

Stop Off Road Nuisance

GMP Operations



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The Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police recently reported to the Greater Manchester Police Authority the measures being put in place to halt the rise in the problem of illegal off-road motorcycling.

Complaints about noise and public nuisance, damage to property, and risk to life rose by 55 per cent in 2004 compared with 2003. In 2003 GMP received just under 2,500 reports of off-road nuisance. During 2004 that had risen to 3,876 with the summer months showing a massive increase, almost trebling in May. Figures for the first half of 2005 have been finalised and show that the problem continues to escalate.

"Anyone caught off-roading will receive a fixed penalty ticket as well as a warning that, if caught again, their bike will be seized" said Chief Constable Michael Todd. "As a result of this we have already made: 13 arrests; issued 72 fixed penalties; given 75 warnings; summonsed four people; given advice to 67 people and seized 25 bikes worth in total around £25,000.

North Manchester

Police officers in North Manchester have seized nine off-road bikes and one motor vehicle as part of a clampdown on anti-social behaviour. Under Operation Reassure, officers acted on information provided by the residents of Newton Heath, Collyhurst, Miles Platting and Clayton.

The vehicles, which included go-peds, mini-motos, quad bikes and off-road trial bikes, were removed from these areas over a four-day period (26-29 May 2005). Police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) seized the bikes in conjunction with local housing officers and street wardens from Manchester City Council.

Oldham

Following an increase in the number of calls from residents, officers have launched Operation Connect two and are urging people in Holts Village and on the Alt and Fitton Hill estates to tell them who are riding off-road vehicles illegally.

As part of the operation, letters and leaflets have been distributed to residents in Oldham west educating them about the vehicles.

Stockport

After issuing 24 fixed penalty notices and 44 formal warnings in just one weekend, Stockport police are giving a stern warning to illegal off-road bikers that their behaviour will not be tolerated and their vehicles could be confiscated.

Operation Camenca, which ran on the 25 and 26 June 2005, is a Forcewide operation aimed at cracking down on the illegal use of off-road bikes, scooters and quad bikes. Over the two days officers from Stockport teamed up with specialist off-road motorcycle riders from GMP's Traffic Network Section to patrol areas around Stockport and take action against anyone found to be breaking the law.

Salford

Salford Police, supported by Greater Manchester Police's Traffic Network Section and the local authority, have been out in force in Little Hulton as part of Operation Camenca 2, aimed at cracking down on the illegal use of off-roads bikes and scooters.

Over a period of just three days police arrested three people for riding off-road bikes illegally, seized four vehicles, issued 24 Fixed Penalty Tickets and gave out 16 formal warnings.

In recent weeks, Community Beat Officers and Police Community Support Officers have been educating the public on the usage of off-road motorcycles by distributing letters and leaflets to local residents. They have also been speaking to local people to identify the main hotspots and worst offenders.

Inspector Andy Sutcliffe of Little Hulton police station said: "I would like to thank the local community for their help in providing information about offenders which has proved vital in making this operation a success."