

Surrey Police comments on HGV's in Lay-bys

There are no restrictions in place in any of the lay-bys within Spelthorne and the only enforcement available at night time would be under Regulation 24 of The Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989. This states that vehicles parked between sunset and sunrise in lay-bys on roads where the speed limit is over 30mph must have front and rear lamps and includes unattached trailers.

As there are no restrictions on the length of time a vehicle can park in a lay-by, the only action the police could take would be to consider trailers parked up for “unreasonably” prolonged periods, to be causing an obstruction. However, trying to enforce obstruction offences would be really testing the Courts as it would not be in the true meaning of the law and would probably be seen as an abuse of process. The remedy would be to impose restrictions in the same way that Hounslow Borough Council did some years ago, against police traffic professionals’ advice, as he predicted it would push HGV’s into Spelthorne.

Insp. Alan Sproston