

**Planning application: 231703: West Mercia Police input required. Speed  
Camera Belmont Road Hereford**

**Observations from West Mercia Police Road Safety team regarding Road-  
Layout Change at Belmont Road Hereford and its effects on and Gatso\* Speed  
Camera**

## **1. Introduction**

This document assesses the impact of a proposed road layout change on the existing Gatso speed camera located on Belmont Road, Hereford. It has been prepared in response to a planning application for the layout change facilitation the conversion of the 3 counties hotel into a supermarket and has been informed by consultations with traffic management advisors, highways and local council.

## **2. Proposed Road Layout Change**

The road is currently a single track road with two opposing lanes. The area is primarily residential with a good volume of traffic. With the proposed development it would facilitate changes to the road lay out with a protected right turn into the supermarket and the significant widening of the existing junction providing ingress to the supermarket parking. All lanes will be widened, and the verges of the road moved outward to facilitate this. The plans have been viewed on site.

## **3. Gatso Speed Camera**

The existing Gatso speed camera is located opposite the junction with the current hotel complex. It plays a vital role in the reduction of speed and ensuring road safety. It was initially installed several years ago in response to several serious road traffic collisions nearby to reduce speed and subsequently harm.

## **4. Consultation and Assessment**

Following consultations with traffic management advisors, we are satisfied that **the proposed road layout change does not necessitate the relocation of the Gatso speed camera for continued effective policing**. The current camera position remains suitable for capturing speeding offences in the designated area. Many of the offences occur during the hours of darkness when the supermarket will not be open, and free flow of traffic not impeded. It is possible that due to the widening of the road traffic speed may increase during the quieter hours, and this camera will have a positive effect on this.

## 5. Developer Responsibility for Relocation (if applicable)

While we do not object to the camera being relocated at the developer's expense if deemed necessary to facilitate the road layout changes, we request **prior consultation before finalizing the camera's new position**. This consultation will ensure the new location maintains the camera's effectiveness in enforcing speed limits and promoting road safety. It is vital for legal compliance that the camera is moved under the supervision of trained technicians who we will appoint but will be paid for at the expense of the developers.

## 6. Conclusion

The proposed road layout change, as assessed in consultation with traffic management advisors, is **not expected to hinder the functionality of the existing Gatso speed camera**. However, if camera relocation becomes necessary during construction, we request early consultation to ensure the chosen location maintains the camera's effectiveness in promoting road safety.

## 7. Recommendations

- We do not object approval of the planning application for the road layout change, with the understanding that the Gatso speed camera can remain in its current position.
- If camera relocation becomes necessary during construction due to unforeseen circumstances, we request immediate consultation to determine a new location that upholds the camera's effectiveness in enforcing speed limits.

## 8. Additional Information

\*Here's a brief explanation of what a Gatso camera is:

- **Type of Speed Camera:** A Gatso camera is a fixed speed camera used for traffic enforcement.
- **How it Works:**
  - **Radar technology:** Gatso cameras primarily use radar to detect the speed of passing vehicles.
  - **Image Capture:** If a vehicle exceeds the speed limit, the camera automatically captures multiple images for evidence, including the vehicle's registration plate.
- **Purpose:** Gatso cameras are installed in high-risk areas to:

- **Deter speeding:** Their primary goal is to deter drivers from exceeding posted speed limits.
  - **Reduce accidents:** By decreasing speeding, the likelihood of accidents and their severity can be reduced.
  - **Enforce traffic laws:** Gatso cameras provide evidence to issue speeding tickets and hold drivers accountable for traffic violations.
- **Brand Name:** "Gatso" is a brand name derived from the inventor, Maurice Gatsonides. While Gatso cameras are very common, especially in the UK, other types of fixed speed cameras exist and are often used in traffic enforcement.