



**Chris Shead**  
**Chief Superintendent**  
**BCU Commander**  
Berkshire West BCU

POLICY AND COMMUNICATION

9 AUG 2010

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WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL  
Mr Stephen Chard, Policy Officer  
West Berkshire Council  
Council Offices  
Market Street  
Newbury  
Berkshire RG14 5LD

3 August 2010

Dear Mr. Chard,

**The impact of and response to the severe weather of the winter of 2009/10 –  
recommendation of West Berkshire council's Overview and Scrutiny Management  
Commission (OSMC)**

Thank you for your letter dated 14 July 2010 which included the recommendations from the OSMC in relation to the severe winter weather we had earlier in the year. I am now in a position to respond to the recommendation that was a suggested action for Thames Valley Police.

**Recommendation 6.1 (19)**

This recommendation proposes that Thames Valley Police develop and when necessary implement procedure to ensure that the number of vehicles entering the road network are appropriately controlled.

In actual fact the Road Traffic Management Act of 2004 puts the onus very much on to relevant Highways Authorities to control traffic. Police powers to control traffic are limited to emergencies (such as fatal road collisions and the like). Heavy traffic due to oncoming poor weather is not an emergency, though assisting an ambulance through that traffic would be a function we would perform. Police have no powers at all to "control vehicles entering the road network" in these circumstances.

The best we could hope to do in these circumstances is to provide as much information as possible as to the prevailing road conditions and regular communication through media outlets and with our local community networks.

If you need any more information, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Shead  
Chief Superintendent  
BCU Commander  
Berkshire West BCU