# West Midlands Police Crack Down on Uninsured Drivers in Birmingham



**Driving Without Insurance Crackdown in Birmingham**

In May 2024, West Midlands Police intensified efforts to clamp down on drivers operating vehicles without insurance in Birmingham. The operation, conducted in collaboration with the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB), targeted the Kingstanding and Tyburn areas. Within this timeframe, 14 cars were seized, and 13 additional tickets were issued for other offenses, including lack of tax and improper parking near schools.

Drivers caught without insurance face a £300 fine and six penalty points on their license. If the case escalates to court, further penalties including disqualification from driving may apply. The police emphasize that uninsured drivers present heightened risks, being more likely to engage in dangerous behaviors, operate defective vehicles, or be involved in severe accidents.

**Thornbury's Sheiling School Closure**

Sheiling School, an independent special needs school in Thornbury, South Gloucestershire, will close on July 24, 2024, after over seven decades of operation. This decision affects 30 students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and will result in 70 staff redundancies. The closure follows a November 2023 Ofsted rating of "requiring improvement." Local authorities are now tasked with finding new placements for affected students, a challenge given the growing demand for SEND provisions. Two new SEND schools are set to open nearby later this year.

**Newcastle United's Marketing Strategy Shift**

Newcastle United is leveraging its unique engagement metrics to attract commercial partners, positioning itself differently from established Premier League clubs like Manchester City and Liverpool. The club's director of brand, marketing, and digital media, Dan Ginger, highlighted the highest engagement rates in the league, emphasizing hard work and community values. The strategy includes expanding the marketing team and recruiting new talent, such as Phillip Porter from Chelsea. The aim is to foster brand relevance both locally and globally.

**State Pension Age Compensation Bill Shelved**

Proposed legislation to compensate women affected by the State Pension age changes has been shelved as Parliament dissolved on May 30, 2024, ahead of the July 4 General Election. Alan Brown, SNP MP for Kilmarnock and Loudoun, who introduced the bill, vows to reintroduce it if re-elected. The bill sought compensation for approximately 3.8 million women impacted by the pension age increase from 60 to 66, a change criticized for its lack of timely communication.

**DWP Unveils New Anti-Fraud Measures**

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) reported £5.66 billion in benefit fraud for the fiscal year 2023-2024 and announced new anti-fraud strategies. This includes recruiting over 2,500 external agents for targeted case reviews and introducing a Fraud Bill with enhanced powers for investigations. The DWP aims to reduce benefit fraud losses, projected to reach £9 billion by 2028.

**New Immersive Gallery at Bristol's Watershed**

Watershed in Bristol will open a new immersive gallery named Undershed in early autumn 2024. The gallery will feature interactive and immersive art from local and international artists. The inaugural exhibition, "Sing the Body Electric," will combine cinema and creative technology, offering unique cultural experiences.

**Bristol Football Fan Reunited with Rescuers**

Antonello Tordio, a 62-year-old football fan from Bristol, was reunited with the medical team who saved his life after he suffered a heart attack at Wembley Stadium in October 2023. He returned to Wembley for the FA Cup Final in May 2024 to thank the team responsible for his recovery.

**Birmingham Pickpocket Sentenced**

Sabka Ivanova, 36, was sentenced to nearly three years in prison for stealing mobile phones in Birmingham city centre. She used a clothing trick to conceal her actions, targeting victims in retail stores such as H&M and Zara. An accomplice, Nedka Stancheva, 24, received a suspended sentence for her involvement in the thefts.

**Stoke City Parts Ways with Tyrese Campbell**

Stoke City has decided not to renew the contract of Tyrese Campbell, a 24-year-old forward with 164 appearances and 36 goals for the club. Head coach Steven Schumacher stated that the decision was made in the best interests of both the player and the club, allowing Campbell to seek opportunities where he might better fulfill his potential.

**Campaign to Combat Postcode Stigma in West Midlands**

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Foster launched the "My Tomorrow" campaign on May 30, 2024, to address the postcode stigma faced by young people in the region. Professional boxers Kal, Gamal, and Galal Yafai are the campaign’s first ambassadors. The year-long initiative aims to challenge stereotypes related to age, race, class, and postcodes through a series of events and resources.