

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MPs Urge Meta and TikTok to Take Action Against Illegal 'Ghost' Number Plates

Allison Gardner MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, along with coalition of MPs, led by Labour's Sarah Coombes, has called on social media giants Meta and TikTok to take swift and decisive action against the sale and promotion of illegal 'ghost' number plates on their platforms.

These plates, which feature a coating that prevents them from being detected by cameras, are widely used by criminal gangs and reckless drivers to evade law enforcement. Alarmed by their increasing visibility on social media, MPs have sent a formal letter urging the companies to clamp down on their advertisement and promotion.

A search on Instagram reveals that ghost plates are being sold by multiple vendors for as little as £30. Despite being illegal for road use, those caught using them currently face only a £100 fine – significantly less than a standard speeding ticket, with no additional penalty points or driving bans.

In their letter, the MPs stated:

“Ghost and stealth plates enable users to speed, jump red lights, and commit other dangerous traffic offences without detection. They are also enabling serious organised criminals to transport drugs, stolen goods, and victims of human trafficking without detection by the police's network of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras. These plates are completely illegal for use on roads and yet are being widely advertised and glamourised on your platform.”

Allison Gardner added that “Stronger laws and harsher penalties are essential to keeping the residents of Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire safe. These illegal plates are being used by reckless drivers and criminals to evade justice, putting innocent people at risk. By increasing fines and penalties, we can send a clear message that this dangerous behavior will not be tolerated.”

The MPs warn that Meta and TikTok are being exploited by sellers advertising these illegal plates, as well as by influencers glorifying high-speed, reckless driving. The letter, signed by 13 Labour MPs, including local MP Allison Gardner, highlights the urgent need for social media companies to act responsibly and remove this content from their platforms.

Following discussions with Sarah Coombes, TikTok has committed to advising moderators on taking stricter action against posts promoting ghost plates. The platform maintains that such posts violate its policies and has pledged to collaborate with the Government to tackle the issue. Meanwhile, Meta has yet to respond to inquiries on the matter.

MPs are now calling on social media platforms to take immediate action to prevent the sale and promotion of these illegal plates and to protect public safety.

ENDS

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