers within Motor Patrols to remind them of this legislation". His term "the decision, or not, to prosecute offences, rests with individual officers" seems very complacent and shows officers have been given the opportunity to turn a blind eye to offending drivers. We feel the problem will remain as there is no commitment or strategy to deal with this polluting problem.

We have been told by a Traffic Division Superintendent that "the decision, or not, to prosecute offences, rests with individual officers". - So he is stating they can prosecute on this offence.

Yet the above Chief Inspector also stated; "It's a bit of a problem really that unless the driver leaves the vehicle unattended it is not really an offence we can deal with. The reality is we can't do anything about it. The legislation does not deal with that". -- So can they prosecute or not?

EIMRG evidence shows that bus drivers idle here for long periods because they know even outside this police station officers ignore this offence. We have been told that the decision, or not, to prosecute offences, rests with individual officers. But as seen here it is more like - if the officer can be bothered. It would take seconds for the officer to advise the driver to switch off yet the officer is walking casually by the offending driver/ vehicle. The reason why idling of buses is so widespread in Newcastle is that the Police do not deal with it on their own doorstep never mind elsewhere in the city.

**See our comprehensive 48 page report;
Northumbria Police views on bus engine idling.**

