

**3 December 2009**

## Car-park amnesty could save lives this Christmas

With the party season fully underway Britain's largest independent road charity the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) today called for a seasonal amnesty on penalties for cars left in station car parks overnight, to dissuade commuters from chancing the drive home from the train after post-work drinks.

Many stations enforce parking penalties for cars that are left overnight.

Kevin Delaney, IAM Head of Road Safety, said: "Drivers can be more tempted to drink over the Christmas period than at any other time of year, and reassuring commuters that their car will not be clamped or fined when they retrieve it the next morning will help avoid risk-taking behaviour.

"An amnesty will allow commuters a chance to get to the station and pay for the next day's parking before getting a fine. Transport bosses should make it easier to leave the car alone if you have had a drink."

Mr Delaney added: "It is still important to remember that you may still be over the limit if you're planning to pick your car up from the station the next day. If you still feel ill or have had a large amount to drink the night before you shouldn't risk drink driving."

ENDS

**Notes to editors:**

- In 2007 there were 493,000 commuters travelling into Central London by train. (Source: GLA)
- Drivers should be encouraged not to drive back from the station if they have had a drink after work – transport bosses should make it easier to leave the car in the car park
- On the run up to Christmas commuter's car displaying a valid ticket for the previous day should not be ticketed or clamped before 9 30 am so that the driver has time to get to the car park and buy a ticket for that day.
- The amnesty should apply to railway station car parks and at other long stay car parks where commuters are encouraged to park.

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ENDS ALL

1. The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) directly influences the driving and riding of more than 100,000 full members in the UK and Ireland. Established in 1956, the IAM is today best known for the advanced driving test and the advanced driving course, which is available to car, motorcycle and commercial licence holders. The IAM has grown to become the UK's largest independent road safety charity, dedicated to raising driving standards, engaging with the road-using public and influencing road safety policy. The commercial division of the IAM operates through occupational driver training companies IAM Fleet UK and Drive & Survive.

2. A 2006 report by Brunel University, following an 18 month study, concluded that "advanced driver training produces safer drivers and lower accident involvement", with measurable improvements in knowledge, skills and attitude.

3. In January 2007, the IAM Motoring Trust was established as the Policy and Research Division to undertake research, promote practical policies, act as an advocate for safer roads, safer drivers and safer vehicles and encourage responsible motoring through education and training.

