

Making roads safer with mobile enforcement vehicles

A new generation of multipurpose vehicles – both cars and bikes – is hitting the roads equipped with a complete suite of software applications to enable authorities to cost-effectively extend the reach of installed digital video platforms. These vehicles can be used tactically for a wide range of traffic and parking management applications, where safety or compliance issues have been identified.

Redcar and Cleveland

The UK's Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is one of the latest local authorities to use mobile enforcement vehicles (MEV) to patrol school locations where illegal parking on marked yellow 'keep clear' areas has been shown to put children's lives in danger. The vehicles will also be used to

deter drivers from parking at bus stops or blocking sidewalks.

A white Renault Kadjar, supplied by Videalert, is equipped with two roof-mounted automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) cameras. Used in conjunction

Need to know

Applications for Videalert mobile enforcement vehicles

- > Keep-clear zones outside schools
- > Bus stops, bus lanes, red routes and box junctions
- > Residential permit zones
- > Restricted areas for vehicles, such as waste depots

with the latest video analytics, the system delivers high productivity at a low operating cost, even in high-density traffic environments. Onboard systems are controlled by the operator manning the vehicle via a dashboard-mounted touchscreen.

All contravention evidence data is transferred to Videalert's digital video platform in the parking office at the end of each shift. Video evidence packs are automatically constructed for review by trained council operatives prior to sending confirmed offenses to the back office processing system for the issuance of parking charge notices.

New ALPR cameras

The functionality of these MEVs has been further enhanced with the latest ONVIF-compliant ALPR cameras with Sony DSP technology for noise reduction and infrared sensitivity. These HD cameras accurately capture crisp images of reflective license plates at distances of up to 40m (130ft), delivering license plate read rates in excess of 98%. The cameras have full-color overview modules to capture contextual vehicle images in daylight and in challenging light conditions.

Clean air zones

The Videalert MEVs can also play a significant role in the management of clean air zones. They can be deployed to capture images of vehicles that have not already been picked up by zone perimeter cameras while providing the same functionality as pole-mounted static cameras. This includes the real-time identification of vehicles by classification, make, model, color, gross weight, engine type, Euro rating and CO₂ emission band, to determine whether the vehicle is permitted in the zone

without charge. For vehicles that have to pay a charge, vehicle registration data is sent to the payment system to determine whether the correct tariff has been paid for entry into the zone. MEVs can also be used to determine the extent of contraventions by highly polluting vehicles in any target location to determine potential charging schemes prior to clean air zones being established.

Data sharing

Data captured by MEVs and transmitted to Videalert's Digital Video Platform can be shared with other traffic management, crime prevention and community safety applications. For example, the platform integrates with urban traffic management control systems to assist with activities such as journey time reporting, to enable motorists to better plan their journeys. It also provides valuable data input for traffic modeling systems that are used to improve traffic flows, and reduce congestion and pollution.

To meet the growing demand for multipurpose MEVs, Videalert has recently opened an engineering hub in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, UK. The hub acts as a dedicated vehicle design, manufacturing, refurbishment and testing facility. Videalert is now the UK's only supplier with the ability to provide a full suite of CCTV traffic and parking enforcement solutions comprising attended, unattended and mobile, using the same intelligent platform. 



Above: The mobile enforcement vehicle in use by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, UK

Left: A new generation of ALPR camera for mobile enforcement

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